SCHOOL OF MINES AND METALLURGY
ACADEMY MEETING
Minutes
October 1, 1999, at 9:30 a.m.
Room 124 McNutt Hall


Campus staff present: Phil Campbell, Richard Hagni, Ron Kohser, Kevin Lindsey, Lee Saperstein, John Watson, John Wilson.

Introductions and Comments from Chair

Chairman Berset opened the meeting by announcing that no one needed to worry about their cars as their was a moratorium on parking enforcement for this weekend.

Dr. Saperstein followed with a few other announcements. The Library had a complete renovation and is having an open house this afternoon from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; he encourages all who can to stop in. There will be a Corporate Development Council Leadership Luncheon to which all are invited. If you would like to attend, Kim has tickets.

Dr. Saperstein concluded announcements by mentioning that Dr. Dale Elifrits, Geological Engineering Professor, would like any Academy members who can to meet him for a picture by the front of the Library at the Daniel Jackling plaque. He will be sending the photo to Kennecott Corporation.

Review of Minutes

Chairman Berset continued by asking if anyone had any changes to the previous minutes, which were provided. There were no changes and Marvin Zeid moved to accept the minutes as they were. Jim Spehr seconded and it was passed unanimously.

Additions to Agenda and approval

For the benefit of all, but particularly new members, Chairman Berset noted the Mission of the Academy.

MISSION:

(1) Recognition: To honor outstanding alumni from the School of Mines and Metallurgy.
(2) **Consultancy:** To counsel and advise the School of Mines and Metallurgy Dean, Chairs and Directors, on means to enhance the stature of the School.

(3) **Ambassadorship:** To interpret and promote the goals and programs of the School and the University for our various constituents.

(4) **Support:** Provide a vehicle whereby individual members may support, in a variety of ways, the programs of the School of Mines & Metallurgy.

Chairman Bersett wished to thank all of the members for their voluntary contributions to the Academy. He asked if there was anything that anyone wanted to add to the Agenda. There were no additions.

Dr. Saperstein noted that there were several Academy members on the campus but were tied up in the Board of Trustees meeting and couldn’t make ours. These members were Bob Brackbill, Bob Keiser and Dick Stegemeier.

**Report of Committees**

**Executive Committee** - Chairman Bersett started the discussions on committees with a report on the Executive Committee. The first item was the selection of a vice chair. After some discussion with the nominating committee members, Don Kummer has agreed to take the position of vice-chair. Chairman Bersett noted that the next Executive Committee meeting will be held on December 14, 1999, in St. Louis.

**Nominating Committee** - Mr. Spehr reviewed the past balloting system. He pointed out that the old system got to be cumbersome and we had decided to use the nominating committee to review nominees and prepare a yes/no ballot. The Executive Committee approved the process and the Academy passed it during the April Academy meeting. Mr. Spehr continued by stating that the committee will be reviewing the nominees and creating a ballot by the December 14, 1999, Executive Committee Meeting. The members of the Nominating Committee are: Jim Sephr, Bob Brackbill, Don Kummer, Marvin Zeid, and Jeff Zelms. Jim Spehr closed discussion by asking for more nominees. There was none and Mr. Spehr turned the floor over to Chairman Bersett.

**Scholarship Committee** - Tom O'Keefe started by indicating that his report is an attachment in their packets. He noted that the Scholarship is intentionally loosely organized with no regulation or anything specific set up at this time. Dr. O'Keefe noted that Professor Wolf had received a request from the Solar Car Team when they were raising money to go to Australia. The Executive Committee decided to offer a scholarship to the SOMM students that would be going to Australia. At this time we don’t know if that will come through. There is only one SOMM student, Jeremy Theis of Geological Engineering.
Tom O'Keefe continued by noting that there was approximately $15,000 of principal currently available and with other funds being transferred in will make it approximately $25,000. Although he encouraged giving to the Academy fund, he stressed that this is in no way meant for members to take away their support from the departments. The hope is that members would increase, not shift, their giving. At this time we plan on trying several different options and then go with what works.

Lee Saperstein noted that it is our responsibility to try things that would meet the academy's desires, for example, high school recruiting is a clear objective. Maybe we can dangle a scholarship to jackling students; if it works, we would let the academy know that this is a workable model. If not we can try something else. The best thing is not to let the balance build up without doing something.

Tom O'Keefe concluded by asking that members of the Scholarship Committee stay shortly after the meeting.

Museum Committee - Nancy Scofield started by reading from an executive summary she had just received from Marc Wilson, Curator at Carnegie Museum, who had recently been on campus to evaluate the museum.

The main topics of his summary were:

1) The current collections will not support a general or broad-based mineral museum.

2) Sufficient strength exists to support a modest effort at presenting educational exhibits focused on the mining history, geology, and mineralogy of Missouri.

3) The current practice of exhibiting a systematic mineralogy collection in the hallways of McNutt is adequate for student education. Consideration should be given to increasing the accessibility of these exhibits, especially for handicapped patrons and children.

4) Dissemination of exhibit specimens around campus dilutes the impact of the collection and contributes to specimen neglect and damage.

The goal should be to attain a critical mass of quality specimens and educational exhibits to attract visitors and serve as an educational asset to students, visiting school groups and tourists.

Discussion continued with several good ideas, as follows:

1) We essentially want nice exhibits, how much further do we have to have a nice exhibit in total? Dr. Wronkiewicz responded that we may have a third and have a long way to go.

2) What about a display for the public? for the students?
3) Will there be opportunity to get additional specimens from peoples’ personal collections?

4) If we can tie the exhibit together sensibly, maybe we can get some company to put some money forward to help fund.

Lee Saperstein noted that he is very appreciative of what Nancy Scofield and the committee has done and that Marc Wilson did an excellent job. He went on to note that he has asked Drs. Wronkiewicz and Hogan to work up a master plan. He also talked with Dr. Mohammed Qayoumi, Administrative Services, about funding and got a warm reception. Apparently a visitor center is in the pre-planning phase and it would be an ideal spot for the museum. Of course, this is not in the very near future, but it is something to consider. One last thought was that we could break this into increments, maybe with the first phase to be finished by the anniversary of the 1904 Worlds Fair.

Norbert Neumann noted that BHP in Tucson, Arizona, is closing down and they had some beautiful specimens.

Projects

Chairman Bersett continued the meeting by moving on to Projects.

Jackling Institute

Ron Kohser, Associate Dean and Director of the Jackling Institute, started his presentation by stating that this summer was the 26th Institute and that it was most frustrating, but also the most rewarding.

He continued by explaining that this was the first time in 26 years that we had trouble filling it. Because of this we couldn’t be as selective but had the best year in Jackling II ever. We were able to take all 26 applicants that applied for Jackling II. We have a very good chance of recruiting these students.

Dr. Kohser continued by noting that we had sent out letters to past Jackling alums who had attended and graduated from UMR. We told them of successes from Jackling and also asked for their support. The ways they could support were to sponsor a student or become a mentor to a student. The response was not overwhelming, but it is a start. We will be holding a Jackling reunion during Open House on October 23, 1999.

Dr. Kohser said that the future plans are going good. We already have the materials for 2000 ready on paper and the web site is in place.

John Bartel asked what is the mechanism for recruiting Jackling students. Ron Kohser stated, at this point, Admissions is already passing out information on 2000 Jackling, then we will be doing mass mailings in the spring. There is a permanent link to Jackling on the School’s web site.
Dick Hunt feels Jackling is a very important project. He passed out financial data regarding the Jackling fund which has gone from $200,000 to $979,000. We are now at the point where we can use some of this money to do important things. Dick Hunt also noted that someone needs to work specifically on the Jackling project with Ron Kohser.

Bob Nevins asked if we aren’t being too sensitive in our selection of Jackling students. He asked Ron Kohser if the original intent was to go after some of the 2nd tier students to expand Jackling. We are looking to see how the capture rate will change.

Lee Saperstein stated that Ron Kohser is doing an excellent job with the Jackling Program with the minimal staff support he has.

Report from UMR Campus

Phil Campbell gave a brief report on the Full Circle Campaign. The main point of his presentation was that the Campaign has been reduced to six years and will come to completion June 30, 1999, due to the overwhelming support of our alumni.

New Business

Lee Saperstein started with the success stories. He noted that with Congressional help we have received money from the federal budget for research contracts. We will be going back again to the congressional delegation with proposals for the new year.

Lee Saperstein continued by noting "now the bad news." Recruiting is the biggest problems we have on the campus rights now. We need to get our enrollment up and that is where the Academy can help.

Chairman Bersett concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and sharing their thoughts and he hopes to see them again in the spring.

Meeting adjourned at 11:36 am
Minutes taken and transcribed by Kimberely R. Barks