

Board of Visitors – Spring 2002 Minutes

April 4, 2002

1:00 p.m.

Sarkeys Energy Center, Plaza Conference Room B

Present: John Antonio, Ken Parker, Jon Withrow, Mark Lookabaugh, Scott Swindell, Mary Brooks, Damon Clinkscales (via conference call) and Sandy Johnson.

1. Welcome by John Antonio and Ken Parker, BoV Chair – John Antonio informed those present (and Damon Clinkscales on conference call) that Shane Merz would not be able to join in the conference call because of his recent hectic travel schedule. He also informed the group that Nic Watson recently received a promotion and is in the process of moving to North Carolina, and this move will prevent him from being an active BoV member for the foreseeable future. John Antonio explained and overviewed the meeting agenda. Ken Parker expresses how much he appreciates Damon Clinkscales moving forward on the Mentoring Program and that he will be anxious to see how it proceeds.

2. Centennial Campaign Task Force Report – Jon Withrow explained that the Centennial Campaign objectives for CS designates \$7.65 million for discretionary funds, endowed chairs and professorships, scholarships, and other special initiatives (on file in CS office). The largest item listed is for the development of a new software engineering degree program, requiring \$3.75 million. Also on the list of initiatives are endowed scholarships, ten at \$50,000 each, endowed professorships, two at \$250,000 each, two endowed chairs for \$1 million, a teamwork computer laboratory at \$150,000, and a director's strategic investment fund for \$1 million. Mr. Withrow suggested we consider finding major foundations for making substantial contributions in addition to alumni support to perfect this campaign. He suggested that we might start by inviting an interested colleague/friend of his (who heads up the First National Bank of Wichita) to be a part of the effort. He also stressed the importance of connecting with students and CS/CoE alumni to get good leads and hopefully donations. Mr. Withrow mentioned that we must be sure that our efforts are coordinated with college and university development efforts. He explained that we do have the potential to raise funds but it will require someone full time to constantly work on this project; unfortunately we do not have the money to hire such a person at this time. Mr. Withrow reviewed the results of a recent survey conducted by the CoE development office, which were conducted during the present academic year (on file in CS office). Discussion followed.

3. Students join the meeting – CS students Scott Swindell, Mark Lookabaugh, and Mary Brooks join the group and John Antonio introduces them. Ken Parker mentions that he wants to get the students involved and get their candid feedback on the issues of the CS Mentoring Program, which is lead by Damon Clinkscales, and the Interviewing Panel, which is headed by Shane Merz.

4. Mentoring Task Force Report – Damon Clinkscales introduces himself and explains the one page handout related to the mentoring program on file in CS office). Damon

explains the importance of facilitating student–industry communication. Connecting students with people who work in the industry can be accomplished by a number of means including email, phone, or on-campus visits. Damon referred to his role as one of being a “broker” that provides students connections with suitable industrial mentors and companies. There are a total of nine mentors that have volunteered to give two to eight hours a month for student mentoring. The majority of mentors are OU graduates from CS. Damon asked if there were any comments or questions. Scott Swindell commented that he liked the idea and that it has a lot of potential. Mary Brooks commented that she likes the idea and would like to be able to talk to people that have gotten jobs and the process that they went through to get the job. Mark Lookabaugh commented that it would be the perfect opportunity to talk to people and learn about jobs. John Antonio asked if the contacts are comfortable with the students contacting them through email or by phone and Damon Clinkscales answered that he has a list (of mentors) that indicates their preference in this regard. Damon commented that the key to success is to provide effectiveness measures, and in his role as “broker” he should be able to track/measure how well the program is working. John Antonio mentioned that we have over 300 undergraduates that could potentially benefit from the program. He said that he would distribute Damon Clinkscales’ one page handout to the faculty and give coaching on how to use it before advising and at the faculty meeting tomorrow. John Antonio mentioned that he would advise the faculty to target upper-class students for this program. Discussion followed.

5. Interviewing Task Force Report – Ken Parker asks what is a reasonable time and day of the week for the upcoming interviewing panel. Scott Swindell answered that students would not stay for an all day event but would come for a couple hours at a designated time in the evening. All students felt the interviewing panel was a good idea and that it should be advertised. (Jon Withrow leaves the meeting at this point.) Ken Parker explained that the panel would consist of 5 to 6 panelists and each one would be given 10 to 15 minutes to discuss their thoughts on the topic of interviewing in general. After this first phase of sharing thoughts from the panel members, the second phase would be a question and answer session that would engage the audience. The third phase would be a break out into smaller more specialized group and general mixing. Ken Parker asked for feedback from the students. Scott Swindell said the last or next-to-last semester during the student’s program would be a good time for a student to participate. John Antonio says we could target the students anticipating graduation in Spring 2003. Mary Brooks suggested that the panel might consider an imitation or mock interview. The panel will be open to all CS students and all CoE students. Ken Parker asks if the students feel like this program is something that interests them. All the students agreed that they would be interested in the program.

6. Final Comments by Ken Parker – Ken Parker thanks all those who attended the meeting and said he looks forward to our next meeting in the fall.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:20 p.m.