

GGE Advisory Board Meeting
9/18/2021

In Person Attendance: Steve O'Rourke, Laurie Anderson, Lance Roberts, Emily Berry, Ed Duke, Trevor Waldien, Jay Nopola, Arden Davis, Larry Stetler, Barb Nielsen, Jeanne Goodman, Liz Sailer, Nuri Uzunlar, Gokce Ustunisik, Kevin Ward, Yi Fang, Dave Hammond, Tim Barker, John Chandler

Drop In's: Jim Rankin, Jerilyn Roberts

Virtual Attendance: Clint Boyd, Sarah Keenan, Bill Eldridge, Kayleigh Johnson, Liangping Li, Kurt Katzenstein, Andy Farke, Chris Pellowski, Darrin Pagnac, Sherwin Artus,

Unable to Attend: Paul Kreuger, Nathaniel Fox, Curtis Price

9:00 - Approve Minutes from the last meeting. Dave Hammond motions to approve, Nuri seconds, all in favor, no discussion.

8:30 - Welcome from Steve O'Rourke: Notice we've restructured the agenda some to allow for more engagement and interaction between Faculty and the Board. Things to look forward to talking about today - field camp land donation, new Faculty members, new geology activities in the area. Introductions - New faces: Trevor, Yi, Tim Barker, Jay Nopola

8:50 - Welcome from Lance Roberts: Reflected on the new Faculty dinner and the opportunity to meet people in person for the first time. **Fall enrollment update** - about 500 first time freshmen, 70+ new transfer students, good number of grad students but down on international Grad students, lots of undergrads are staying to get their Master's here. Total enrollment is about flat but FTE is up a little. **Career fair** - 120 companies came to campus to recruit our students. Homecoming week starts tomorrow.

Questions for Lance - Dave Hammond asked about the COVID situation - we have a dashboard with the total number of cases, which peaked at about 17. We have free testing on campus as well as free vaccines. Lots of students are getting tested and testing negative. All classes are in person. Bill asked a question about the veteran program - we have a large percentage of veterans on campus and have been named a veteran friendly campus.

8:54 - CARA Liz Sailer: CARA did a feasibility study including 65 interviews and a survey of the alumni base. Testing for reputation (high marks), support for scholarships, support for buildings, support for departments, support for CARA. Tested to see if we can aim to raise \$100M, and the consultants indicated that yes, that is a reasonable goal. MI Building goal is \$12M. Update on the ChemE naming of the department.

9:00 - Laurie Anderson department updates: We are struggling a little in number but Laurie is excited about the department in terms of teaching, research, and the current direction of the department. Changing of the structure of these meetings - kept the slides pretty short to encourage discussion with the board. Invites board requests on what to cover in department updates going forward. Powerpoint attached.

- Questions:
 - Kurt brought up that we need to look for a new GIS instructor position because Curtis is leaving. Larry Stetler suggests that Curtis be on the search committee.

10:05 Updates from President Rankin - Budget is stabilized with return to in-person classes, enrollment is flat. MI Building planning is going well and funding is coming together. New academic programs and research funding across campus summarized. SD Mines is responding

to Senate Bill 55 – that focused on finding efficiencies in the BOR universities. Some areas of efficiency are planned by sharing some operations with BHSU, including a sustainability director, Title IX coordinator, and travel. A concern for is a study reviewing programs based job postings in the state. Legislature updates - request to buy the Ascent building. Some restructuring in Student Services with new “Opportunity Center” to include WISE, Veterans, Inclusion, and International Students Office.

10:22 MI Building Updates from Jerilyn Roberts - Prices are way up in the construction industry. Currently working with Scull and architects to try to keep the whole project within budget. Funding - \$19M from state legislature, \$12M from CARA still being raised, \$3M from University. Schedule - March/April groundbreaking, Spring 2024 project completed. Sherwin question - what happens to the old MI Building? Cost to renovate was only \$7M less than just building a new building. The old MI Building will be demolished. Jerilyn presented building plans.

10:45 - Laurie - Economic Geology Endowed Chair: Alumni brought up the idea of having an economic geology endowed chair named for Jack Redden. Laurie has revisited the idea with Admin and CARA and they were supportive. We are in the very early stages. Question on the level of the endowment - there are different levels with the minimum for an endowed chair being \$1.5M. Income on the endowment can be used for students, summer support, research etc. We don't currently have a strength in economic geology so we would need to change a position or create a new position.

11:05 Top needs of department from Faculty survey: revisiting the purpose of the board! Faculty each shared what they felt were the top three needs of the department. Laurie has pulled the response together and would like input from the board on how to address some of these concerns. Group into undergrad, graduate students,

- Top needs regarding Undergraduate Students - major themes were scholarships, understanding the drop in enrollment, recruitment funds, retainment.
 - Kayleigh - why aren't we retaining students? Where are they going - other majors, dropping out? Having an evaluation to answer some of these questions so we know where to put our money
 - Larry Stetler - can the board leverage their contacts in industry to get support for recruiting, scholarship money, the Mining Department's Advisory Board resurrected the Mining Department.
 - Yi Fang - Economy has a big impact on geoscience majors. Partnership between the school and major oil countries to get more international students. Challenge with international students because of limits on people coming into the country.
 - Dave Hammond - Plan out ahead on the ABET accreditation of the Geology Program. How can we leverage that with marketing to get students choosing South Dakota Mines for their undergraduate geology degree?
 - Jay - who are our undergraduates right now and who do we want them to be?
 - Curriculum - pivoting from a hydrocarbon economy world to renewables and batteries. How does our curriculum have to change? How do we educate kids for the next generation? Marketing so that prospective students know that SD Mines Geology will prepare them for a green energy future.
 - Scholarships - change in award model has given GGE less flexibility with how they use scholarship money. Priority is given to multiyear offers to incoming freshmen, fewer options to award scholarships to transfer students and others admitted without scholarship support.

- GREEN ENERGY - petroleum companies are looking to move in a more green direction and want students that can fill those roles.
- Comment on recruiting - poor perception of the petroleum and mining industry from the public. There's a marketing challenge on rebranding to let people know that they can change the world for the better with the skills they can learn at Mines. Future of the relevant industries. Show that our program isn't resistant to change. "Energy Agnostic" | "If you can't grow it you have to mine it" | "Creating problem solving for a changing world" | "science for the natural resource challenges of the future." Water doesn't have a PR Problem.

Lunch 12 - 12:30

Resumed 12:37

- Top needs regarding Graduate students - support for stipends, fellowships, TAs
 - Gocke - to be competitive with other universities we need to be able to hire PhD students. Looking for matching funds once grants and other funding sources are secured. Can the board provide matching money? To have a good undergraduate program we need good TAs.
 - Kevin Ward - not necessarily looking for the board to do something. Challenge of getting RA funding. Health insurance could be something we could use to entice students.
 - Chicken or the Egg? Do we first need good grants and funding or do we first need good grad students? When we aren't getting the highest caliber grad students the whole department suffers and thus proposals and deliverables decline, and it becomes harder to attract good grad students.
 - Money - MI Building, Field Camp, Scholarships, Grad support,
 - Recruiting - initial contact from faculty (networking). Some applicants don't end up accepting because of the 10hr/week offer and lack of health insurance.
 - Andy - do we know who our direct competitors are that are getting grad students who considered Mines.
- Top needs for Faculty and Staff - endowed economic geology position, seed funds for faculty startup, faculty development support, advisory board funds for a few things,
 - Dave Hammond question on grant applications - is there assistance on the University Level to help write the proposal.
 - Some people think Research Affairs should have grant writers but some people disagree.
 - Q to new faculty - why did you choose Mines? Trevor - wanted to be in a program where he could have grad students and do research. Likes the Back Hills. Yi - awareness that unless you're at a big 10 school you probably aren't getting a huge start-up regardless of where you go. Good collaboration between young faculty! Young and new faculty at larger schools are more siloed and here there is a lot of inter-faculty collaboration. Problem here is keeping high quality students. Kevin - aggregate decision to come here and the positives here are the hands on and field opportunities that are critical to teaching Geology.
 - Laurie - Thanks to Sherwin for providing new faculty startup funds
 - Steve O'Rourke - we are managing to continue to get great professors in spite of all these challenges. How do we augment and supplement all the benefits here to keep getting great faculty?
 - Laurie – prior to 2011, faculty had huge teaching loads and no start-up! The department has worked hard to build up start-up offers through a bunch of avenues with lots of helpers on the way. (Let's appreciate the progress we have made).

- Yi - lab manager lab position
- New MI ideas to add character to the new building
 - Rock walk - BIG rocks
- Museum - collections, public floor and programs,
 - Public floor - better signage around campus, dual signage with Lakota,
 - Staff - more professional oversight for the mineral and rock collection. Professional development around exhibits,
 - Contacts and advice for exhibit design and mineral curator and networking to raise funds
- Discussion on needs, do we prioritize staff, grad, or undergrad? Kevin, Steve, and Dave all concur that undergrad recruitment and retention is no.1 priority because without undergrads you don't have a department.

1:20 **Committee Reports**

Museum - Emily

Gocke offered to help with Mineral Collection. Email Emily if you want to provide feedback or be involved in Exhibits strategic planning contact emily.berry@sdsmt.edu

GEOE committee - Larry Stettler. They gave updates to their committee

GEOL committee - Laurie. Discussions on evaluating group work projects, Program Education Objectives were set in 2019. Did another review of these.

1:40 **Old Business**

Mining Hub request for list of companies to present the concept of the mining hub to. LG Everest, Core, Milbank Granite Quarries, Kiwi,

MI Fundraising Opportunities - \$4M to raise. Small donations will be solicited from alumni once 90% of funds have been raised. Green building initiatives - Unknown what green building initiatives will be instituted in the new MI Building. Emily thinks LEAD standards were removed for new BoR buildings because of red tape.

Review Committees - no proposed changes to 3 current committees. Other committees in the charter, do we want to revive any of them?

How can board engage

- Send list of board members to admissions for contacts when recruiting
- Education and outreach expansion to high schools to reeducate on what mining and geology are, how they are important, and what skills they provide?
- No, because FIRST →
 - Need larger conversation about marketing approach and messaging
 - Should we have a new committee on this conversation? What is the pitch to get them here?
- Jeanne motions to create a messaging committee, Tim Baker seconds, all are in favor.
 - Jay Nopola, Yi Fang, Kayleigh Johnson (head), student representative (faculty make recommendations).
- Messaging committee will discuss the perception of Mines GGE department and what it can offer.
- Alumni testimonials of alumni that are improving Earth, Society, and Environment. Gather ideas from current students

Dave Hammond motions to retire ERI and Field Station committees, Gene seconds, all in favor.

Submitted by Emily Berry 9/20/2021