Minutes of the Spring Meeting of the
Academy of the School of Mines & Metallurgy
April 23, 1998
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Attending:
Jeff Zelms, Academy Chairman
Rex Alford (new member)
Mel Nickels (new member)
Tom O’Keeffe (new member)
Nancy Scofield (new member)
Bob Brackbill
Harold Krueger
Marvin Zeid
Jim Spehr
Bill Shepard
Dick Hunt
Lee Saperstein

Bob Wolf, Vice-Chairman and Chairman-Elect
Sam Schneider (new member)
Bob Peppers (new member)
Bob Schafer (new member)
Don Kummer (new member)
Dick Bullock
Vernon McGhee
Gary Downey
Bill Daniels
Bill Horst
Paul Dowling

Tom Webb (UMR Development Officer)
Gary Schumacher (President of the Academy of Mechanical Engineers)
Greg Harris (UMR Development Officer)

Introductions and Announcements

Chairman Zelms called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.
Introductions of all present.

1:15pm - Gary Schumacher was present at the request of Chairman Zelms and given the floor to
discuss the formation, evolution, current programs, and plans of the Academy of MEs. Gary first
thanked Paul Dowling for giving him his first job out of college.

Gary reported the following: Fund raising is a natural evolution and not the primary purpose of
an Academy. It comes about naturally. Other areas for involvement are equally stressed. These
include, personal involvement by the membership, and commitment to advancing the cause of
the department and its three degree areas (ME, Aerospace Engineering and Engineering
Mechanics).

The committee structure is important to fulfilling their missions. They especially focus on
supporting the senior design program, departmental field trips, and the Academy Scholarship
program, which currently distributes eight $1,000 scholarships and one $2,000 scholarship
named for the ME Academy’s first President Don McGovern.
Begun in 1995, the ME Academy had 8 founders (elected by the Department), with 11 more individuals added later that year. Twenty new members came aboard in 1996 (plus 2 honorary inductees) and 15 more were added in 1997 (plus 1 honorary inductee). With 2 honorary members now deceased, there are 55 active members. Many (about one-third) of the members are in the KC or STL regions.

The ME department has about 9,200 alumni (vs. 7,900 for SOMM). Their goal is to induct larger numbers until approximately 1% of their 9,200 alumni are active members of the Academy.

Members are strongly encouraged to become OGS members and to direct their donations to the Academy of ME so that it may do its work. New members who already are in the OGS and who give to other UMR causes are not asked to redirect their donations.

Their annual expectation of revenue (not really a budget) is about $40,000. The money goes into a “quasi-endowment” managed by the University system. This type of fund allows a portion of principle to be withdrawn in some circumstances, along with the annual distribution of income. The membership funds programs in these areas: senior design projects, field trips, materials and equipment, and grants to student chapters of professional societies. About $4,700 goes into the “operations” of the Academy, mostly portraits, printing, etc. Members pay a reasonable price ($25 per person) for the annual induction dinner, with new members and spouses, faculty (with spouses) and student-scholarship recipients (with dates) attending at no charge. (The department pays for the faculty, and the Academy pays for the new members and the students.)

Vernon McGhee asked about a dues structure. Gary said there is none, they simply rely upon the income from the OGS contributions by members.

Discussion of the ME Academy committee structure —

All but 2 members of the AME sit on at least one committee. The committees are:

- Research Promotion: 7 members
- Membership: 5 members
- Scholarship: 8 members
- Strategic Planning: 11 members
- Senior Design: 13 members
- Senior Seminar: 6 members

(The above committees were formed at first meeting, and later was added the...)

Meetings/Events Committee
(There is also a Board of Directors, and 3 of the 7 Committee Chairs are on it.)
A discussion of the nomination procedure revealed that the MEs take nominations from members, from faculty, and from the Development Office. These nominees’ profiles are compiled by the Development staff and submitted by mail to the volunteer members of the membership/selection committee. They review the nominees individually and then as needed by conference call (or a meeting when practical). The recommended list is then distributed to the members for ratification. Their experience is that about one third of the nominees cannot make it to the event (attendance is a prerequisite for accepting membership), so they select about 30 prospective members when they want 20 inductees. The 30 prospects are then contacted by letter several months ahead of time.

It was pointed out by Harold Krueger that most of our members are already OGS members and that making it an expectation of membership by forceful suggestion was not likely to work for the SOMM Academy. Gary allowed as how they were likely in the Academy of ME to pull back a bit on the strength of this recommendation. But they were still going to continue inviting only those prospective members who they felt would take an active role in the Academy and would give support to its causes.

3:00pm An intermission was called for the comfort of everyone.

New Business

Announcements
Jim Spehr reported that the members present in Jefferson City for a recent “legislative day,” had achieved some success as part of a larger team boosting UMR. He believes that two things will serve us well in the future in the State capital: 1) constant pressure and information fed to key legislators, and 2) the major force of one individual (usually alumnus Calvin Ochs) presenting a sheaf of campaign donation checks to legislators. Lee Saperstein concurred.

Mission
Dick Hunt moved that the Academy add a fourth mission to its language, one that would support the concept of members actively getting behind the School’s and Department’s programs. He recommended “Sponsorship and Support” as the name of the mission. Sam Schneider cautioned that he, “like a few others in here, wants no part of fund raising.”

Jim Spehr asked if we could review the existing language of the Charter. This was done, and discussion continued about including a fourth active mission.
Bob Wolf moved that the Academy adopt the following as a fourth mission:

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

This motion was seconded by both Bob Brackbill and Dick Hunt. Dissent was voiced by George MacZura and Sam Schneider, preferring that this language not be added. Bob Wolf supported his motion. Chairman Zelms called for a vote, and the motion passed by a show of hands (11-9). (Note: copy of revised charter attached) It was also stressed that there are alternative ways to provide support for the School of Mines and Metallurgy.

Project Support
In response to an earlier discussion on potential projects for the SOMM Academy, Lee Saperstein called attention to a list of involvement ideas that he assembled for the membership and asked the members present for their top five choices. The forms were circulated and returned by the end of the meeting. The top five vote getters at this point are:

1. Provide scholarship support
2. Use personal contacts to promote research opportunities and to improve UMR's relationships with corporations and governments.
3. Student design project
   Assist departments in finding real world problems and in judging projects
4. Be a guest speaker on campus
5. Participate in Department Development Boards

(At this time we will be developing proposals for the above items. We have included, with these minutes, a blank copy of the form to fill out and return if you have not already done so. We will incorporate those into our plans after we receive them.)

Nominations
Chairman Zelms called for more discussion of the nominations/membership committee idea. Nancy Scofield asked whether "now was appropriate for a nomination from the floor."
Chairman Zelms encouraged this, and Nancy suggested her classmate Tom Simpson as a posthumous candidate. No other nominations were made, but the members were urged to begin thinking now about new names.
Chairman Zelms asked for interested members to raise their hands if they wanted to be included on the nominations committee. The following members raised their hands:

Bob Brackbill  Bill Shepard  Don Kummer
Marvin Zeid  Jim Spehr  Dick Bullock
Paul Dowling  Dick Hunt  Bill Horst
Jeff Zelms  Dave Bartine (suggested in absentia)

Chairman Zelms questioned how workable such a large number might be, and it was agreed that a committee of 5 might be more practical. The Executive Committee will finalize the Nomination Committee. In the meanwhile, all members are asked to send us the names of potential members no later than August 14, 1998.

It was discussed about having a Meeting and Events Committee to help drum up support for the ceremonies. The Executive Committee will continue to recruit for this.

Another item was about establishing a “quasi-endowment”. It passed with unanimous support.

It was suggested to have Academy letterhead printed with the names of the Academy officers. A reminder was made that the Academy contribution can have a corporate match.

Status Reports
Lee Saperstein reviewed the current state of the School. His review covered problems: low numbers of students in the School and University; consequent threats to our programs and to our School; low research productivity in some areas. There were bright spots, as always, in the output of faculty, student quality, accreditation, etc.

Tom Webb was asked to cover the Full Circle Campaign briefly. His report covered the strategies that led to the campaign’s inception, current status ($40+ million of the $60 million is in hand), and bright spots for the SOMM including several large gifts from members of the Academy.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.