



School of Engineering
Department of Geomatics

GEOMATICS ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes
September 30, 2011

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Location: UAA Campus Library 307
Time: 8:00am – 11:00am
Present: Paul Brooks, Tony Follett, Susan Dickerson, Gennady Gienko, John Bean,
Bill Hazelton, Eric Gabrielson, John Koltun, Joel Nudelman, Jim Sharp,
Terri Morganson, Tom Newman, Orson Smith, John Oswald, Angela
Parsons, Bob Kean, Jon Roder,
Guests present:
Chancellor Tom Case, Jonathon Lang, Provost Mike Driscoll, Bob
Pawlowski, Beth Rose

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1. Welcome – Paul Brooks
2. Amendments to the agenda: Paul Brooks
Chancellor Tom Case and Provost Mike Driscoll will present before
Dr. Orson Smith. Minutes were approved.
3. Changes within the SOE and future program – Chancellor Tom Case,
Provost Mike Driscoll
Chancellor Case voiced the commitment UA has to Engineering
evidenced by the collective budgeting/capital expenditures for UAA
and UAF. He praised the job of Grant Baker and Rob Lang for the
work and contributions they accomplished thus far. He shared
leadership changes were not due to any political or statewide
decisions, but driven by internal reorganization involving process
management. It was not a snap decision, but one made over
several years of evaluation.

Provost Driscoll praised Rob and Grant for the growth the SOE has
experienced and echoed that the change in leadership was with an

eye toward the future. All are moving ahead well and the SOE Building project is progressing smoothly and unaffected by the change in leadership.

Chancellor Case emphasized the roll of the Advisory Board and community involvement during this process.

Provost Driscoll echoed this and added that ABET considers this heavily.

Paul shared that a resolution had been formed praising Rob and Grant for their previous work. He also praised the SOE Advisory Board members for all their hard work in securing the new building.

4. Staff changes within the SOE: Orson Smith

Orson began with praises for the SOE faculty. Next, he shared the priorities with which he had been commissioned.

- ABET accreditation
- Continuing with moving the building project forward. He echoed that the regents were fully behind the new building projects and that momentum was making forward progress.
- Existing building renovations progress
- Peace in the department. Orson felt we began the 2011 - 2012 year well in this regard and did not see any major issues at this time.

5. Fall Enrollments: John Bean

John shared figures and a graph showing growth within the Department of Geomatics. The department is up 24% for 2011 and 44% over the last 2 years. Discussion followed as to whether this was tied to the economy. Conclusion was there was insufficient research to comment definitively.

6. New Geomatics space in SOE: John Bean

John shared about the designation to Geomatics of the new space on the 3rd floor for the Trimble Lab, the new Image Analysis lab, the planned office space. He reported on a proposal for a new Aerial Imagery lab.

7. Status of recruitment for new faculty: John Bean

John shared the proposed completion schedule for the various stages of recruitment:

Stage 1:	9-21-2011
2:	10-3-2011
3:	10-10-2011

4: 10-24-2011
Offer: 11-7-2011

John expressed he would like Advisory Board feedback during the process. Questions were entertained regarding tri- and bi-qualifications, tenure and timing. Discussion continued over whether the search should be with a surveying or a research person for the position. Paul and Jim will sit on the advising committee.

8. Trust accounts and scholarships: John Bean
John gave an update on the accounts including announcement of a \$2,500 donation by ASPRS, and the formation of the Ray Koslowski Fund of \$2,000 initial gift with a yearly pledge of \$2,500 per year as well as a \$1,500 pledge to GSA. Beth Rose gave explanation of the various opportunities to give. She reminded all of the SOE Open House on Nov. 17th. Bob Pawlowski suggested approaching NASA for donations to the Image Analysis lab.
9. Trimble agreement: John Bean
John reported that there was no agreement and back-up plans were now being considered. He shared about the Carlson software donation.
10. Short courses: John Bean, Gennady Gienko
John voiced his direction as Chair regarding the Professors to be one of adherence to faculty workloads which precludes short courses being offered. Angela Parson's suggested professionals teach the short courses. Approval was voiced by several members of the Advisory Board.
11. K-12 Outreach project: John Bean
John reported that outreach continued at Chugiak and West High. Gennady reported that GIS-Day which was included in Engineering Week will be presented as Geomatics in spring 2012.
12. Four year degree requirements: Bill Hazelton
Bill gave a brief re-cap of the change in ABET requirements including the 7-year grandfather clause enabling surveyors to continue pursuit of a license.
13. Other miscellaneous departmental news: John Bean
The department obtained Carlson software, faculty are looking into securing uniform total stations to make teaching less complicated. The department wants to plan an open house for the new image analysis lab. John reported nearly all students wishing to work in

the field were able to do so this summer. The UA ArcGIS license will be available across campus on the server as of December.

14. SOEAB update: Tony Follett

Tony voiced the positive support of UA Engineering by the Regents. Plans are to have the first space available by 2015. The next legislative session will address the \$75M earmarked for the project, though that figure is insufficient for the project. Tony suggested working with Orson on funding.

15. Geomatics Student Association: Jon Roder

Jon's emphasis with the club is community involvement. Gennady suggested the board meet with GSA without faculty being present. This idea was well received by both Jon and GAB members.

16. Alaska Geospatial Forum: John Koltun

John Koltun reported that he will keep AGF up and running though UAA will no longer financially support the effort.

17. Status of Geomatics funds: Beth Rose

Beth updated the attendees with the status of each fund.

18. Establishing curriculum working groups: John Bean

John described the various working groups and called for participation from GAB members. Sign-up sheets were provided.

19. New business: All

Paul announced he would ask for nominations for chair and vice chair positions at the spring meeting.

20. Time and place for the next meeting: Feb. at the ASMC