

## NREM Meeting Minutes - September 3, 2009

**Present:** John Bergman, Terry Coleman, James Davis, Jimmie Eflin, Lanette Erby, Jerry Hartley, John Maher, Kyle Johnson, Tim Johnson, Emily Kress, Brian Lepore, Bruce Oldham, Dean Smith, Danesa Stolz, Sue Taylor, Don Van Meter, Laura Waldron and Denise Wright.

### Call to Order

Vice President Jerry Hartley called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m.

### Minutes

The minutes from the March 19, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved as written following a motion from Terry and a second from Jimmie.

### Membership

The NREM Alumni Society board of directors welcomed two new members to the board. Lanette Erby is the new student representative and Brian Lepore is the new faculty representative.

### Alumni Council Report

John B. presented business from the April 25, 2009 Alumni Council meeting, where discussion focused on the BSUAA's efforts to become a 501c3 (note: the application was approved by the Secretary of State on Friday, June 26). He also reported that the Foundation's accounts were down approximately 14% from the same time last year but were doing relatively well in comparison to other universities.

The *Alumnus* magazine was successfully relaunched in collaboration with University Marketing and Communications (UMC), but at a much higher cost to the BSUAA. UMC selected higher paper quality, which also increased postage, and hired freelance writers to supplement stories from the BSUAA staff. For the first time in *Alumnus* history, publication was interrupted when the May issue of the magazine was not printed. This saved the association approximately \$50,000 that the president had requested as a budget reduction in all areas. Don questioned what the cost was of *not* mailing regularly? Members of the board agreed that this loss of communication was detrimental to the association's outreach and to alumni.

Council committees announced their [selections for various awards and the Legacy Scholarship](#). John B. noted that Jerry Hartley will be recognized with the GOLD (Graduate of the Last Decade) Award at the [Homecoming Awards Dinner on Friday, October 2](#). The board congratulated Jerry on this honor.

### Departmental Report

Jimmie noted that this is the year for the department's external review. In faculty news, Brian joined the department and John Pichtel is in Australia for the fall semester. Hugh Brown has retired again and Kem Badger has taken on many of those responsibilities at the Hulth Environmental Learning Center in addition to his role as chair for the Department of Biology. Jimmie also reported that Thad Godish had passed away in June.

The six NREM options have been reduced to two concentrations – natural resources and environmental management. There is a new graduate certificate in emergency management that will have one online course. The department is trying to add a class (or classes) in Fishers, at the Indy Center or online for increased flexibility. Enrollment is up on campus and the department's courses are overfilled in all but two undergraduate classes. Graduate student enrollment is double last year with 10 students. Three graduate students are international students from Libya, Russia and India. Thanks to grant monies, all ten graduate students have assistantships – nine in the department and one in outdoor recreation with BSU Recreation Services.

In terms of budget, there have been many cuts. Professional travel has been greatly reduced, Amy Gregg's heritage project is on hold, and the search for a faculty position that had been underway has been eliminated this year.

The department has been unable to do an alumni newsletter but Jimmie will be working with Lanette and other graduate students on updating the website and improving alumni communication.

## **Old Business**

**Awards Dinner**. Jimmie and Terry noted that 2009 was one of the best awards programs. The board agreed. Next year, Jimmie and Denise will work on a PowerPoint to play during dinner. The presentation will highlight the department and the work of undergraduate and graduate students.

**Indianapolis Indians game**. Bruce, James, John B., Amanda and their families attended the Indians game on Friday, June 5. All said it was a great day and a fun event. The board agreed to piggyback with this Indianapolis-area alumni event again in 2010.

**River Clean-Up 2009**. John M. reported that six alumni and friends helped remove 400-500 pounds of debris from the society's section of the White River on Saturday, August 29. Some of the more unique finds included the frame of a motorcycle, a propane bottle and an iron axle.

## **New Business**

**Department PR/Marketing**. Jimmie stated that several audiences need to be reached in order to grow the department. High school students are a huge audience to be tapped and Pichtel is making strides towards reaching them by speaking to high school classes. Donors, current students and staff on campus all need to have easy access to information about the department through the webpage. Lanette noted that raising awareness of the department on campus means increasing the visibility of things the department is doing through press releases and being more involved in campus events. Laura emailed details to Lanette about the BSU Homecoming parade. It is hoped that the department can put together a parade entry.

Jimmie mentioned that the department is producing videos with the Teleplex that feature NREM students, faculty and alumni. The videos will be on the website and eventually made into a DVD that can be used to promote the department. In terms of social networking, Jimmie expressed an interest in getting the department on Facebook and perhaps Twitter. Laura noted that the NREM Alumni Society has an [official Facebook group](#) (you must log in with a free account to view and join). She encouraged members of the board to join and post photos of NREM events and try to encourage discussion on the group.

Jimmie noted that the last of the NREM pins were used this year. He asked the board to consider providing a small "NREM alumni" gift to students as they graduate. Sue will get the pin vendor information to Jimmie.

Jimmie collected business cards from several members of the board. He plans to post alumni business cards in the department. Parents and students will be able to see for themselves the jobs that are available to NREM graduates.

**2010 Spring/Summer Event**. The board voted to continue to piggyback with the Indianapolis-area Indians game in June. It was decided to continue the popular zoo event in 2011.

The board discussed additional options for a spring or summer event. Denise and Bruce will look into venues for an after work gathering of NREM and/or College of Science and Humanities alumni who work in downtown Indianapolis. They will provide Sue with some locations and dates by the end of October. Suggested venues included Military Park, the State Museum, the Historical Society on the canal, the Butterfly Garden, Jillian's and the BSU Indy Center. Don suggested that the event would need a program or keynote speaker. Terry agreed that some sort of draw would be needed, perhaps introducing alumni to new faculty members. Don suggested that an issue could be discussed. Danesa said that an "after hours" exclusive event at a facility might be the draw.

James noted that many who work downtown and live in the surrounding counties have not been back to campus. He suggested a more personal connection, "old haunt, new look" and to have an event on campus. Jimmie was supportive of this event. It could be a great opportunity to showcase campus, the department and the geothermal energy advances. The board agreed to look into this for the future. It could be held in conjunction with an event on campus (i.e., football game).

## **Committee Assignments for 2010**

\* **Awards.** John B. will chair the committee. Danesa, Sue, Don, Jimmie and Kyle will serve.

\* **River Clean-Up.** John M. will chair and Bruce will assist.

\* **Internship & Career Fair.** Amanda (nominated by Denise) will chair. James, Jerry, Sue and Laura will serve on this committee. It was requested that board members bring door prizes to the event in January. Danesa said that every student who attended in 2009 received a giveaway. Jerry will work on a means to recognize long time attendees with a button, certificate at their table or by recognition at the luncheon.

**Godish Memorial.** Denise expressed an interest in finding a way to honor Dr. Thad Godish's contributions to the NREM department and the community. The board was very supportive of this initiative. It was decided that Danesa and Jimmie would first contact Diana Godish. She may have a memorial in mind that the board can contribute to as individuals and through the alumni fund. Dean suggested that western string bow ties be worn to the awards banquet in honor of Dr. Godish. The board agreed. Don remarked that an acknowledgement at the awards banquet would be very appropriate and would be a great time to announce a memorial if Mrs. Godish concurs.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m. A pre-game rally and football game followed.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at the Alumni Center on Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. following the annual Internship & Career Fair.