

Science and Mathematics Advisory Board Minutes
March 21, 2009
Abilene, Texas

Attendance

Elaine Harmon	Weldon Bailey	Mark L. Thornburg
Wayne R. Keith	Edward Donnay	Colby Stone
Gary Wilson	Anna Saghatelyan	John Manning
Kathryn Flores	David Hammond	Carol Perry
Max Wynn		

Time: 8:30 AM – Beginning with Senior Breakfast in Finch-Gray Science Building. Board meeting followed in Room 104.

*3 Seniors attended

*SMAB members introduced themselves (hometown, major/minor) and described their current occupations.

*Students introduced themselves and explained what they are hoping to do in their careers.

Greetings and Prayer (Max Wynn)

*Max opened with a reading from Rhythm and Fire

The minutes and agenda were approved by the board.

Open Items:

1. Develop details of Work Study Program in honor of Dr. Charles Bloomer. (board)
*Updated members on current status of supporting a work student dedicated to SCNS.
2. Send formal thank you letter to Charles Bloomer for his support of SMAB. (Wynn)
*Max has composed a letter and provided copies.
3. Consider contributions to the capital campaign. (board)
4. Send WOH nominations to Max via email. (board)
5. Send postcards to alumni to solicit their ideas for WOH nominees. (Wilson)
6. Submit reports to John in advance of meetings for review on web. (faculty)
7. Notify Larry Sharp of opportunity offered by Jim Sterling for prospective medical students to shadow a physician. (Wilson)

State of the University (Steve Crisman for Dr. John Russell)

*Steve gave an overview of the new lighting and paths that are going to be a part of the campus which started as a part of the band hall renovation.

*The campus is opening a JAVA house as a part of the library which might be a good gathering place for future SMAB pre-meetings.

*Can get live weekly McM videos now on UTube

Baseball games are now streamed live and they plan to continue to add more and more activities. This is great for prospective students.

*Steve spoke of the web advances and discussed the high quality of McM's web presence and the challenges they have overcome without a McMurry communications department. He said that they plan on extending it for lectures and will add capability for football games.

*The tablet program continues to grow after 3 years. The sports grill was refurbished which provides an environment for students to have their tablets out while enjoying TV, etc. and this has become a more popular student hang out.

*Potential student (early depositors) numbers are up and enrollment could be an all new record.

*Economic challenges – all universities are facing significant challenges with the current economic situation. McMurry's endowment lost 18% with the market down. The endowment was 66 million and this is down to 48 million.

-5% funds institutional scholarships which is a challenge to sustain because the gain currently is only 2-3%

-University is keeping the 5% for students but is reducing other expenditures. University has frozen hiring but has not reduced staff and has frozen other spending in the hopes that the big class arrives in Sept. and then the university will re-consider

*The capital campaign – revisiting current projects

-The campaign for the student support project has been very popular

-Review goals and timeline understanding the current economic conditions
-20 million for Science Building is not realistic and the committee is going to consider immediate updates that can occur within the next 24 months

*Steve reported that Gary Wilson will be holding a one week summer camp in July for the 5th graders to bring back previous students and prepare the upcoming class – they will be doing special projects. The long term goal is to keep contact with these kids through High School. McMurry will be reviewing if this program improves students' interest in pursuing careers in science and math.

*Steve reported that the Christmas Light project at Old Main this year was outstanding, well attended and well supported. They are making plans to expand it next year.

*Recruiting has changed – more web based and not physically going to schools.

*They have developed McMurry Nation which is specific for alumni.

*McM is putting more emphasis on career connections while the students are at McM and then trying to follow them for 3 years after graduation and give support. They have noted a disconnect that today's kids experience because of the facebook, etc. methods they use for relationships. They are not learning how to make deep, long lasting connections.

*Also, they are discussing how to teach students about their responsibility in making their own connections and then how they can follow up on opportunities available to them.

*Discussions are ongoing about methods to improve retention rates for students.

*Steve reported that they are developing service enhanced scholarships that include a service component.

*Dr. Russell has made good in roads into re-strengthening ties between McM and the UMC.

*Clark Williams joined the advancement team last May and presented his idea about the McMurry Society for Science. The purpose of this would be to strengthen the connections between McMurry and all science alumni and exes who are working in science or medicine with the hope that each one will remain interested in and supportive of the university. See the handout provided.

The board took a break from meeting and joined the student preview weekend to be of support and to learn how this is currently being done.

McMurry Activities Report (Mark Thornburg, faculty)

*See reports for each department on SMAB website.

*Dr. Martin and Dr. Flores have received promotion and tenure.

*5th graders have been doing special projects with the chemistry and physics departments.

*Math meeting will be April 16-17

*Physics meeting will be the first week of April

*Search is on for new faculty in Biology

Dean's Report (Gary Wilson)

*See report on SMAB website

*Gary wrote an article for the Chieftain explaining about the WOH and to encourage nominees and nominating online.

*Will defer WOH from fall of 2009 to spring or fall of 2010. Will make decisions on recipients at the next SMAB meeting.

*Reported on the "Rising Star" program – recognition of new and upcoming "stars" – recent (within 10 years) McM graduates who are doing well – this would be a method for McMurry to give back to these students. These folks would be recognized at the same time as the WOH recipients but not given plaques.

Financial Report (Gary Wilson)

1. 10-1055-3212 "Randy White" account. Purpose: supporting faculty travel.
 - a. June 1, 2008: \$462.00
 - b. Spent: \$460.79 (Saghatelian – presentation given at meeting in Mexico)
 - c. Balance: \$1.21

2. 10-1024-3210 Intuitive Systems Science Enrichment. Purpose: supporting

Student travel for presentations.

- a. June 1, 2008: \$10,635.58
 - b. Spent: -0-
 - c. Balance: \$10,635.58
3. 10-1043-3211 Excellence in Math/Science. Purpose: SMAB operations
- a. June 1, 2008: \$1,864.86
 - b. Spent: -0-
 - c. Gifts: \$500.00
 - d. Balance: \$2,464.86
4. 10-1055-3211 SMAB Restricted Fund. Purpose: Special Activities
- a. June 1, 2008: \$1,384.52
 - b. Spent: -0-
 - c. Gifts: \$300.00 (for duplicate of WOH plaque)
 - d. Balance: \$1,684.52

Membership/Nominations

Brian Danko and Clay Bulls will be removed from the SMAB board and placed on the Friends of the board roster. Letters need to be sent to notify them and to thank them for their service.

Wall of Honor

- *Continue to take nominations
- *Will be spring or fall of 2010
- *Recipients to be decided at the next SMAB meeting

New Business

- *Discussions of the best way to do publications, newsletters, etc. – hard copies vs online
- *Discussions about doing videos on your “field” or McM experience
- *Max and Gary to work on the first “newsletter”
- *Continue discussions about the Work Study Scholarship in honor of Dr. Charles Bloomer. The amount would be about \$2,100 per year. (300 hours at \$7.00/hour). Need to develop criteria for this scholarship. Need to decide on the specific name of the scholarship and investigate methods for setting up the scholarship.
- *Next meeting to be Sept. 26, 2009.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00
Submitted by Carol Perry

Action items to follow on next page

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1. Send letters to Brian Danko and Clay Bulls to thank them for serving on the board, to notify them that they are no longer members of the board and to notify them they are now members of the Friends of the board.**
- 2. Send WOH nominations to Max. Decide on recipients at the Sept. 09 meeting.**
- 3. Decide on time of WOH event.**
- 4. Gary Wilson to follow up with any interest on student field trips.**
- 5. Continue to work out details for the Work Study Scholarship in honor of Charles Bloomer.**
- 6. Elaine, Gary and Max to investigate methods for setting up the scholarship.**
- 7. Gary and Max to do the first “newsletter” (?)**