

## Board of Visitors – Fall 2000 Minutes

October 27, 2000

11:00 a.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Visitor Center, Room 102

Present: John Antonio (Director of CS), Ken Parker (Risk Metrics Group) – New BoV Chair, Mike Tuttle (Intermec Tech) – Past BoV Chair, Greg Andrews (Andersen Consulting), Ben Calloni (Lockheed Martin Tactical Aircraft Systems), Jason Martin (Williams Communications Group), Kerry McIlhaney (Self-Employed), Jon Withrow (Sundance Oil), Jessica Thomale (Oklahoma Climatological Survey), Sowmya Sridhar (OkieWorld), Shane Merz (MRE Consulting), and Nic Watson (Green Hills Software, Inc.). CS Faculty: Drs. Henry Neeman, Deborah Trytten, and Tom Ray. Support Personnel: Andrew Naugher (Communication Director, CoE Dean's Office).

Dr. Antonio recognized Mike Tuttle for his past years of service as Chair of the CS BoV (1993-2000) and presented him with a plaque of appreciation. Mr. Tuttle then offered some brief remarks summarizing the progress that the BoV has made and thanked everyone for their support over the years.

Ken Parker, the newly appointed Chair, started the meeting with a short welcome and distributed the BoV agenda, committee purpose sheets, and the current member list (copies of handouts on file in CS office). Mr. Parker asked that everyone look at the member list and make any necessary corrections. He thanked Dr. Antonio for his vision and was especially appreciative of our progress on the renovation of new faculty offices and new reception area. Mr. Parker then asked each person to introduce himself or herself and give a short biographical sketch.

Mr. Parker explained that the BoV Chairs for the various schools within the College of Engineering also serve on the Executive Committee of the COE's BoV. He then gave a short overview of the CoE BoV meeting that had taken place earlier that day (handout on file in CS office). He told the group about the CoE Strategic Plan. The four basic elements of the plan include: Education, Research, Top Students, and a Top Energy Research Facility. He also discussed the student-to-teacher ratio within the COE, which is too large. For example: CS has 343 undergraduate students with 11 full-time faculty.

Mr. Parker also discussed the proposed Engineering Capital Campaign, a four-year campaign. It is entitled: "Celebrating the Past, Engineering Our Next Century." Announcement of the campaign should be made in October 2001 when the College of Engineering will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary. The CoE is seeking to raise more than \$100 million, which will enable many aspects of the exciting vision that Dr. Porter (Dean of the CoE) has for the CoE.

Mr. Parker explained that the primary goal of the BoV should be to add value to the School of CS via the board's experiences and linkages with industry, knowledge, contacts, and resources. He said our current approach has the right elements to get us started. In particular, we have committees in place and have assigned chairs to the

committees. He explained that committees are an important agent for progress – the questions of who, what, when, and how things are done is the responsibility of the individual committees. Mr. Parker assured the board that he will continue to use the CS web page for publishing new information and updates and will expand communication via emails. He will use: [oucs-bov@egroups.com](mailto:oucs-bov@egroups.com) to distribute messages. To subscribe to this e-mail list service, BoV members should send a message to [oucs-bov-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:oucs-bov-subscribe@egroups.com).

At 2:15 pm the three committees dispersed into individual groups and were told to reconvene at 4:00 pm to report back to the entire board.

Development Committee Report: Shane Merz (Chair of the Development Committee) told the board that their current mission statement is basically the same as the one given at the Spring 2000 meeting: to raise funds to support the CS renovation. Their goal is to raise \$50K and Greg Andrews said his company has pledged \$20K toward this goal. Mr. Neil Heeney (CoE College Development Director) is working with CS to contact outside funding sources, mostly CS alumni, asking them to make pledges. He will supply CS with a list of names and Mr. Merz will mail a letter along with a pledge card. This mail-out should be started next week and any funds received will be deposited into a new foundation account set up just for this purpose. Also, he may establish a quarterly newsletter to send to alumni in order to update them on our progress.

Dr. Antonio took this opportunity to recognize Mr. Jon Withrow as being an active contributor and supporter of CS scholarships. Over a period of less than two years, Mr. Withrow has donated over \$60K to establish the Jon Withrow Scholarship Fund for the School of Computer Science.

Communication Committee Report: Mike Tuttle (Chair of the Communication Committee) mentioned that there are at least three areas in which targeted communication efforts could be focused: funding sources, faculty recruitment, and student recruitment. He stated that the Development Committee is already working on some aspects of funding and that faculty recruitment communication is being implemented via an active search currently being conducted by the School of CS. This leaves the area of recruitment of new students. He brought up the following that the communication committee will pursue regarding student recruitment: (1) What do CS graduates think of the department? (2) Is there a direction that CS needs to go? and (3) What research/technology transfer is going on within the School of CS?

Technology Committee Report: Jason Martin (Chair of the Technology Committee) stated that his committee mainly wanted to focus on student needs. The Technology Committee would like to see top CS students getting involved in different industry projects prior to graduation. A tentative plan along these lines was proposed, which would involve collaboration between OkieWorld and Williams Communications. The plan would be to have Williams provide project work to OkieWorld, which would in turn provide program management services and employ student workers to complete the projects for Williams.

Mr. Martin then stated a question that was asked during the Technology Committee session: “Where do CS graduates go to work after graduation?” In response to this very important question, Mr. Martin proposed to distribute a survey to the students to get their responses. Also the committee suggested that CS have two speakers a year to come on campus to talk to the students, perhaps to discuss their company’s technology and to give inspiration and motivation to the students.

Open Discussion and Concluding Remarks: Mr. Parker asked the CS BoV members to reflect on how our board is doing and what we can do to improve. Mr. Merz suggested that we make an executive committee phone call to touch base with each other every 90 days. Mr. Parker also said that one way to improve is to generate outside public interest. Mr. Merz mentioned that INK 500 came out this month and it listed 4 companies in Oklahoma as leading high-tech industries (he said he would email this to Mr. Parker). Mr. Parker also suggested that we might consider establishing more committees, such as one on Education Technology and one on Recruitment.

Everyone concurred that we need to get more people involved and/or interested in the activities of the CS BoV. One suggestion was made that we might bring guests in to tour CS and learn more about us. Dr. Antonio proposed that our next BoV meeting be held off campus, perhaps at Mr. Parker’s place of business, Risk Metrics, and Mr. Parker agreed with this suggestion. Ms. Thomale also suggested that we bring in more inter-disciplinary individuals, not just CS but, for example, personnel with the OU Weather Center and other engineering units. Dr. Antonio agreed with this suggestion.

Mr. Parker will document the BoV progress. He is hoping to recruit 3 new board members in Oklahoma. He also would like to meet with at least one CS student group in the near future and suggested we invite some of our top students to attend the next BoV meeting.

During the last part of the meeting Dr. Antonio discussed the CS accomplishments that have occurred this past year (handout on file in CS office) and hopefully what we want to accomplish for next year. Mr. Parker thanked everyone for attending and it was noted that a suggestion was made to perhaps start our BoV meeting next year a little earlier in the day.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.