

*Petroleum Engineering  
Industry Advisory Board Meeting  
Friday, May 1, 2009*  
Petroleum Engineering Conference Room (MSEC 389)  
3:00 pm

## **Minutes**

Members present: Gary Plisga, Warner Williams, Jeff Corey, Jay Paul McWilliams, Jim Linville,  
Brett Wendt,

Faculty present: Thomas Engler, Mike Kelly, Her-Yuan Chen

Special Guest: JJ McGlasson

1. Welcome

2. Election of new chair

Jeff Corey was unanimously elected as chair of the IAB. The board, faculty and students greatly appreciate the time and effort of past chair, Gary Plisga. Gary has presided as chair for 6 years and has provided significant guidance over that time to the petroleum engineering program

3. Departmental update (See attached powerpoint for details)

Enrollment has continued to increase to a total of 92 students...60 undergrads and 32 graduates. Many from all over the US and abroad, but with a significant number from New Mexico. Graduating class for the 08-09 AY is 5 B.S. and 7 M.S. students, with majority employed in the industry. Incoming student numbers are lower than previous years, and the expectation is not to have as sharp an increase as the previous two years.

4. Old business

a. Status of faculty search

Search for the Kelly/Alumni endowed chair was initiated in the Fall. Phone interviewed six candidates, several are very promising, but the search was put on hold due to budget constraints. The endowment funds half of the faculty position and thus the position requires the remaining half to be supported by NMT.

Options:

- Increase donations to endowment fund
- Board write a letter to President Lopez describing the benefits of such a faculty position to NMT, students, New Mexico and industry.

b. Discussion items from December 2008 conference call

Review of action items from previous meeting.

**Action item 1:** advertise to alumni to contribute to the fund.

First regional Alumni meeting is scheduled in Houston on May 20th

**Action item 2:** Develop a powerpoint presentation  
ongoing

**Action item 3:** revision of program educational objectives

#### Discussion on alumni meeting and contributions

- Provide alumni at the Houston meeting with recruiting packages that they can use and disburse to high schools, college fairs in the area.
- Provide banners to key alumni in geographic areas.
- Comments/Suggestions for soliciting alumni donations
  - Allocation of manpower and resources is required to have a successful alumni return...something NMT has in the past and continues to fail at.
  - Research alumni with companies that have matching funds. Write letter to alum reminding their donation will be matched.
  - Same to parents with students, requesting to participate in donating.
  - Offer something to alumni in return!
    - Alumni services thru school...search alumni database, access to materials, job services, subscriptions
    - Develop a recognition system or club. Donate x dollars and get y, donate xx dollars and get yy.
  - What are statistics at other schools? For every x dollar spent the school receives y dollars in return.
- Action item: Program will develop a plan based on the above recommendations from the board.

#### 5. New business

- a. Reminder to all the next visit of Petroleum Engineering by ABET is in the Fall of 2010. The IAB plays an important role in this review by providing guidance on the program educational objectives, on curriculum and being available for design presentations and maybe even the visit. Implementation of the advisory board's recommendations to the objectives from the December meeting has been accomplished.

Action item: Provide background material on ABET process and requirements.

#### b. current focus of program

Program is currently in a "maintenance" mode. That is, limited growth in research or other opportunities is possible due to the increased enrollments, higher demand of time and effort with graduate students and no increase in faculty.

#### c. future focus and direction of program

1. Add young, energetic faculty

2. We are participating in distance education with UKH, University of Kurdistan at Howler. Expansion of distance ed is an emerging area.

- KOC has request for a proposal to develop a collaborative graduate program.
- Potential market exists in NW and SE, NM for undergraduate courses. Is it viable to offer courses to these areas via DE or by other means?
- Complete online graduate degrees are currently available from Texas A & M, or [www.abdn.ac.uk/subseaengineering](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/subseaengineering).
- Has NMT brainstormed the idea of what will be the "high tech school of the future"?

3. Facilities continue to be improved by in large due to contributions from alumni and industry.

d. Expansion of the board.

Discussion followed on the possibility and benefits of expanding the membership of the the board. Develop committees that can target specific tasks. Include representatives from labs? Academia? Non-techies?

6. Action Items

1. Board write a letter to President Lopez describing the benefits of a faculty position to NMT, students, New Mexico and industry.
2. Develop a plan for soliciting donations from alumni based on the above recommendations from the board.
3. Provide background material on ABET process and requirements.
4. Investigate potential to offer undergraduate courses in NW or SE, NM.

7. Next meeting time and place

SPE ATCE in New Orleans from October 3-7. Tuesday, October is alumni reception.

8. Adjournment

Attachments: IAB-may2009.ppt  
Abet criteria 2008-09.pdf