

Alumni Advisory Board

Summer - General Meeting Minutes

Saturday, August 12, 2023

- I. Welcome – Nellie Hohne
- II. Roll Call – Caitlin Nash
 - a. AAB - Gary Bullock, Jason Carlyle, Amy Cary, Mike Chaney, Steve Decker, Kameron Eisenhour, Nellie Hohne, Melva Holt, R. Neil Irwin, Kenny McCleary, Kedar Murthy, Kali Nordquist, Andrew Novotny, Craig Pohlman, Bill Schott, Casey Schroepfel, Dieter Shultz, Jeffery Smiley, Amanda Stapleton, Floyd Yager; Absent: Alexa Myers, Matthew Iwema
 - b. ARBOT: Robert Stone; Absent, Chris Inman, Dan Price
- III. Review Agenda and Approval of Minutes – Nellie Hohne
 - a. Motion to approve minutes, Kedar Murthy; seconded by Steve Decker, motion carried.
- IV. Guest Speaker – Dr. Mario Simoni, Department Chair of Electrical and Computer Engineering
 - a. You may have noticed some construction going on around campus. We are excited for this to be done. Our department has been waiting for a student workspace that is near the faculty so that students can spread out their projects and their laptop and other items. Students need to be able to work on projects but also be able to go to their professor and ask questions. That has been missing for a long time. Finally, with this construction we have new opportunities available to us. There will be two rooms devoted to student study space and workspace. These rooms will have lab benches and lab equipment. There are no classes scheduled in these rooms so students can use them at any time. The other space will be classroom size with devoted tables so that students can congregate. The Mechanical Engineering department got a new student study workspace that is right in the middle of their area. All this investment in the student study workspace will be worth it; that is why students come to Rose.

Some other infrastructure things that are benefiting the students, although indirectly, is an amateur radio room. It used to be in a closet and now it has an actual room in the main hallway. There was a grant written to get new antennas and new equipment for the room. Students are anxious to get into this room and get the equipment set up. This group does a lot of outreach programs with the community and with the ham radio organizations. This past year they have not been able to do anything because of construction on the roof.

The parts room was also renovated. It used to be very cramped, full of cabinets and the cabinet doors would not open all the way. Every one of our classes has a lab associated with it. These labs all have equipment and parts that students need. There are also senior design projects and extra lab equipment that must be checked out and it was all stuffed into that parts room. This renovation will

allow students to have better access to their equipment and allow technicians to work and help the students.

There is also a new conference room. Students conduct a lot of meetings with their clients for Capstone design projects, Teams meetings, and group work. This room is also serving the mathematics department. There will also be classroom renovations which include updates to carpet and new laminate tops. This construction, in the end, is really going to benefit our students for many years.

There are several new curricular initiatives for students to participate in:

- Selected as one of eleven schools in the country to participate in national government sponsored program (under press silence request until official announcement in October); it involves electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, chemistry, humanities and social sciences
- New course in advanced mobile robotics by Dr. Berry as part of Giacoletto Chair
- New courses in vehicle battery management
- Dr. Rostamkolai is updating the power courses and power certificate
- New IoT minor by Dr. Miller
- New institute minors in Artificial Intelligence, Mechanical Engineering and Sustainability
- Department has been part of internal Luoma Grant to improve teamwork skills
 - Psychological Safety and Conflict Resolution introduced in Freshman, Junior and Senior Design
- New Calculus ABC sequence to replace Calc I and II over three terms

Every year the Deans Equipment Fund allocates money to the university to keep our labs current with updated/new equipment. For example, out of that funding, a new scanning electron microscope and new equipment in our ECE labs was purchased. The department heads manage the allocation of those funds under the supervision of the Dean. Another example is a software defined radio, which looks like a USB plug. This is plugged into a laptop and turns it into a programmable radio. It can receive FM radio and HDTV signals. This came from an initiative between alumni and faculty. There was a faculty member at Deering who went to Crane and worked at Crane over the summer. Through that work, he gained expertise in software defined radio. There was an alum at Northrop Grumman in the DC area who was interested in software defined radio. She contacted the faculty member and donated money from Northrop Grumman to purchase radios which are now used in the freshman courses.

Our department is working with the Center for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion on microaggressions and how it has a significant impact on our students. When students experience microaggressions, it affects their relationships with other students and faculty, and we are working on raising awareness.

A poster initiative was created (picture of poster displayed). At the top of the poster is a comment of an actual microaggression that was reported by a student here at Rose-Hulman. The pictures in the posters are not of actual Rose students, so no one is being singled out. These posters are to raise awareness and are related to gender microaggressions, racial microaggressions or just plain dumb student microaggressions. In addition to raising people's awareness with posters, a workshop was held. The focus being on microaggressions and making faculty aware that students are experiencing this. This year the focus will be on faculty to student and student to faculty communication around performance in the classroom.

There have been changes since the pandemic and we are hearing from students that their definition of success is unsustainable. Students are experiencing insane levels of pressure, stress and anxiety. There is a tremendous difference in this from pre-pandemic to post-pandemic. As faculty, how do we identify that and understand where it comes from? Students who have gone to faculty to ask questions and are told to come back later take that as the faculty member wants nothing to do with them and they are going to fail. The concern is this student/faculty interaction and the student writing off the faculty member. We need to raise faculty awareness and develop a toolbox of skills. We also need to help students develop a sense of resilience. Students need to understand that just because one thing does not go their way does not mean everything is falling apart.

There are a few new faculty members coming in this year. There are three new tenure-track and two visiting faculty this year. Dr. Eduardo Izquierdo from IU CS, Dr. Nathan Brooks from Cal Berkley; Dr. Monay Shoushan; Dr. Samir Talegaon and Dr. Sourav Kumar Ukil.

There are some new initiatives with communications and marketing to improve recruitment. The hope is to get alumni involved in making videos, especially in electrical and computer engineering. The demand for these degrees is soaring but the number of students in these programs is declining. The semiconductor industry alone is looking to hire 100,000 technicians and engineers by 2030. In the next six years they are going to need 100,000 and there are approximately only 50,000 graduates in ECE a year in the country. We need as many people as possible to get involved along with student participation.

Charlie asked me to share information on interesting internships or what students have been doing this summer. There is a student working at Tesla on battery management systems. He is in a 6-month Co-op designing circuit boards for battery management. This is to keep batteries from charging too quickly and catching on fire.

This past year the rocketry club boomed. It went from 0 to 80 members in about two years. They are launching 13 foot rockets in NASA competitions and as a result of that, there is a group of ECE students involved in a cube sat project for capstone design. These cubes are as big as satellites, and anyone can produce

them. They must meet certain requirements and they are hoping to see if they are space worthy.

The Area 5188 FIRST Robotics team placed third in the state this year. They missed going to Nationals by one point, but they did an excellent job.

V. ARBOT Report - Robert Stone

The ARBOT Report is on page 20 of the handbook, following are some highlights.

One of the most exciting things discussed at the meeting in May was the new residence hall. Building a new residence hall will cost around \$31 million. The board authorized the President and his team to spend up to \$31 million on a new residence hall. The residence hall will have four floors with forty beds each and with RA's and SA's throughout the building.

There was also talk of renovating Speed Hall. Speed and/or BSB are the oldest halls and are in severe need of upgrading. To upgrade Speed Hall, it will cost between \$9-10 million and a lot of that cost is air conditioning.

Students are continually active in the SRC with clubs and student engagement. According to Courtney Valmore, SGA President, there are 246 active campus groups and they held nearly 3,300 events with over 19,000 registrations for those events over the course of the academic year.

Dr. Reyes reported on the faculty. The Institute does a survey of faculty each year followed by a report. One of the concerns was machine shop access and having enough technicians available in the shop for shop safety. Rose does not want students in the shop if there is not someone around to help them run the equipment; it is just not a safe environment.

A perennial concern about staff compensation and satisfaction is the overriding concern and whether Rose is delivering on its promise. The faculty are particularly concerned that Rose may not be delivering on that. There is a sense among some faculty that they are stuck at Rose because they cannot easily move to another institute. That is driven by cost-of-living adjustments in other areas. It is hard to beat Terre Haute from a cost-of-living perspective. If faculty are looking to go to another area, their quality of life may not have enough increase in compensation to offset their cost-of-living adjustment.

ChatGPT has been a topic recently. Rick Stamper and others have been looking into this and have put together an ad hoc committee for ChatGPT and AI. They are setting up guidelines for use/misuse of AI for professors and looking at how to incorporate that into a policy for students and faculty.

RHIT is about to enter the once every thirty years cycle of accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission and ABET. One is on a five-year cycle and the

other is a six-year cycle, so every 30 years they overlap and that is coming up in 2024-25.

There is discussion of changing the Chauncey Rose Society from a \$50,000 lifetime donation to \$100,000 lifetime donation in 2024.

Santhana Naidu and the Communications and Marketing Department have gotten much publicity for Rose this past year with nearly 3,000 media mentions, potentially reaching ninety-nine million readers/viewers. That is a tremendous number and Kudos to them. Rose-Hulman has appeared in the New York Times Online, Yahoo Finance, Wired online, CBS, Associated Press and MSN Money, just to name a few.

A big concern is that Rose will fall short on our target recruitment of 630 students at a 55% discount rate. The latest estimate is that it will be 575 students at a slightly higher discount rate. It is an extremely competitive environment to recruit students today for everybody. Educational Institutions are also facing an enrollment cliff based on demographics where there are fewer students going into college. When that resource becomes scarce, competition heats up. Indiana and Illinois are the top enrollment states followed by California with Kentucky and Ohio dropping off. There will be students from about forty different states. China and India lead internationally; however, China is down.

President Coons' mentioned the cost of delivery and the pressure to reduce it. Most schools are dealing with offering skills versus degrees, especially in the computer science area. Companies like Google are offering to train potential employees. Some people who would consider a four-year degree are now questioning that and if the cost is worth it. Rose is in a great position because we continue to rank extremely well from a return-on-investment perspective with what people pay and the jobs they get. When people look at how students perform a few years after graduation, Rose does extremely well on all those measures relative to any other colleges.

VI. Break for Lunch

VII. Staff Reports – Steve Brady and Charlie Ricker

Steve Brady reported on general campus updates. Several people have been hired but there are two big hires to be aware of. A new women's basketball coach, Devron Paul, has started and is currently building a team. There is also a new Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Mercedes Clay, who started about 1.5 months ago.

As of July 12, enrollment was at 579 with fifteen transfer students. Tom Bear is anticipating around 575, maybe 585. Rose is aware of where the shortfalls happen and is trying to play the most precise game of Jenga with financial aid while making the discount rate as strong as possible. There was a record number of applicants at 5,377 and admits at 3,910. So, it is not that things are not going

well from an admissions perspective, we are just not going to hit our 630 number of freshmen that Rose was shooting for. A lot of credit for the success we have had in enrollment management goes to that team but also to athletics, communication, and marketing.

There will be more information being rolled out about the Institute's new strategic plan. There are four different teams on campus focusing on four different pillars. Those pillars are Diversity and Global Experience, Sustainability, Entrepreneurism and Innovation, and Affordability. More specifics about the goals, the metrics, and the targets for each of those areas will be released in the coming months. The Board of Trustees will approve or make recommendations at their next meeting on September 28, 2023.

The Institute's largest donor, in the history of the Institute, is the Lilly Endowment which has given over \$100 million. Lilly started a new initiative called the CCC or College and Community Collaboration initiative. Rose received a \$250,000 planning grant in April. What is unique about this grant, particularly for Lilly, is that this is the first time that they have had a matching component. Our Ask Rose, or homework hotline program, was started and funded by Lilly and they have continued to fund it for over two decades.

The intent of this CCC initiative is to find partners. Lilly will donate up to \$25 million but then can only be 30% of the total project. Rose is looking at needing a project around \$83 million to get the full \$25 million. Rose has been working on this since November and has interviewed consultants, talked to the community and has talked to our own internal community and has produced a number of initiatives. The largest one that may be the most familiar is the Innovation Grove concept, which is bringing Ventures back to campus to the Hulman Farm at 42 and 46. There are other outliers on that plan like sustainability and the possibility of a solar farm. There is the possibility of a trail system connecting parts of Terre Haute to Innovation Grove. It is also looking at the possibility of daycare. This will have to be submitted in March.

Summer camps have been successful at Rose. Some of the most well attended ever between Operation Catapult, Project Select, Rose Accelerate and Creation Crates. Rose had over 486 high school students register for our summer programs with a record for Catapult alone of 331. These students come from thirty-four states, seven countries and represent a vast range of academic interests.

Moench Hall renovations are nearing completion. Due to a large crane that had to get into the quad and ruined a lot of the grass, it created an opportunity to redo some of the quad. The quad is one of the busiest places between classes and Rose wants to make it more accessible, particularly for those in wheelchairs or assisted devices to get from Moench to the student union. There will be a series of benches where students can sit and hang out. This should be completed by spring/summer of 2024, just in time for the sesquicentennial celebration.

Steve presented some picture slides of the new residence hall that will be located just south of Speed. A community hall, just north of the new residence hall will house an additional dining facility; that building will come after the new residence hall. The new residence hall will house 160 beds and groundbreaking will start this fall. As soon as the hall is finished in the fall of 2024, Rose anticipates freshman moving in the fall of 2025. Then renovations will begin on Speed Hall. Speed Hall was the last freshman residence hall built on campus back in 1962.

According to surveys of Freshman and Sophomores, Rose has the highest quality survey results from any campus nationwide of their residence hall experience. The students that live in our residence halls love it, but it is getting harder to give tours to potential incoming students and convince them that the Rose quality residence hall experience is shown in our non-air-conditioned buildings. Rose does not show Deming for obvious reasons, but it is still used, and students love it. The new residence hall is taking what is the best about our freshman residence hall experience and putting into a much more attractive package.

Student Affairs is working very closely with the architects. The design of the residence hall has four floors, forty residents on each floor, a kitchenette and a lounge area. The architect was pushing for a suite style living but if students are given the opportunity to go from classroom to their room, some will take it, and Rose does a better job with our engineers, scientists and mathematicians if we push them to socialize. The location of the RA's and SA's is intentional so that they can have eyesight on every hall. Restrooms and showers are in the center of the hallway. There will also be a study room for students. On the first floor there will be a Resident Hall Director's apartment. Student Affairs will anticipate who wants more of a social experience and put those students closer to the lounge area. Rose is hoping to use this as a recruitment tool. Students who get their deposit in early may be able to choose which residence hall they want to live in. A new residence hall should come online in 2025 and add forty beds. Once the new residence hall is completed, renovations on Speed Hall will take place, which is why only forty beds will be added because 120 beds will be taken offline during the renovation. Hopefully, renovations only take a year and then Speed will reopen increasing bed capacity by 120. In theory, by 2026, we should have 160 beds for the freshman class.

Our Chauncey Rose Society amount is changing. It will be announced in the next issue of Echoes. Historically, it has been \$50,000 but it will be raised to \$100,000. Everybody who is in the Chauncey Rose Society has been grandfathered into that. There will be a year that we will be accepting a five-year pledge. So, if you are at \$30,000, you could still get in at the \$50,000 mark by making a \$20,000 pledge, payable within five years. This change is because of inflation.

Charlie Ricker reported that Alumni Relations continues to provide outreach and services to alumni through events and communications. Our newest staff member who will be assisting with these communications is Caitlin Nash, Assistant Director of Institutional Advancement Communications. Caitlin is not new to Rose-Hulman, she worked previously with Admissions as an Assistant Director. Her degree is in communications, and she previously worked at IU Health and Sparrow Health in Indiana and Michigan in their communications department. Her husband is a Rose-Hulman alum, ('13), and he is currently a faculty member in the mechanical engineering department.

Alumni Relations will be replacing Kerrie James-Hunter. Kerrie worked as the Assistant Director of the Alumni Experience for the last year and she left on August 4th. Her husband was offered a new position as the Head of the men's basketball team at Shawnee State University in Ohio, which is where they are originally from. They just had a baby, so it made sense to move back closer to family. The plan is to hopefully fill that position after Homecoming.

Homecoming is a week earlier this year. It is from September 29 to October 1. Please make sure you have your calendar marked if you are attending any events and be sure to register.

Please continue checking the Alumni Events page on our website for upcoming events but also watch for texts and emails. Text messaging is going to be starting soon. Keep watching your alumni newsletter and Echoes for upcoming events in your area. We are going to be ramping up our events and our engagement as we head towards the sesquicentennial. Alumni Relations is excited to celebrate the sesquicentennial across the country with alumni in as many cities as possible, as well as creating some new and fun virtual activities that alumni can participate in. There will also be special sesquicentennial swag.

The White Chapel Lego set is now available. You can purchase the set online, as well as the optional bride and groom Lego pieces. Alumni Relations was just approved to move forward with our next Lego set, Moench Hall, which will come out in 2024 and are working with our partner, Ichiban Toys, to get that going.

Alumni Relations is always looking for ways to keep alumni engaged around the country and making sure that we are meeting the needs, whether that be in person, online or a combination of both. If you have any ideas for alumni engagement, please contact the office by phone or email and let us know what options you would like to see in your part of the country.

VIII. New Business

- a. Awards Committee – Nellie Hohne, Michael Chaney
 - i. Typically, the Awards Committee oversees selecting the recipients of the Alumni Awards each year. The awards banquet is usually at the end of March. It is now going to be geared towards the end of April. Next year the banquet will be on April 20. This is also the weekend that Sawmill

Society hosts their events and awards. The AAB will join forces with them and make this a fun, event-filled weekend. There will be different activities focused around celebrating how amazing our alumni are.

b. Board Nominating – Amanda Stapleton

- i. There are seven new members that have joined the Advisory Board. Finishing up the next cycle, there will be three members rolling off of the board and we will be looking at bringing on three new individuals, two in the 2010's and one in the 1970's. Currently, there are 22 members and we are going to add two additional members to get us back at 24 members. We will be going through applicants and looking for those who would be a valuable addition to the board.
- ii. Nellie added that there are four standing committees on the Alumni Advisory Board: Awards (Mike Chaney), Board Membership (Amanda Stapleton), Student Recruitment (Dieter Schultz) and Career Services (Gary Bullock). At each board meeting there are committee breakout sessions. We ask new members to please sit in on committee meeting or flow between a couple of them and see which one you would be interested in joining. The current Vice President will email all the board members to find out which committee(s) they want to serve on. Members can continue to serve on the same committee or if you would like to change, that is fine. Brief committee descriptions were given by the current Committee Chairs. Our goal, as the Alumni Advisory Board, is to help the Institute, not make more work for them.
- iii. Nellie stated that Charlie approached the Board with the idea of starting a new committee that is going to work with Alumni Network Leaders around the country. Alumni Network Leaders are asked to plan multiple events during the year for their area. This can range from happy hours to a football game to a community service project. Our committee will not oversee planning events but rather just reaching out and asking if there is anything those network leaders need assistance with and then that would be relayed back to Charlie and his staff. As a new committee, we want to be sure we have a good foundation. Charlie and Dieter have agreed to spearhead this committee, just to get it going. This is an effective way for the Alumni Advisory Board to engage with other alumni and help those alumni engage with others in their area. The board will be the conduit between Alumni Relations and the network coordinators. Once we have a charter set up, we can foster a relationship with network leaders and help them plan events.

c. Future Meeting Dates – Nellie Hohne

- i. Fall 2023 – Friday, November 3 (Indianapolis)
- ii. Spring 2024 – Saturday, April 20 - (Terre Haute)
- iii. Summer 2024 – Saturday, August 10 (TBD – in conjunction with sesquicentennial)
- iv. Fall 2024 – Friday, November 8 or Saturday, November 9 (Indianapolis)
- v. Spring 2025 – Date TBD (Terre Haute)
- vi. Summer 2025 – Saturday, August 9 (Terre Haute)

IX. Breakout Sessions

X. Committee Report Out

a. Alumni Engagement – Dieter Schultz

- i. The group spent time outlining what would be the key components and structure of the charter. The takeaway from this initial meeting is maybe changing the name from Alumni Engagement to something more specific going forward. Action items coming out of this meeting are to put together a template of the charter and share it with the group that was a part of this conversation and then formalize a draft charter that could be presented to the entire board at our next meeting.
- ii. Once materialized, the first two steps are going to be getting a list of cities from Alumni Relations that we want a network coordinator in then we will decide, within that committee, what cities perspective AAB members will take and then identify who those coordinators will be for that city.
- iii. At that time, since there will be a Charter, the AAB will have a document that states how it is structured and what the roles and responsibilities are and our purpose.
- iv. The draft mission statement reads, “Our mission is to identify, recruit, and mentor network coordinators.” The event coordination can be the alumni office and encouraging those coordinators to host quarterly events.

b. Student Recruitment – Dieter Schultz

- i. Report on page 18 of board book. There was no action this time for student recruitment. A goal for the next meeting, pending availability, would be for Dr. Tom Bear to come and give an update on admissions any key learnings from the past year, update on the Noblitt scholarship process and if there are any implications from the affirmative action ruling effecting the enrollment management process.
- ii. The AAB knows how important recruitment is to the institution. The AAB must be leaders for recognizing how we engage the broader alumni group in recruitment. It is now more important because of reasons like the enrollment cliff, and some of the implications of affirmative action. We must make sure we are leading and engaging our network and helping support recruitment.
- iii. The fee waiver is one way to help with recruitment. The email came out on August 1. If you know someone who is a good fit for Rose, encourage them to apply. The fee waiver code is your user ID.

c. Board Nominating – Amanda Stapleton

- i. The board nominating committee helps guide who are next members are, and you can also participate on other committees. There is a lot of flexibility within this committee. Keep that in mind when I send out the email asking what committee or committees you would like to serve on.
- ii. We have modified how we do this so we can mirror our decades versus our alumni. So, the percentage of alumni that are in the 1980’s or 1990’s is how we try to structure our membership. Looking at the newest alumni

numbers, it looks like for next year's cycle, members starting in 2024, there will be four from the 2010's, and one from the 2020's.

iii. We are finalizing the exact date next year because the meeting is in April vs. March. Most likely our timeline will change.

d. Awards – Mike Chaney

i. Awards will be given out on April 20th next year. The process should start at about the same time, which would give us a little extra time. Last year there was a rush and this year there will be an extra month, let's use it.

ii. There is a term here with this committee that we like to use, it is the FUN committee because we get to hand out awards. It is always positive. This committee has a clear objective and it's fun to recognize our alumni.

iii. There is a busy period of about six weeks to two months, in terms of going through applications, conducting interviews and making selections and then it is quiet.

iv. As the chair, please remember to encourage alumni to apply for awards. If you know someone the meets the criteria, encourage them to apply. This is a wonderful opportunity to be recognized by your peers. Awards available are Rachel M. Romas (student award), Collegian Rose, Honorary Alumni, Distinguished Young Alumni, Career Achievement, Volunteer Alumni, and Honor Award.

e. Career Services – Gary Bullock

i. Our goal is to be able to support Career Services and the placement of graduates. Finding the right companies for Rose recruitment and to help prepare students for graduating. The end goal is to develop a strategic plan to encompass student education, student preparedness, and student support. It will also look at employee/employer connectivity – being able to find the right companies. There may also be some avenues for post support or post-placement support for graduates. A key element of this is making sure that the graduates have a job but making sure it is the right job and assisting with that.

ii. We know our mission and vision for the next few months. We would like to have someone from Career Services here at our next meeting if possible.

XI. Old Business – Nellie Hohne

a. Upcoming meetings were already discussed. Email will be going out with dates and locations that we currently have set so that you can get them on your calendars.

b. Please look at pages 5-7 to make sure that the information is correct. If any information is incorrect, please let Charlie know so that the database can be updated.

XII. Adjournment – Nellie Hohne