

# **Petroleum Engineering Industry Advisory Board Meeting Friday, October 22nd, 2004**

**MSEC 384 - Petroleum Engineering Conference Room**

**9 am - Noon**

**Present: Gary Plisga, Amit Sharma, Mike Stogner, Jay Paul McWilliams (for Dan Voecks), Thomas Engler**

## **1. Welcome**

## **2. Approval of minutes of October 2003 meeting**

Minutes from the previous meeting were distributed. Due to lack of quorum, minutes will be emailed to all members for approval.

Discussion ensued about methods to improve attendance to meetings.

Suggestions were:

- a. Each member designate an alternate to attend when he or she cannot. The member would be responsible for briefing the designate on issues and needs. The designate is not required to be an alumni.
- b. Improve communications between members and the department, send out periodic updates on action items, and on department issues, and request discussions from board members.
- c. Invite members to NMT and speak on what were the job challenges post academia, how did you attack technical problems, or career advice.
- d. Invite members to mentor students and to provide information by experienced professionals.
- e. Board members should be invited to make presentations to the students about real world problems. This would involve operations, regulatory, environmental and risk analysis.  
Amit Sharma asked is the department getting what it needs from the advisory board? Thomas Engler responded that the industry interaction is partially responsible for increased scholarships, summer internships, and collaborations with senior design projects.

## **3. Nominations for new board members**

A list of potential candidates was reviewed. A discussion followed on whether to replace existing members or add new members. Since existing members have responded via email their desire to participate, no member was removed from the advisory board without prior approval.

The following nominations were accepted:

- a. Mike Stogner stated he was willing to step down and suggested Jim Lovato as his replacement. Jim graduated with a B.S. in Geological Engineering in 1982 from NMT and is currently working for the BLM in Farmington, NM.
- b. Jay Paul conveyed Dan Voecks desire to step down and Dan's nomination of Jay Paul as his replacement. Jay Paul received a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from NMT in May 2002 and is currently working for BRI in Farmington.
- c. Add Matt Hill as a new member. Matt graduated with a B.S. in Petroleum Engineering from NMT in 1989 and is currently working for Unocal Indonesia

Thomas Engler will contact all about their nomination and availability to participate. If adopted, the total numbers of members will increase to 12.

#### **4. Nominations and election of new officers**

#### **5. Departmental update**

Thomas Engler gave an update of enrollments, graduation statistics and demographics. See attachment.

Undergrad enrollment is on a positive trend upwards. Graduate enrollment has significantly decreased, but is anticipated to increase with the signing of an exchange program with the University of Stavanger.

#### **6. Old business**

Thomas Engler provided a presentation on reviewing the criteria for the upcoming ABET visit. See attachment. Comments were:

- a. For objectives, teamwork is not explicitly stated within the objectives.
- b. Consensus of those members present is objectives 1,2, and 4 are good, while obj. 3 is vague or difficult to assess.
- c. In practice, data is not available or gathered and thus you are dealing with open-ended problems. Need students to be able to address these type of problems.
- d. Design of Experiments was an excellent course on improving statistics skills.
- e. Economics appears to be weak in current senior students. Will investigate if a recent change in instructor in ES 316 has remedied this weakness or does the program need to address the issue.
- f. For criterion 1, transfer students from San Juan College have traditionally been excellent students. Suggest offering PETR 245 - Petroleum Fluids to San Juan College students (via distance ed) to entice new students to the petroleum engineering program.

## **7. New business**

Dr. Engler mentioned the potential of matching money and/or seed money towards an endowed professorship. An alternative is to request recent alumni to donate to the Langdon Taylor chair, subsequently increasing the principal.

A discussion was held to see how the board can help improve distant ed at junior colleges that may help students want to transfer to tech and Petroleum Engineering. An aspect of this is offering Petroleum Fluids at San Juan College.

A brief discussions of how to obtain more scholarship money for the Petroleum Engineering department. This could be handled during routine communications with board members or when communicating with all alumni and requesting individual or corporate contributions.

## **8. Action Items**

- a. Send minutes from last meeting to members for approval.
- b. Generate a communications link to update and involve members.
- c. Acquire board approval to allow a designate to assume the responsibilities in the absence of the board member.
- d. Contact potential new board members to serve on the advisory board, and then seek approval from the existing board.
- e. Submit the comments with regards to the ABET criteria to the faculty for review and include in the assessment process.

## **9. Adjournment**

**Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, October 21, 2005.**