

Missouri University of Science and Technology
Geology and Geophysics Advisory Board Meeting

October 22, 2015

1:30-3:00 pm

Attendees:

- Rolla: Keith Wedge, Franca Oboh-Ikuenobe, John Hogan, Bob Laudon, Emitt Witt, Dave Wronkiewicz, Edith Starbuck, Jim Hussman, Kelly Whitsett, Tory Verkamp (DO)
- Phone: Suzan Wiemers, Dave Bardsley, Ann Hagni, Bill Tedesco, Cherie Telker, Liz Griffith, and Mike Party

Meeting called to order at 1:30 pm.

Minutes

Minutes are available on web site back to 2012. Link is <http://gs.mst.edu/advisoryboard/> .

Department update

Franca Oboh-Ikuenobe, Interim Chair, gave a department update. She reported that at 9 ½ months into an original 18 month appointment, a petition was received from professors demanding her immediate removal. She will continue until otherwise informed. Target is to have a permanent Chair by the end of June 2016 but recent changes in campus administration may delay this. The dean of the college has resigned and an interim should be appointed within a couple of weeks. The interim appointment will be one year. There may be some structural reorganization to colleges that will need to be finalized before a new dean starts.

Things are going well in the department. The recent newsletter gives an accurate description of current department activities. The C.L. Dake auction will be held November 7. Please support this if you are in the area.

Program update

Dave Wronkiewicz gave a Geology and Geophysics Program update. Alan Chapman has taken a position at Macalester College; therefore, the program is currently searching for an Assistant Professor in Petroleum Geology with an expertise in carbonate reservoirs and basin analysis. Plan to have this assistant professor in place by fall 2016.

The Strategic Natural Resources (Economic Geologist) position proposal was in the final round of the Best in Class competition twice and is now being considered by the Chancellor.

The program currently has 98 undergraduate students, near the all-time high of 102. There are currently 63 graduate students (23 PhD, 21 MS with thesis and 19 MS non-thesis). Last year the program graduated 4 PhDs, 11 MS and 5 MS non-thesis. There are many students but the program needs more faculty.

Alumni money for field camp fund goes to support students with financial need and also provides an award for the top field camp student.

Five areas needing corporate support:

- Microscope Lab – See newsletter for proposed lab design. The lab proposal has gone before the Board of Trustees and is awaiting a decision but the money for microscopes needs to be spent soon.
- Seismic Observatory – The dedication was held today. Some additional work is needed. A plaque will be placed near the vault. Graduate student, Cory Reed has been instrumental in getting the seismic observatory operational. Much thanks to Mike Party for his generous donation.
- Endowed Chair - An Endowed Chair position would require \$1 Million in funds.
- Field Camp Endowment – This would require a minimum of \$25,000.
- Visiting Speakers Program

Status of past initiatives

Alumni Field Camp Trip

Bob Laudon reported on the trip, which started in Las Vegas and continued through northwest Arizona and southwest Utah. The program sponsored breakfast on the first day in Las Vegas. Twenty-six people signed up for the trip and just over \$1000 was contributed to the Field Camp Fund. Suzan Wiemers made many of the arrangements. There was much positive feed-back. There is potential to do another field trip reunion again, possibly in two years. Cherie Telker and Liz Griffith express interest in organizing a “Modern Carbonates” alumni field trip.

Corporate Gift Strategy

Dave Bardsley reported that he and Bill Tedesco have developed a list of potential donors. Tory Verkamp asked to review the list to see if these companies have already been solicited. The list of program needs with amounts is addressed in the “five areas needing corporate support” above.

Suzan affirmed that much of this work had been done previously and we do not need to start from zero with the Development office to prepare something that can be acted upon. Dave and Bill had already created an "early list" of potential corporate contributors at the end of 2014 and this list was reviewed and approved by the Development office in early 2015. However the addition of the long-awaited updated alumni list was received from the Development office ~ Feb/Mar 2015 after this review. Therefore, a short list has already been reviewed and approved ---the new info needs to be added and likewise vetted. Amy was added to the subcommittee in Oct 2014 to help flesh out a mining dimension that Bill and Dave said they needed help with.

Devon Energy recently donated \$10,000 for graduate student scholarships.

Alumni contacts

Phone-a-thon – Recently, paid students have been used to call, even to alumni outside their departments, leading to awkward telephone conversations. Tory said this is something that will be reported but paid and trained student callers have proved to be more efficient.

Golf Tournament

The tournament was held the week of Career Fair in September 2014 and lasted three to four hours, raising about \$1200. This took a lot of time and energy to organize. Would Amy Reeves be willing to do this again? Perhaps every-other year schedule or look at locations other than Rolla.

Suzan stated that the lesson from the first tournament was that a golf tournament needs a volunteer coordinator who is planning to dedicate a LOT of time to make this a success. Also needed are a number of volunteer recruits from alumni and faculty/staff to help (not just during the event but during the planning phase; there were many hours of phone calls and many emails exchanged far in advance: Amy and her husband did most of the heavy lifting to get the food and prizes coordinated/achieved). At this first attempt, we created a model for a tournament that should be a basis for any subsequent tournament, so that would best be served with some input from Amy. Amy's desire was to have a tournament in Texas, but we decided to cut our teeth on a local Rolla event first. At the conclusion of the 2014 event, those of us who volunteered did not feel that the turnout at the golf tournament was enough for us to consider doing another one based on how much effort went into the 2014 activity.

New Initiatives

Potential lecture series

Keith suggested it could be modeled after the Thomas O'Keefe Lecture Series (by Material Science Dept.) during which successful alumni present to students on what it takes to be successful. Dave Bardsley suggested that the series be organized and worry about funding alumni visitors later as most alumni would visit to do this "on their own dime." Franca noted that there is currently a Monday Seminar Series and the Program pays for flight, hotel and dinner. It would be good to have a dedicated fund for this. It was also suggested to invite alumni to speak to the Homecoming Banquet. This year's speaker is an alumna but from Rolla. Both types of lectures/speaking invitations will be considered and discussed at a future meeting.

Student Leadership Award

Alan Kornacki has recently pledged to provide funding for an endowment for annual awards for student chapter of SEG and C.L. Dake Society plus a student leadership award. The endowment will provide \$1800 to \$2000 per year. These awards would be announced at the annual banquet. Thank you, Alan Kornacki.

Tory Verkamp gave a report on campus fundraising. A Comprehensive Campaign is currently in the "silent phase." Charitable giving comprises 52% from alumni. Corporate giving and bequests are both up. Charitable giving is steadily up.

Three early projects include:

- Renovation of Schrenk Hall (three phases, first two complete or in progress)
- Advanced Materials Lab (ACML), an addition to the Civil Engineering Building
- Rolla Rising Scholarships, flexible scholarships for Freshmen

Crowd Source Funding campaigns are a new initiative for needs of \$10,000 or less by student projects/organizations. They have been used by the Mars Rover Design Team, and for the Solar House

Team travel funds and Celebration of Nations. Requires several months of planning and goes live for about 30 days. Gives donors a chance to interact with students.

No news about McNutt expansion. Classroom at mine has funding.

Microscope Lab was inquired about and Tory responded that formal approval by the Dean is needed. This should be very close.

Closing announcements

Keith reported that we now have 21 board members so we are very close to the number 25 which we had concluded was optimum. Thirteen are participating in the meeting, either in person or via telephone.

New members include Jim Hussman of Doe Run Company and Shane Bird of Devon Energy, both non-alumni, and much-needed corporate representatives are welcome on the board. New alumni members are Bill Tedesco, Emitt Witt, Kelly Whitsett, James Studer, and Cherie Telker.

The spring meeting is tentatively set for Wednesday, April 20, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55pm.