

Board of Visitors – Fall 2001 Minutes

November 9, 2001

12:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Sooner Room, Oklahoma Memorial Union, Room 151

Present: John Antonio (CS Director), Barbara Bledsoe (CS), Ken Parker (RiskMetrics)-Chair, Damon Clinkscales (Trilogy Software), Fred Hartley (Texaco), Jason Martin (Williams Communications), David Medders (D. Medders & Associates), Shane Merz (MRE Consulting), David North (Contractors Resources), Sowmya Sridhar (Okie World), Jessica Thomale (Okla. Climate Survey), Nic Watson (Green Hills Software), and Jon Withrow (Sundance Oil). CS Faculty: Mohammed Atiquzzaman, Qi Cheng, and Dean Hougen. Guests: John Ha (Williams Communications), Neil Heeny and Patrick Colaw (CoE Development Associates).

Welcome: Ken thanked the group for attending and welcomed two new board members: David Medders and David North. To get everyone re-acquainted, Ken asked each person to give their name and a brief bio on themselves. John Antonio mentioned that Shane Merz would be recognized at the CoE's BoV dinner on Friday night as the recipient of the Regent's Alumni Award that he will be receiving for superior service to the university and for promoting the university away from campus.

CoE BoV Overview: Ken attended the CoE's executive board meeting and distributed some literature to review (handout in file). He also mentioned that we will be following the lead of the CoE and not break out into standing committees but will assign task forces to accomplish our goals. Ken passed around the current phone list asking everyone to update it with any new info and mentioned that he has established an email distribution list that every member is on.

Items discussed at the CoE meeting: Strategic plan was updated and the vision of the CoE was reviewed and changes were highlighted. Some highlights of that vision are: (1) Enhance traditional teaching – Dr. Porter (CoE Dean) has invested through outside funding over \$400K to support innovation and teaching technology development, (2) Expand the traditional faculty research – supporting the hire of new faculty and encouraging faculty start-up companies, (3) Attracting the best students to OU.

CoE taskforces: (1) Business Plan Assistance Proposal – to assist young people in creating small businesses. A good example of this is the software virtual incubator/software accelerator laboratory; Ken asked John to update the CS members on this project. Ken also mentioned another good example is Deborah Trytten's spin-off company: Beyond Paper. More examples are: CEMS department and the 'single walled nano tubes' project and P&GE school's 'integrated core characterization' center. (2) Summer Internship Program – outside companies hire OU students to work during summer. CoE board members passed a vote today to continue this program.

One of the main reason's that Computer Science is being pulled into so many of the multidisciplinary projects is because software is needed to coordinate projects. Ken said

that the CoE BoV meeting this year had student presentations, which was very impressive, and he wants the CS BoV to perhaps do the same next year. Also, we need to think about interviewing CS graduates after they leave OU in order to get feedback on how the CS program assisted them in their schooling and goals. Discussion followed on how long to wait before conducting the interviews.

Introduction of New CS Faculty: John introduced three new CS faculty members: Mohammed Atiquzzaman, Qi Cheng, and Dean Hougen. He also mentioned the new CS staff members: Sandy Johnson and Jim Summers and gave a brief bio on each.

CoE Centennial Campaign: Neil Heeney, CoE Director of Development, introduced Patrick Colaw, new Development Officer. Neil distributed a packet of information on the Engineering College and on the Centennial Campaign (handout in file). President Boren has approved the \$100 million campaign. A large portion of this money will help construct a new building, which is primarily for ECE and CS and this in turn will open up space for the other engineering departments to expand. April 2002 is the kick-off date for the campaign, which is expected to be completed in 5 years. Neil has assembled a list of over 450 potential investors who have shown interest in this project and he asked the CS board members to consider their part in investing for a 3-5 year period. Jon Withrow has agreed to be the CS contact on the campaign committee.

Neil introduced John Ha, Engineering Recruiter with Williams Communications. Mr. Ha was here to attend the CoE BoV meeting regarding the \$1.1 million dollar gift that the Williams group gave to CoE to help fund the Williams Student Center and to create a new faculty endowment.

The committee will make one-on-one calls to see how people can help. A Capital Campaign survey has been mailed to alumni for suggestions on how they can support this project. Neil and Patrick will be calling on the CS board members to see how they can help: either by establishing a scholarship, by joining the Associates Program, or contacting individuals they may know who would be interested in providing support. There are many individuals who do not necessarily have a CS background but who are hugely interested in CS. Neil will also be reaching out to other schools for support: P&GE, ECE, and Chemical Engineering to help support this campaign because it will be a growth program for the engineering community with huge long-term benefits.

This is where the CS board members with their variety of backgrounds can help. A few minutes was spent on the breakdown of how the campaign money will help CS. John Antonio encouraged all members to volunteer not only their money to CS but also with a 'hands on' attitude as well, perhaps by traveling with Neil to solicit donations.

CS BoV Projects/Initiatives:

Mentoring Task Force: Ken asked members to consider being a mentor to CS students, to share their knowledge and experience. Email or phone is probably the quickest way to keep in contact, although face-to-face is of course great too. One form of mentoring and student contact is through academic advising. John mentioned that CS has approximately

350 undergraduates and only 10 CS faculty doing academic advising (remaining two faculty concentrate on graduate advising). Undergraduate advising usually takes 10-15 minutes and sometimes the students ask the advisor questions that a board member would be better equipped to answer. Perhaps we could post on the CS website the email or web address of the board members or have a distribution email list. That way students could get feedback from a variety of members with similar interests. Shane Merz wondered if CS refers a student to a board member, should we have a tracking device on which member the students contacted to avoid duplicating. An email could be sent out to board members or a database could be established. Jessica Thomale suggested reviewing resumes for students, she has done this, it takes little time and the results are very beneficial. Shane said another way would be to offer getting phone numbers of students calling in and offering to have someone call them back therefore saving the students long distance charges. Nic Watson mentioned web chat rooms might also be of interest as a way to exchange information. Shane volunteered to give out his work and cell numbers to show support for the mentoring proposal. Fred Hartley explained about his company's internship program and how they encouraged 3rd year interns to be team leaders. Damon Clinkscales volunteered to chair the Mentoring Task Force.

Interviewing Task Force: Ken highlighted the subject of interviewing that Jessica mentioned earlier and what a good topic this was. Shane Merz mentioned that networking is a good way to broaden the interviewing task force to help students find jobs. John said that we could email the ACM distribution list of upcoming meetings. Ken thought that we should also include other engineering student groups in these meetings and possibly other engineering faculty to be on our task force to support the CoE multidisciplinary plan. Dave North suggested doing a live interview, perhaps of the ACM president, and letting the students critique it. Shane Merz offered to chair the Interview Task Force.

Post Grad Follow-up Task Force: Ken mentioned the idea of the BoV helping John do a follow-up on the exit interviews conducted by the school by collecting post graduate information/interviews after the students have graduated from OU. A lot of the graduates feel that they have to leave the state to find good jobs and John told board members that he wants to keep grads in Norman. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that a 6-month follow-up post grad interview was a good idea. John mentioned that he has wanted to do a CS newsletter for alumni, and that this task force might also take on this initiative. Also the idea of a lifetime email address for graduates for better tracking was mentioned. Nic Watson volunteered to chair the Post Grad Follow-up Task Force.

Ken reminded members that Jon Withrow has volunteered to be the CS representative for the Centennial Campaign Development Task Force.

Ken will send out an email to all CS board members with info on all taskforces and will ask everyone to pick at least one to be involved with. Shane asked about the next CS accreditation process and will the board be involved? John said yes but probably not until the 2002 meeting.

CS Self-Study Report: John gave a brief history of how the School of Computer Science

was formed and distributed an outline to members (handout in file). He mentioned that to have a top CS program we need to employ at least 25 faculty, currently CS has only 12. Some points that he highlighted were: the CoE strategic plan, the CS degree programs: BS in CS, BS/MS dual degree program which is newly approved, that CS supports the computer engineering degree program, that CS supports a new IE degree with an IT option (CS minor), and also a Math degree with a CS option (CS minor). The School of Computer Science at OU is the only accredited CS program in the state of Oklahoma from a public institution.

The CS curriculum was revised in Fall 2001 and we implemented enrollment management in 1999, which requires students to have a 2.8 GPA in order to enroll in upper division courses. Other statistics mentioned were: enrollment in BS program has grown from 250 to 350, the number of women in the program, 12% of the students enrolled are national scholars, 23% are in the honors program, success of the ACM programming team, and CS grads are well sought after by top companies. Other items discussed were: CS student/teacher ratio is too high, explained some about the CS MS and Ph.D. programs, CS has 12 full time faculty and 3 part-time instructors that are not permanently funded, up to a million dollars yearly in external research expenditures, 15 GTA's, and 2 open faculty positions.

John concluded with comments that CS is a strong unit with a good sense of identity and purpose with a commitment to growth and he thanked everyone for attending.

Ken adjourned the meeting at 5:10 pm.