Academy of Electrical and Computer Engineering (AECE)
Minutes of Annual Business Meeting
Thursday, April 19, 2007

Attendees:

Richard Arnold	Lloyd Brunkhorst	Thomas Dalton	Richard Eimer
Kelvin Erickson	D. Ronald Fannin	Greg Harris	Leonard Laskowski
Dennis Leitterman	Sandra Martin	George McPherson	Harvey Randall
Walter Reed	George Schindler	Kevin Schneider	Donald Shaw
David Sizemore	Daniel Smith	Keith Stanek	Paul Stigall
Thomas Sweeney	George Tomazi	Thomas Van Doren	Roger Volk
Michael Walker	Ronald Willoughby	Donald Willyard	Robert Wilson
Ralph Wolfram			

The annual Meeting of the Academy of Electrical and Computer Engineering was held Thursday, April 19 and called to order at 8:00 a.m. in the Faculty Lounge located at Emerson Electric Company Hall. President Don Shaw chaired the meeting.

Department Chair, Dr. Kelvin Erickson, welcomed the Academy members and then turned the meeting over to Don Shaw.

Dr. Kurt Kosbar reported that the Academy awarded a total of five scholarships this year for $1,500 each. Amanda Kay Luellen, Kam Kit Yiu, and Jeffrey Michael Hill received the endowed scholarship. Kirsten Elizabeth Luer and Phillip Dean Ponzer received scholarships from the original Academy fund.

Dr. Kosbar reminded the Academy that the endowed scholarships are only for freshmen whose families' Federal adjusted gross income is less than or equal to $40,000 a year. The Academy can still grant scholarships to sophomores, juniors or seniors through the regular Academy account.

Amanda Luellen was present to introduce herself to the Academy. She received a $1,500 scholarship from the endowed scholarship fund. She enrolled at UMR in fall of 2005. She began college as an undecided engineer and declared her major in electrical engineering. Her current research project is facial recognition. She wants to graduate with her BS in electrical engineering and a minor in mathematics. She would like to continue and earn her MS in electrical engineering.

Greg Harris, Development Officer, reported that the state only provides 30% of UMR's budget. Greg reported on the progress of all the different campaigns including goals and objectives to become a top five technological research university.

Dr. Daryl Beetner presented the Academy with a department mission statement and department objectives and asked for input. ABET is asking for a new mission statement and objectives for the department. The members gave a lot of useful feedback.

Don Shaw had a request from Lynn Sticknote, Director of Admissions, that each Academy donate $2,000 to help pay for lunch for the visitors families. The campus only supplies lunch to the potential student at this time. A discussion followed with the members bringing up the following points: Is this donation a one time event or every year? Is this the best use of Academy monies? Don Shaw has asked the members to start thinking about this request.

Dr. Erickson presented the "update of the department". Research expenditures for FY 2006 were $3.9M. Fall semester 2006 the department had 422 undergraduate students and 188 graduate students. We have 30 faculty, 3 lecturers, and 15 staff. Dr. Hai Xiao is the newest faculty member with his expertise in waves and devices. The department's faculty research areas consist of motor drives, power system stability, skin cancer diagnosis, NDE for the space shuttle, computer network security, IED detection, electromagnetic compatibility and wireless sensors.

Mechanical engineering has the largest number of students on campus. The nationwide trend in jobs is swinging back to mechanical engineering as being a popular discipline with electrical and computer engineering still running a close second. Our department's strongest undergraduate area is power, then computer engineering and controls.

ECE Strategic Plan is to be in the top 40 in the national rankings by 2010 and top 25 by 2015. The department wants to broaden their academic portfolio, increase enrollment, double female and minority faculty, increase the graduation rate, develop on-line BS courses, increase scholarship/fellowship endowment, and expand its research reputation. The department wants to enrich our student experience by obtaining endowment for senior design projects, replacing and buying new equipment for laboratories through endowments, and adding an endowed teaching chair.

The department desperately needs addition space! Our building is full and overflowing. The department needs to stay competitive in order to recruit new students and secure new research projects. The department needs funds for a new building addition. The new building addition will provide the department a new 60-seat classroom, 2 computer engineering instructional labs, flexible research space, graduate student office space and conference rooms. Dr. Erickson is seeking feedback on how to present the plans for a new addition to potential donors. The benefits for industry will include attract more students and better students. We should talk about the benefits and that we need to change. Naming a classroom, laboratory, etc. for the donor(s) could be a selling point.

Kam Kit Yiu introduced himself to the Academy. He received a $1,500 scholarship from the endowed scholarship fund. He was born in China and has lived in the United States since third grade. Kam would like to have extensive work with technology in robotics and nanotechnology. He plans on graduating in 2010 with his BS in both electrical and computer engineering.

Kirsten Luer introduced herself to the Academy. She received a $1,500 scholarship from the original Academy fund. She enrolled at UMR in the fall of 2006. Her mother is an electrical engineer at Boeing and has encouraged Kirsten to do her best in everything. She has always been interested in computers and electronics and fascinated by air shows. She has gained a new interest in circuits during her studies her at UMR. Her plans are to receive her BS in electrical engineering with a minor in mathematics. She plans to go straight into the workforce and then pursue a master's degree.

Phillip Ponzer introduced himself to the Academy. He received a $1,500 scholarship from the original Academy fund. Phillip was born and raised in Rolla. He is a junior in computer engineering and computer science. Phillip has been active with the solar car team, robotics team, tutoring, and has had a co-op experience with Caterpillar in software testing for automation. Phillip is also doing research with hybrid sensor networks to monitor a watershed. He wants to continue his schooling by earning a MS in either computer engineering or computer science.

The Academy members provided the following feedback to the department with much discussion.
- Invite some Academy members to speak at a 391 seminar to talk about the importance of passing the FE exam.
- Members warned that "big is not necessarily better". The department needs to maintain student quality and provide the student with the best education that fits industry needs so our students are preferred candidates for jobs after graduation.
- Gather industry ranking along with ranking from US World Report.
- Although potential students do look at rankings in the US World Report, industry rankings should hold more weight in course study.
- Members feel the department should stay focused on the undergraduate student. This focus will keep UMR and the department strong.
- Don't make rankings the top item in the Strategic Plan.

Jeffrey Hill, the fifth scholarship recipient, introduced himself to the Academy. He received a $1,500 scholarship from the endowed scholarship fund. Jeffrey started at UMR in fall 2005. His interests are in computers. His background is software-based and he wants to learn more about hardware. Jeffrey is the co-founder of a question writing group. In spring 2004 the question database was started using the web-based application: Asp.net/ms Access Database which manages the whole process of an academic competition, including question packets – not just the questions. Major updates were implemented in the summers of 2005 & 2006. Jeffrey plans to co-op with Hunter Engineering from May to December, 2007. After earning his B.S in computer engineering in 2009, he plans to go into the workforce.

Academy President Don Shaw opened the afternoon business meeting.

Don Shaw welcomed Tom Dalton, Ron Fannin, Daniel Smith and Thomas Sweeney to the Academy.

Don Shaw made a motion to approve the April 20, 2006 minutes and budget. Dennis Leitterman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Don Shaw reported that Admissions requested each Academy donate $2,000 of their funds toward providing lunch for the parents/guests of our visitors. However, Admissions did not indicate whether this donation would be a one time donation or every year. Discussion followed.

Richard Eimer made a motion to give Admission a donation of $1,000 toward lunch to help feed the parents/guests. Dennis Leitterman seconded the motion. More discussion followed.

The motion was amended. Richard Eimer made an amended motion to donate to Admissions $1,000 toward lunch to help feed parents/guests for only one year. not to be repeated.

More discussion followed to consider if the money could be better spent by giving the department the money to help pay for lunch during the open houses and give credit to the Academy.

The amended motion went to member vote. Only 2 members were in favor of donating the $1,000 to Admissions. Motion failed.

Roger Volk made a motion to approve the proposed budget for 2006-2007. George Schindler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Don Shaw made a motion to accept the treasurer's report on the endowed scholarship. Randall Harvey seconded the motion. Motion approved.

George Schlinder stood in for Del Mank as Acting Chair for the Nominations Committee. George made the following recommendations: Elect Dennis Leitterman as secretary/treasurer, elect Richard Eimer as Vice-President, elect Walter Reed as president and elect Harvey Randall and re-elect Charles Naslund to the Board of Directors.

Don Shaw made a motion to elect Dennis Leitterman as secretary/treasurer with his term to end at the 2009 board meeting. Lloyd Brunkhorst seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Don Shaw made a motion to elect Richard Eimer as vice-president and Walter Reed as president with their term to end at the 2009 board meeting. Harvey Randall seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Don Shaw made the motion to re-elect Charles Naslund to the Board of Directors with his term to end at the 2010 board meeting and elect Harvey Randall to the Board of Directors with his term to end at the 2010 board meeting. Paul Stigall seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Don Shaw reported that the Chancellor's Academy President's Forum mainly focused on the campus restructure and the elimination of the Deans and schools.

Dennis Leitterman made a motion to adjourn. Richard Eimer seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned by Don Shaw at 3:00 pm.

The next Board Meeting and Banquet of the Academy of Electrical and Computer Engineering will be _Thursday, April 17, 2008_. Please note the change for the day of the week. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Minutes submitted by Richard Eimer   June 18, 2007