SCSE External Advisory Board Meeting Notes

May 19, 2017

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.—Griggs Center, UMD

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WELCOME AND STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Dean Joshua Hamilton opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. Dean Hamilton thanked the Board members for their input into the College and stated how critical their involvement is for UMD and SCSE.

Dean Hamilton reviewed a PowerPoint presentation regarding the following items:

* SCSE Leadership and Staff Changes
* SCSE Faculty, Staff and Student Awards
* New Faculty Hires/Searches/Retirements/Promotion and Tenure
* SCSE Events
* Budget Update
* SCSE Principal Goals for 2016-17 Update

Discussion occurred regarding the high level of competition with other colleges, namely, the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Outreach is key to recruiting students. A Board member suggested that the Board members should be utilized to advocate on behalf of UMD and SCSE with the Board of Regents and others.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH & UMD WISE

Josh reviewed the current methods utilized by SCSE faculty for experiential learning and the summer undergraduate research options available to students.

UMD WISE Program is in the proposal stages, which is a comprehensive program to increase participation of all students in STEM, with a focus on women and other underrepresented groups in STEM fields. This program includes peer mentoring, monthly seminars and workshops, and a symposium each semester with in-house and outside speakers.

SENIOR CAPSTONE PROJECTS

Andrea Schokker and Jose Carillo provided a presentation on the 2017 senior capstone project, which included students from both Mechanical & Industrial Engineering and Electrical Engineering. The components of a successful capstone project was reviewed. It is hoped that the project will continue to be interdisciplinary.

Eric Hesse stated that it would work better for Graco Pump to be contacted earlier by the college to discuss the project to be worked on by the students.

Andrea noted that most of the projects are realistic, but not actually real due to regulation requirements.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Carrie Sutherland provided an update regarding development.

* UMD Capital Campaign—The University is heading into the public phase of the $4 billion capital campaign as the quiet phase is coming to an end. The capital campaign will be one of the largest fundraising efforts for higher education across the country. UMD’s goal is $100 million. SCSE’s goal is not set yet. However, it’s estimated to be $25 million.
* SCSE Fundraising—Carrie reviewed the college’s fundraising to date and reviewed development’s priorities and goals.

SCSE SPACE ISSUES

* The most urgent space issue is to receive bonding from the State of Minnesota for construction of the CAMS Building. The building is shovel ready and if bonding is received, could break gound as early as June 1, 2017.
* Civil Engineering ran out of space as soon as their new building was constructed.
* The next building after CAMS that SCSE needs is a 100,000 -120,000 sq ft building to house Civil Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Mechanical & Industrial Engineering.
* Active learning classrooms are a necessity, which would count down on the large lecture spaces needed.

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Charity Rupp recapped the Outreach Department’s activities with the community throughout the year. She stated that volunteers are heavily relied upon to assist her in the activities.

Charity reviewed plans for outreach program changes. She may add a STEAM programming concept.

Dale Hoff noted that scientists need to be able to talk about their career in plain language so that young students will understand and get excited about a career in the STEM field.

Jim Orrock discussed STARBASE, which is a program in the Twin Cities that puts STEM in students’ hands and then lets them use it. STARBASE may come to Duluth soon.

ACTIVE LEARNING

Instructor Brian Gute and Associate Professor Alison Hoxie provided an update on active learning in the classroom and explained why and how it will be used within SCSE. Active learning has been utilized for 50 years, but universities are just now starting to embrace its concepts and benefits for students. Faculty and students are being prepared to learn using the active learning concept.

GENERAL DISCUSSION & OTHER ISSUES

Chairman Bill Bennett reviewed the draft Bylaws for the External Advisory Board structure and asked for input. He and Josh will stagger the current members’ terms, if they are not already. Josh also asked for nominees for upcoming vacant terms. Also, the Bylaws state that the Vice Chair’s term will be two years, at which time the Vice Chair will become the Chair for two years. Josh asked that if any Board member is interested in the Vice Chair role, to contact him.

Bill also stated that it would be helpful for the Board members to have talking points regarding any UMD negative publicity so they could help with optics. Josh also asked that members contact him if there are questions about happenings at UMD.

Chancellor has asked that the UMD Strategic Plan be refreshed. The current plan has six very broad goals, with no operational detail for each goal. The Strategic Planning & Budget Committee will work on this.

Josh provided a report on the SCSE Strategic Plan and reviewed which goals have been met and which are still in progress.

Bill suggested that the EAB could be more candid with the EVCAA and Chancellor, by inviting them to an upcoming meeting to discuss the value that SCSE brings to the University. Another suggestion was to invite Regent David McMillan, the Duluth area representative to the Board of Regents, to a meeting for the same reason.

Board members would like a monthly newsletter to learn about what’s happening with UMD and SCSE.

Suggestions for upcoming meeting agenda items are:

* “Why are land grant institutions important?” Josh stated he could provide what NRRI is doing in this area.
* “How much of UMD is spawned from mineral leaders (Cina, Alworth)?”
* “UMD is also a Sea Grant University, and the home for this program is Minnesota. How does that affect UMD and SCSE?”
* “Place the SCSE Strategic Plan on the agenda at the annual fall meeting for feedback from the Board members.”

Board members like the agenda format. Josh encouraged Board members to send him 3 agenda topics ahead of the next meeting.

Feel free to email the Chancellor and/or the EVCAA with ideas for improvement.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

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Minutes taken by Nancy Kienzle

Executive Office Specialist

SCSE Dean’s Office