MINUTES

Welcome

Chairman Jeff Zelms welcomed members. Academy members and guests introduced themselves.

Report on Campus Issues

Dr. Saperstein provided an update to members regarding current enrollment. (Refer to enclosure, “End of Fourth Week”) Enrollments are down, mostly because of reductions in out-of-state students. A search is underway for a new Admissions Director, and a plan is being devised for a short-term recruiting strategy.

The State of Missouri’s Mission Enhancement program was discussed. Dr. Saperstein provided information regarding the state money requested for the University of Missouri system, including UMR, to enhance current selected programs. The funding is scheduled to be incrementally provided over a four-year time period, and will concentrate on specific areas of interest per year.

The total scope of Mission Enhancement emphasis areas includes:

- Manufacturing
- Infrastructure Engineering
- Materials Science and Engineering
- Geotechnical Science and Engineering
- Environmental Science and Technology
- Instructional Technology and Student Leadership

The legislature has yet to approve the request submitted for the University of Missouri system. The areas being emphasized at UMR for the first requested distribution are manufacturing and infrastructure. Although the School of Mines and Metallurgy will benefit from the first years’ emphases to some extent, we will be more involved in the Mission Enhancement areas of Materials Science and Engineering, and Geotechnical Science and Engineering. Funding for these emphasis areas are anticipated during the second year.
Of concern at this time is the legislature’s pending decision of the total amount of Mission Enhancement funds to be made available to the University of Missouri system. Any reduction in total funding will obviously impact the benefits of Mission Enhancement to the School of Mines and Metallurgy.

At the Academy meeting on May 1, 1997, Bob Wolf and Jack Bodine offered to meet to discuss legislative involvement opportunities for the School of Mines and Metallurgy Academy. Minutes from their meeting held on 6/13/97 are enclosed.

**Guest Speaker**

Dr. Saperstein introduced Mr. Cal Ochs, who is an MSM-UMR alumnus (ME ’49) and Chairman for the UMR Public Resource Ambassadors. Mr. Ochs organized the UMR Public Resource Ambassadors after realizing that with such a small number of legislators interested in our cause, MSM-UMR needed to have a group actively emphasizing our needs to lawmakers. Currently, the UMR Public Resource Ambassadors has 110 alumni members.

Group leaders from six regional areas disseminate information to members about current issues and the appropriate person in the legislature to contact. The organization has been very successful in gaining legislative attention for MSM-UMR, for example: Approximately $10 million in funding for MSM-UMR from the Engineering Equipment bill, election of a UMR alumnus to the Board of Curators (John Mathes), funding for the Butler-Carlton Civil Engineering Building, and Mission Enhancement funding.

There was much discussion regarding legislative issues affecting UMR and the work of the Public Resource Ambassadors. Mr. Ochs invited all Academy Members who are Missouri residents to join the UMR Public Resource Ambassadors by simply filling out the membership form/survey and returning it to the Dean’s office. (Form and legislative directory is enclosed for those members who are Missouri residents). Mr. Ochs will then include those members on his mailing list and will notify them of issues important to the University of Missouri system and particularly, the University of Missouri-Rolla.

**Status of Nomination of New Members**

Jill Dotts read the names of nominees for the 1998 Academy election, and discussion followed. It was noted that several “obvious” choices had been overlooked for membership during the past two years, which emphasized the importance of current members making a point to make nominations. Harold Krueger suggested that some younger people still in industry be nominated. Those present discussed the issue of nominating and electing an alumnus who did not receive his or her degree in the School of Mines and Metallurgy, but whose profession was in a relevant field. It was agreed that
any MSM-UMR alumnus whose profession was related to a field covered by the School of Mines and Metallurgy would be eligible to be nominated.

Some of the members said that they would like a little more time for nominations. Jill Dotts informed the members that she planned to send the ballot with the meeting minutes, and that new nominations made before then would not be a problem.

Membership “Fee”

At the request of members during the spring meeting, the Executive Committee reviewed the costs involved with Academy activities. The Executive Committee recommended to solicit a voluntary annual gift of $250 from members, waived during the first year of membership, would offset the costs incurred by the Academy. The members requested a reminder to be sent by the Chairman or Dean’s office during the fall to ensure money available to fund the spring meeting and induction dinner. The University will acknowledge the gift.

E-mail Address

Members at the meeting were asked to provide their e-mail addresses if they have one. A form will be sent to members to ask for e-mail addresses and also to ask their permission to post their name, picture, or other information on the School of Mines and Metallurgy Academy web page (See attached).

School of Mines and Metallurgy Web Site

Kimberely Barks, Senior Secretary at the Dean’s office, presented the School of Mines and Metallurgy web site that is currently under construction. Academy members may access the site while it is being developed by typing http://www.umr.edu/~somm/school.html as the location in your Internet browsing software. The members will be asked to give the School of Mines and Metallurgy permission to post specific information about the Academy (Reply form is enclosed), such as a photos, member bios, or information about members’ scholarships. Once our site is complete, it will be linked to UMR’s home page.

Students are increasingly “surfing the web” to assist their decision-making in which university to choose. The Admissions office has reported that over 25% of last year’s admissions were performed through the Internet. Our goal is to provide easy access to information that we feel would interest our potential students, current students, alumni, and other interested parties. Please contact the Dean’s office if you have suggestions for content in the Web site.
Spring 1998 Academy Meeting

The next Academy meeting will be held on Thursday April 23, 1998; the induction of new members and dinner will be held that evening. All members are encouraged to attend.

Items from the Floor

Dr. Saperstein mentioned that with regard to the Full Circle Campaign announced earlier during the day, Tom Webb and Jill Dotts are the School’s contacts.

Bob Brackbill suggested that the Campaign is an opportune time for the Academy members to offer a supplemental gift to the School to show the Academy’s support. Equipment replacement, computer upgrades, student scholarships, and a faculty support fund were discussed as options for support. The Executive Committee was asked to discuss this further, and to present some options to the membership in April.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30pm.