Academy Meeting Notes
Thursday, April 27, 1995


Lee Saperstein introduced each member of the Academy. After introductions were made the Dean explained to the members how the Academy came about and the philosophy of the Academy. What the Dean is hoping will happen to the Academy is "by extending membership we will recognize those of our alumni who have brought distinction to themselves and as a consequence to us and that it will be a vital forum to bring info back to the School on issues that affect the School."

In establishing the Academy, the School Policy Committee was unanimous that the Academy be directed towards recognition and advise. They were very clear that they didn't want us to put up front that the Academy's purpose was to be fund raising. However, in the advisory function, they are well aware of our needs and we will take the Academy advice about fund raising. We will get good advise about fund raising but we want that to be a part of a broad mission oriented set of advise.

The Dean invited each member to say what they would like to see happen with the Academy. All agreed that they wanted to give back to UMR what UMR has given to them. They would like to see the curriculum reflect more of what industry needs such as more emphasis needs to be on non-engineering subjects such as writing skills, communication and foreign language.

James Scott - Sees the present political volatility as something that needs to be brought back to the University and the Academy. Our students and faculty need to know how bad things are politically by the federal government. We need to educate our people in academia to this need for superior performance, higher standards, higher goal setting. Would like to bring insight into current problems.

Jim Spehr - Feels don't have the natural resources to draw alumni back to the University unless they are being brought back for some special activity. The academy will go along way to bring those people back to provide the recognition and advise that we are looking for. Also to becoming a catalyst for trying to bring back a little sooner those they might have originally.

Jim Hunt - Graduates seem so specialized that they have tunnel vision and have trouble seeing the big picture and doing some of the broader scope things. He thinks it is important that a group like this bring to the table the different aspects of science and industry.

John Bartel - He feels as a University we continue to command a great deal of prestige. UMR graduates have a great deal of character. He would like to see us not only focus on high
technology but also should focus on common sense.

Bill Daniels - Quoting one of his football coaches "You can't pay back but you can pay ahead". He is looking for an opportunity to pay ahead. Excellent opportunity for several disciplines to get together and get their message out.

Bob Garvey - Would like to see an improvement in graduates communications skills both verbal and written. Finding that is turning into a handicap out in industry. Raising stature of engineers in the business world. It will go along way in promoting UMR.

Dr. Tsoufaniidis briefly advised the group that they were all influential business men and could use this Academy to benefit each other.

Skip Garner - He is here to pay back what UMR has done for him. He believes that what needs to be instilled in students is alot of drive. Not interested in being honored as much as he would like to provide service to the School.

Bob Miller - Stop being a bad example and start giving good advice. Can help faculty by letting them know the needs in the industrial world. Would like to see foreign language become a part of the curriculum.

John Reese - Can bring some knowledge about what it is like for a student to play in the global market. Most students do not know how to function internationally and that is an expertise in how we can deal with that. Foreign language is important.

Jeff Zelms - Would like to abolish the notion of entitlements. That by the virtue of graduating from a well recognized University that you are entitled to something and it will happen.

Walt Mueller, Jr. - Bring back to the University the different insights of what is going on in the coal industry now from his company and other companies they do business with. Would like to help provide some of the skills he thinks are necessary. Would like to do alot to support students.

The Charter and Bylaws were discussed. The Academy agreed to remove start up and add charter at the top of Bylaws. Skip Garner moved the motion and Jim Spehr 2nd motion.

Amendment 4a. Item #3, additional meetings may be held at the call of the executive committee. All Academy members agreed. New line will be added.

All in favor of Bylaws.

Officers:

Jeff Zelms - Vice Chair
Jim Spehr - Chair
Bob Garvey - Executive Committee Member
Bill Daniels - Executive Committee Member
Jim Scott - Executive Committee Member
Bob Miller - Executive Committee Member