

Industry Advisory Council Minutes October 15, 2004

The fall meeting of the ULM School of Construction Industry Advisory Council took place on Friday, October 15, 2004, at the ULM School of Construction. A quorum was present. Twenty-two (22) were in attendance including fifteen (15) members:

Robert "Popie" Billeaud	John Kent	<u>Non-IAC Members:</u>
David Dorsch	Karl Meeks	Hollis Bray
David Dumas	Keith Parker	Vanessa Doherty
Larry Favalora	Charles Poole	Bobby Ensminger
Jerry Fields	Steve Terrill	John Hunter
Don Greenland III	Gary Thornton	David Manry
Tyler Harrison	Herb Ward	Thurman Potts
Andy Jones		Greg Smith

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by IAC chairman, Larry Favalora. Members introduced themselves and welcomed new members Gary Thornton, Tyler Harrison and Andy Jones. Herb Ward, Mississippi ABC, filled in for Mitch Stentiford. Minutes of the April 2004 meeting were handed out and reviewed. A motion was passed to adopt the minutes. The council members met with ULM President James E. Cofer, with the construction faculty and with the students, and then had an open lunch with the students. The members received a copy of the president's report, the ULM strategic plan, the ULM magazine, and information on the Alumni Association, the ULM Foundation, the IAF, and the Clarke Williams Student Success Center project.

Summary of Discussions

- **Degree Name Change**

The degree name change from "Construction" to "Construction Management" is still in progress. Dr. Parker will gather documentation from other schools and send another memo to the administration to push the issue. There are also talks about possibly moving the School of Construction to the College of Business.

- **Contractor's Licensing Fee**

Popie Billeaud gave an update on the contractor's licensing fee. The idea of a mandatory assessment to the contractor's licensing fee to go directly to construction education was rejected. Instead, legislation was passed to make it a voluntary option. Contractors can now choose to contribute to the school of their choice. Contractor's license renewals will start in January.

- **ULM President's Report**

President James E. Cofer addressed the Council at 8:30 a.m. He reported that 30 "smart classrooms" were built on campus this summer and that the School of Construction received two of them. These

classrooms are equipped with computers, dual projectors, split screens, and VCR/DVD players. Technology training sessions are also being offered to the professors.

Dr. Cofer reported that the enrollment is up, as well as the ACT scores of admitted students and faculty members are being hired from more prestigious institutions. Engaging students and retention are among the priorities of his administration. The university loses 35% of freshmen every year mainly due to financial reasons. The University of Louisiana System's goal is to increase graduation rate. Therefore, an undergraduate research program called Emerging Scholars, was started at ULM two years ago, as well as a mandatory Freshman Year Seminar. However, due to the implementation of the Board of Regents' new admission standards in 2005, enrollment may go down next year.

The construction of the residence halls is going well. The construction on Olin Hall site will start in January, and the second phase will start next summer. The Wigwam and Sandel Hall will also be renovated. ULM also installed new street signs and new banners. The widening of DeSiard street will start in March. The project will include redoing the parking lot and the front of campus. A brick and wrought iron fence will be installed. The administration is also doing more maintenance on roofs, lighting, H/VAC, and boilers.

- **Director's Report**

Enrollment: Dr. Parker was pleased to report that the enrollment has increased to 202 students. The School of Construction faculty members' recruitment efforts are still strong.

Faculty/Staff: Bill Normand's health is quickly deteriorating. Dr. Parker submitted a request to fill his position in the spring and is waiting to hear back from the Dean and the Provost. The university is currently working on a new workload policy for faculty. Dr. Parker introduced the new secretary, Tonya Graham. Bobby Ensminger recently received his Ph.D. in Education.

Financial Report: Dr. Parker handed out copies of the detailed report of the Potts Fund, and explained that no major expenditure other than the newsletter occurred since the last IAC meeting. The School of Construction is the only department on campus who has professorships or chair for every professor. Each faculty member gave a report on their professorships and class activities.

- **Field Lab Building**

SOC faculty members submitted a request and construction plans to the Provost for a field lab building. Copies of the plans were given to the Council. The School is waiting to hear back from the administration.

- **Potts Professorship**

The Potts professorship has fully been funded and will be awarded next year. Thurman Potts addressed the Council to express his thanks for their efforts in getting this project funded. He was very touched.

- **Potts Fund Expenditure**

A motion was passed to use up to \$1,300 out of the Potts Fund to finance the next Groundbreaker Newsletter.

A motion was also passed to use up to \$3,000 out of the Potts Fund to finance two teams to participate in the QUOIN and MCAA student competitions (highway, commercial, and mechanical competitions.)

Charles Poole suggested that unspent money from the operating side of the Potts Fund be transferred back to the principal at the end of each year, with a minimum of \$2,000 left in the operating side, in order to grow the Potts Fund. Although a motion was not passed, the issue will be revisited at the next meeting.

- **Accreditation**

Dr. Parker reported that the accreditation interim report was turned in and that they are now working on the outcome assessment program. A survey will be sent out to employers to collect more data. Student exit surveys, teachers evaluations, as well as the results of the 2002 alumni survey will also be used. Council members discussed students taking the CPC Level 1 exam, but expressed reservations about using those results as part of the outcome assessment program.

- **IAC Officers**

Since the current officers' term (3 years) expired, Larry Favalora appointed a nominating committee to submit names of potential new officers. The committee included David Dorsch, David Dumas, and Popie Billeaud. After discussion, the recommendation of the nominating committee was to retain the current officers for one more term. The officers are:

Larry Favalora, Chairman

Scott Thompson, Vice-chairman

Chip Carlson, Secretary-Treasurer

The members present agreed, but e-mail ballots will be sent to all members to make the results of the vote official.

- **Olin Hall Demolition**

Larry Favalora showed the Council the video of Olin Hall implosion he shot from the 7th floor of the university library on September 25, 2004.

- **Curriculum Enhancement Committee**

David Dorsch, Charles Poole, and Larry Favalora volunteered to serve on the Curriculum Enhancement Committee. However, the options of this committee are limited by ULM, Board of Regents, and ACCE requirements. The committee needs more information on the current curriculum to make recommendations. Faculty members will have to be involved in the process. Dr. Parker will provide the committee with the results of the 2002 alumni survey.

- **Strategic Planning Committee**

The council received a copy of the ULM strategic plan (first two phases). The Strategic Planning Committee, including Don Beach, Chip Carlson, Larry Favalora, Don Greenland, and Keith Parker, will review the ULM Strategic Plan as well as the five-year School of Construction Strategic Plan. Faculty members will also review the five-year strategic plan and make a priority list of what needs to be done right away, what needs to be done if there was more time, and what will have to wait. The committee will then review the priority list, set up measurement tools, and implement the plan.

- **Facilities Committee**

A motion was made to create a Facilities Committee to help improve the School of Construction building. Since he will be in regular contact with Dr. Nick Bruno, Vice-President for Business Affairs, Karl Meeks was named chair of the committee and will be the liaison with the administration. SOC faculty members should make a wish list of the top 10 or 20 items and repair needed and fax it to Karl Meeks. The Council will approach the administration to make the field lab a reality.

- **Internship Committee**

Tyler Harrison will replace Jud Jacobs, who can no longer be involved with the Council, as the new chair of the Internship Committee. The committee will make recommendations at the next meeting on lengths and types of internships opportunities for students (part-time, full-time, summer, or semester-long).

- **Membership**

Dr. Parker and Larry Favalora will look at the current membership roster to determine which members need to be rotated off.

A letter will be sent out to the current members to remind them of the voluntary membership dues (\$500 per year). Dr. Parker will send the list of the members who have contributed so far to Larry Favalora. The Council will discuss if dues should become mandatory and if there should be different contribution levels at the next meeting.

- **Finance Committee**

Larry Favalora will meet with Ken Holland, finance committee chairman.

- **Spring 2005 Meeting**

The spring 2005 IAC Meeting is scheduled for April 2005 The exact date is to be announced.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Laurence Favalora, IAC Chairman

Date: _____

Dr. Keith Parker, SOC Director

Date: _____