

## Board of Visitors – Spring 2001 Minutes

April 27, 2001

RiskMetrics, Noble, OK

Present: Ken Parker (chair of the CS Board of Visitors), Shane Merz (Chair of the Development Committee), Jason Martin (Chair of the Technology Committee), and John Antonio (Director of CS).

**Schedule for Future Meetings.** We agreed it would be beneficial to adopt a meeting schedule like that of the College of Engineering Board of Visitors, which has a full BoV meeting in the fall and a smaller executive committee meeting in the spring. These meeting times will generally be scheduled around November and May, respectively. In addition to these two meetings, we decided it would also be beneficial for the executive committee to schedule two conference calls, one in August and one in February. This ensures that communication will occur at least every quarter.

**School of Computer Science Update.** John Antonio gave a report on some recent happenings within the School of Computer Science. He first described new degree programs and options, including a 5-year dual-degree program for top CS students and a CS-related option (i.e., CS minor) available for Industrial Engineering students. Some changes to the CS undergraduate curriculum were also described. An update on the distributed virtual software incubator initiative was then given. Other topics discussed included faculty searches, purchase of a new computer cluster for CS, accreditation timeline for the undergraduate CS degree program, and space issues for the School.

**Mentoring Program.** Ken Parker suggested that it would be a good idea to enable the BoV members to become more active in mentoring the CS undergraduate students. Many times students are not sure about career opportunities, and they would benefit from discussing options with professionals from one or more industry sectors. A strategy for connecting BoV members with undergraduates was proposed. During the Fall and Spring semesters, undergraduates are currently advised by a faculty advisor regarding classes to take the following semester. During this advising session, the faculty advisor would inform the student about the BoV mentoring program. Each student would then be provided with a list of participating BoV members. In addition to contact information, the list would contain a brief description of each mentor's industry sector and interests. Based on the nature of the student's interests and/or questions, the faculty mentor could help the student identify appropriate mentors to be contacted.

**A Panel on Interviewing Skills.** Shane Merz suggested that students could benefit greatly by having some training in the area of interviewing skills. Shane volunteered to organize a panel on this topic during the Fall 2001 semester. This event should be held early in the Fall semester, before companies start their recruiting efforts on campus. Shane will coordinate the timing and advertising of this event through the School's student chapter of the ACM (Association of Computing Machinery).

**Recruiting More BoV Members from Oklahoma.** Ken Parker noted that Oklahoma

companies are underrepresented on the CS BoV. He volunteered to help correct this situation by inviting colleagues in the state to join the CS BoV.

CoE Update. Ken Parker gave a brief report on the Spring CoE BoV meeting, which was held on March 30, 2001. One of the activities that day was a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Anadarko conference room in the Carson Engineering Center. Topics of discussion at the spring meeting included royalty activities of the University of Oklahoma and the CoE vision regarding funding requirements and priorities. At the top of the list is funding for a new engineering building.

CS Development Activities. Shane Merz suggested that the inclusion of a brief newsletter for the School of Computer Science would be useful in soliciting financial support for the School. It was noted that all such activities must be coordinated with Neil Heeney, Development Director for the CoE. Shane will discuss possible strategies with Neil related to the next steps along these lines. John Antonio will provide input related to specific funding opportunities within the School.

Technology Update. Jason Martin gave an update on his efforts to connect projects at Williams Communications to the Norman-based company OkieWorld. The concept is to provide CS students with opportunities to gain real-world experience by working on projects contracted to OkieWorld from Williams.