



# UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

School of Engineering

Department of Geomatics

## GEOMATICS ADVISORY BOARD

### MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 15, 2006

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Location: Hilton Hotel, Portage Room

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Report By: Diane Saelee, Administrative Assistant, Geomatics

Present: Diane Saelee, Steve Buchanan, John Koltun, Tony Follett, Paul Brooks, Angela Parsons, Mike Gray, Larry King, Bob Kean, Tom Knox, John McCormick, Bob Dahl, John Sroufe, Michael Wilson, Kari Craun, Bob Pawlowski, Don Davis Jr., Craig Savage

Proceedings:

The meeting was brought to order by Chairman Paul Brooks shortly after 9:00. A quorum was present.

#### **Item No.1 – WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Everyone around the table introduced themselves.

#### **Item No. 2 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Paul Brooks asked the committee members if anyone has any comments/concerns regarding the agenda. No objections.

#### **Item No. 3 – ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR**

Paul Brooks announced that bylaws, the Chair and Vice-Chair are appointed for a two-year term and now the two years is up and we would have to re-elect for the new Chair and Vice-Chair. Paul asked the quorum for comments/objections and if anyone was interested in taking the position. No one wanted to assume the responsibility so Paul Brooks will remain the Chair and Tom Knox will remain the Vice-Chair for the Geomatics Advisory Board Committee.

#### **Item No. 4 – COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP/VACANCY**

Paul mentioned that Sam Best has indicated that he would like to retire from the GAB committee. Therefore, he would need to be replaced. The committee agreed that we need someone from the Kenai Peninsula area. Larry King considered Michelle Vlah and passed her resume around the table for the committees to review. Michelle graduated from UAA with BS in Geomatics in 2001 and is now currently working for Design Alaska in Fairbanks. Don Davis suggested that we need two representatives from Fairbanks. Tom Knox commented that having Michelle join the GAB is good and that she would bring welcomed opinion from a newly registered surveyor. The committee came to an agreement to invite Michelle to join the Board and now the committees would need to work on pursuing to find someone from the Kenai Peninsula.

**Item No. 5 – GEOMATICS STAFFING/RECRUITMENT**

Don Davis informed everyone that “Cherie’s” position (GIS faculty) is currently on hold and it may remain on hold for up to two years. “Stan’s” position (Surveying faculty) has been placed for advertisement both with UAA as well as with outside companies for several months. After spending thousands of dollars, as of today, we have received five applicants. Mechanical Engineering received 70 applicants for their position. Don also mentioned that Dean Lang finally got an approval by the Provost to remove the word “anticipated” off the UAA advertisement website. Hopefully, we will get more applicants now. Both Don Davis and Steve Buchanan are projecting that this position will still remain open for another year.

**Item No. 6 – CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT – INTEGRATE WITH UAF GEOGRAPHY PROGRAM**

Paul Brooks had a conversation with Mike Stryker, head of Integrated in Geography at UAF. Paul mentioned that Mike might have some Geography students who are interested in the Geomatics program. Paul Brooks suggested that we should consider developing some sort of relationships with UAF so the interested students can come down to Anchorage to take the courses. Don Davis agreed to this and that this should help increase the enrollment.

**Item No. 7 – EXTERNAL FUNDING FOR GEOMATICS POSITION**

Tony Follett mentioned that John Oswald proposed a \$75,000 grant with NOAA for Geodesy and Hydrographic training.

Tony Follett suggested that we need to come up with specific items why we need the monies and present it to private sectors for contributions.

Don Davis suggested that all the companies who are willing to donate should donate to the Al Talcott funds since it’s an unrestricted fund and that 100% of the donations go straight to the Department of Geomatics.

**Item No. 8 – BLM/ANSEP ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT**

John Sroufe ..... ANSEP up to \$50,000 for each of the next five years.

Bob Dahl announced that it’s good possibility that the ANSEP will receive another \$50,000 this coming year.

**Item No. 9 – SOEAB ACTIVITIES**

Tony Follett happily commented that the new BSE program is a tremendous program and that there are 110 new students. School of Engineering and Geomatics are doing great.

**Item No. 10 – PHOTOGRAMMETRY & GEOMATICS LAB UPDATE**

Don Davis informed the quorum that the new SIGN is up on the Photogrammetry lab. They used the new DAT/EM PC Summit last semester and it works great. Trimble lab is fine.

**Item No. 11 – COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Tom Knox announced that the project from the private sector is not too successful. He received seven responses and out of that seven, four were from GIS people.

**Item No. 12 – ABET UPDATE**

Don Davis informed the committee that the Exit, Alumni, and Employer Surveys are part of the requirements for the ABET review process in July 2006. Don asked everyone to review the Exit and Alumni Surveys for inputs/suggestions. The Employer Survey is not yet developed and Don Davis asked the committee for inputs regarding the type of questions to help employer evaluate the employees. John Koltun suggested that we can reverse the questions around from the Exit Survey and that might work. Diane Saelee will draft the Employer Survey and forward to the committees for review.

**Item No. 13 – HIGHLAND TECH HIGH COURSE**

Don Davis and Steve Buchanan conducted a one-week standard-based course to the Highland Tech HS students on January 9-13, 2006, 9:00-3:00 p.m, at UAA. This was an overview of what Geomatics is all about so these seven students should have some sort of idea about Geomatics. Don Davis took the students to AeroMap for a tour on Wednesday, January 11, and spent most of the morning there introducing all the AeroMap equipment. It turned out that the students were more interested in the hands-on equipments. These students were also given a presentation on careers in Geomatics. Don and Steve agreed that one week is too long and that it should be condensed to 2-3 days in the future. They might consider going to Kodiak in April to present again.

**Item No. 14 – INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

Tony Follett handed out some information he printed from Career Services Center that might help students. Don Davis mentioned that there is no internship for Geomatics, but GIS Certificate has an option to do GIS internship. Most students are taking advantage of that. Everyone who signed up for the internship should have no problem with getting a job.

**Item No. 15 – STATUS OF SCHOLARSHIPS**

Don Davis informed everyone that we now have three scholarships. The Maurice P. Oswald awarded \$2,100 and the committees have decided to divide the funds to three students with each getting \$700. The Sidney Henderson Jr. awarded \$2,400 and was divided among two students with \$1,200 each. Sean Bolender was awarded \$1000 for the new UAA Topcon scholarship. Don Davis said that he will attend the society meeting and continue to do so every year and report who won the scholarships.

**Item No. 16 – IMPLICATION OF NEW CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SURVEYORS**

Paul Brooks recommended everyone attend the Surveying Conference and that CEU documentations are very important. Bob Kean said that the AELS Board is still in the process of getting the final approval by the legislature. Don Davis might spend some time this summer to work and develop courses on the new continuing education.

**Item No. 17 – OTHER ISSUES/ACTIVITIES**

John McCormick is worried and suggested that the committees start looking for someone with the same capability to replace Don Davis if and when he decides to retire. Discussion turned to the problem regarding hiring qualified candidate to teach with master's degree. The committee agreed upon that this policy should be changed.

Steve Buchanan said a big "Thank You" to Tony Follett for the pictures and frames. They look great on our walls!

**Item No. 18 – TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT GAB MEETING**

The next annual meeting will be held in Fairbanks in March 2007 at the Alaska Surveying and Mapping Conference. The next regular meeting is tentatively set for the second week of May with a possibility of meeting on a Thursday.