School of Mines and Metallurgy
Academy Meeting
May 1, 1997

MINUTES

Welcome

Dr. Lee Saperstein welcomed members, including new inductees to the Spring 1997 Academy meeting. Dr. Saperstein also introduced attending Department Chairs, faculty members, and staff members. Academy members introduced themselves around the meeting table. Dr. Saperstein referred to supplemental materials provided to each member to support discussion and for members’ reference.

Report on Campus issues- Enrollment

Dr. Saperstein spoke about enrollment trends, referencing data from the University as a whole, as well as trends specific to the School of Mines and Metallurgy (SOMM). Handouts containing this information was provided to each member. There are several issues of concern with respect to enrollment. Overall, for in-state students, enrollment has been on the decline. Additionally we have had a fall-off of transfer students in the past several years. Degrees are taking longer to complete- the average degree requires 136 hours, and currently we are graduating 52% of entering freshmen in 6 years. Although complete information is not available, those who have analyzed the data believe that student’s concern for GPA, and work requirements are contributing to the slower degree completion rate.

On the positive side of enrollment trends, our students are of high caliber, demonstrated by their high school rank and entering test scores. Out-of-state enrollments have been on the increase, which is favorable, as higher tuition for out-of-state students increases the overall program budget.
The University’s budget is directly linked to enrollment, as all money generated on campus stays on campus. Since the state supports UMR at 35% of total University costs, recruitment and retention of students are UMR’s primary challenges. For this purpose a UMR task committee (Recruitment and Retention) has been established to identify factors contributing to lower enrollment and retention, and to suggest ways to correct this problem. We will keep Academy members abreast of new developments in the task committee’s findings.

In memoriam

Dr. Saperstein and Chairman Jeff Zelms announced to the membership of the unfortunate death of fellow Academy member, Dr. Jim Scott, who was a friend to many of the Academy members. We have fond memories of Jim and will miss him.

Department Presentations

Presentations were made by each of the School of Mines and Metallurgy’s Departments, the Rock Mechanics Center and Materials Research Center, highlighting some of the School’s research and programs.

The Role of Academy Members

Prompted by Jim Spehr, Dr. Saperstein briefly described the purposes of the Academy. Jeff Zelms added that there is a more lengthy explanation of the purpose of the Academy in each member’s binder. At the founding meeting in 1995, John Mathes gave some insight as to the purpose of the Academy. A reproduction of his speech was included with the supplemental materials. Mr. Zelms suggested that each member read it for a better understanding. Mr. Zelms offered his understanding of the Academy’s purpose:

- Recognition - To recognize those who have been accomplished in their careers and for their contributions to the university.
- Consultation - To consult with the School
- Ambassadors - To be ambassadors to the faculty, students, and outside world.
Ambassadors

Dr. Saperstein referred to supplemental materials that concerned the ambassadorial role of the members.

The University of Missouri system anticipates receiving state money for budget enhancement in the following areas: academic enhancement, student leadership, and outreach. The Legislators have indicated that they want money to go to existing programs, and propose “competitive performance” as a measure of the success in the use of the funds. The Academy could be instrumental in furthering the interests of the School of Mines and Metallurgy and UMR by talking with legislators and curators about the importance of maintaining a healthy budget for higher education, as well as sharing success stories and examples of the school’s productivity.

Specifically, Mr. Zelms voiced to the members that his ambition is to put together for the Academy a tangible, meaningful purpose, beyond what has already been established. Other academies on campus were discussed, and it was agreed that due to the SOMM’s variety of departments that it is difficult to focus on one issue, as it would be in for the Civil Engineering’s Academy. Additionally, since many alumni of the SOMM Academy are not in the immediate area, frequent meetings of subcommittees, etc. is more difficult.

Marvin Zeid informed the membership that there is a newsletter published by Mr. Cal Ochs of the Alumni Association, that highlights legislative issues that affect the University of Missouri system and UMR. He has offered to ensure that all Academy members are added to the mailing list.

Jack Bodine offered to chair the legislative liaison activities of the Academy. We will coordinate our efforts with Cal Ochs. Bob Wolf also volunteered to help with activities related to legislation.

Mentoring Program

Chairman Zelms commented that the newly established mentoring program is one way for Academy members to do something productive with the students. Mr. Zelms asked Dick Hunt to relay his experiences as mentor with his group of students, as his attempt at mentoring seems to be the most successful thus far. Mr. Hunt said that he has
three students that he corresponds with. They have talked about job interviews, their families, and school. He acknowledged that the students are busy, but that he felt satisfied with the interaction. Mr. Hunt and his mentored students met in person at breakfast that morning.

Chairman Zelms stated that he believes that this type of program needs endorsement by the departments for it to work. Relating a comment of Dr. John Wilson (MinE), that Dr. Wilson was not opposed to mentoring, but equally was not overwhelmingly in favor because ‘it will end up with them coming to you (J. Zelms) for jobs’. Dr. Watson (MetE), who was present at the meeting, relayed a problem in his department when the department hired senior students to mentor lower classmen. The mentors could rarely get all of the mentored students together at one time and the program was not very successful. Bob Brackbill commented that he offered to mentor his six scholarship recipients and only got one letter. Jim Spehr commented that 18-20 year-old kids may not be comfortable taking the first step, and that their apprehension may be the reason for some lack of participation.

Despite some fruitless attempts at mentoring, there have been some positive results. A suggestion was made to use e-mail to communicate with some students, since many of them communicate in this way. It was also requested that e-mail addresses of Academy members who have them be provided on the member roster. Jill Alley said that she would begin work on getting members’ addresses.

**Discussion regarding Academy Purpose:**

Dr. Watson (MetE) commented that he felt that recognition was the primary purpose of the Academy, and that the members serve as an example to the students. Mr. Spehr commented that he is content in letting the Academy have a recognition function until asked to do or help with something specific.

Dr. Saperstein announced that Dr. Manuel Pacheco will become the new President of the University of Missouri system, effective July 1. Mr. Spehr questioned whether smaller programs could potentially be at risk to “downsizing”. Dr. Gregg (Geo/GeoP) emphasized that although some departments are small, they are an integral part of the school as a whole, particularly with the growing trend for interdisciplinary projects.
Bob Brackbill commented that it is important for the Academy to have a presence, so that it may make a difference in the face of any future downsizing efforts. He mentioned the response letter from the governor to Hans Schmoldt Sr. regarding what other University of Missouri schools have done regarding funding of chairs, with emphasis that the other schools had more alumni support. Mr. Brackbill suggested the concept of the Academy funding a chair, or offering a scholarship that would lend more credibility and strength to the Academy when vying for University funds.

Marvin Zeid observed that many Academy members have scholarships already. Jim Spehr noted that the School is currently paying for the Academy events. He believed that at some point in time that an endowment should be established for Academy costs. Several members voiced their agreement. Bob Brackbill suggested that dues be charged to members, and any amounts in excess could be allocated towards a project.

The discussion turned toward the possibility of the Academy being involved in the funding of the Jackling Institute. Dr. Saperstein and Dick Hunt explained the Jackling Institute to the members. It is a summer program at the School of Mines and Metallurgy for high school students interested in science. This year there were 178 applicants from 22 states, with only space for 120 students. The students that attend the Jackling Institute are usually top of their class, and 17 out of 20 students who attended the most recent Jackling II session (second session by invitation only, with an emphasis on research) ended up attending UMR.

The Jackling Institute is funded partly through an endowment, and through this coming summer is also funded through an National Science Foundation (NSF) grant. After this summer, additional funds will be needed to meet the gap created by the discontinuation of NSF funds. Dick Hunt suggested that assisting with the funding and being associated with the Jackling Institute would be a strong point for the Academy. Chairman Zelms voiced the idea that if the membership generated enough dues, then any overage beyond expenses could be contributed to the Jackling Fund. Dick Hunt said that historically no others have contributed to the fund, but he felt that it could be done. After the summer session is complete, a breakdown of actual costs will be available. This breakdown and more detailed description of the Institutes will be distributed to the Academy members.
Discussion of Dues

It was suggested that the issue of dues to cover Academy costs be discussed separately of other funding targets. Vernon McGhee asked if any of the other Academy members paid dues. Tom Webb said that the other Academies do pay dues on a voluntary basis, to cover Academy costs. Mr. Spehr said that he believes that this organization should at least take care of itself.

Bob Brackbill made a motion that the Academy members commit to dues of $200 per year on a voluntary basis. He commented that the Academy could "...see if this works and let it build so that we can start doing something with it".

Paul Dowling commented that he financially supports UMR in many ways, and that he wants to be sure that this is necessary. Marvin Zeid agreed, that giving priorities need to be set, and that "...whatever we do within the Academy ought to be on a voluntary basis, except for what costs are incurred for meetings." Mr. Zeid further suggested that actual expenses should be known before an amount for dues is set. He suggested that the motion be tabled or referred to the Executive Committee.

Jim Spehr suggested that the members vote on the decision to have or not have dues, and to let the Executive Committee decide the amount.

Marvin Zeid moved to amend the motion to remove the dollar amount, to specify that the amount of dues should be based on expenses, that the Executive Committee will set the dollar amount, and that members will be encouraged to start dues next year. Additionally, new inductees will not be required to pay dues until after their first year. Motion was seconded, and was carried by a show of hands.

Nomination and Selection Process

Chairman Zelms, with input from other members, reviewed the nomination and selection process for new Academy members.

Nominations originate within the membership. Academy members will make nominations of individuals they feel appropriate for Academy membership by notifying the
dean’s office of their nomination(s) by July 1. Members are asked to include newspaper clippings of the individual if applicable.

The Dean’s office staff will compile all nominations, and will send a ballot to all members for voting, which will include a brief biography of each nominee and any newspaper clippings. Ballots will be mailed no later than September 1.

Members will rank the nominees according to the instructions on the ballot, and will return their ballots to the Dean’s office by November 1.

The Executive Committee will determine the cut-off point for the number of new members to be inducted (currently 10-15 per year).

The new inductee candidates selected will be sent a letter of invitation from the Dean, and the list of new members to be inducted will be based on those selected who accept the invitation.

Tom Webb mentioned that during the last Executive Committee meeting, it was suggested to consider a nomination subcommittee. After brief discussion, it was decided not to tamper with the current system.

**Election of new Vice Chairman**

Walt Mueller has moved out of the St. Louis area and resigned his position of Vice Chairman due to the need of having a member who lives in the area serve in this position. Chairman Zelms asked for volunteers for the position. No volunteers. Chairman Zelms asked for nominations. Bob Wolf was nominated and accepted. All agreed to have Bob Wolf serve as new Vice Chairman.

**Election of new Executive Committee Member**

Since Bob Wolf was serving on the Executive Committee, a replacement is needed. Dick Bullock was nominated and accepted. All agreed to have Dick Bullock serve on the Executive Committee.
Academy Events Itinerary

Chairman Zelms reminded members that cocktails will be served in front of McNutt Hall beginning at 6:00 pm, with dinner and the induction ceremony to follow. Also, members are invited to breakfast with the School of Mines and Metallurgy students Friday morning beginning at 7:30 am. in McNutt Commons area.

Chairman Zelms also announced that the Order of the Golden Shillelagh festivities are taking place beginning May 2 (Friday) in the evening at Tan-Tar-A resort at the Lake of the Ozarks.

The next Academy meeting will take place on October 10, 1997.

Meeting adjourned