

Alumni Advisory Board

Fall - General Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 3 , 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, Matthew Iwema, Kenny McCleary, Kedar Murthy, Andrew Novotny, Bill Schott, Casey Schroepfel, Dieter Shultz, Amanda Stapleton; Absent: Kali Nordquist, Craig Pohlman, Jeffery Smiley, Floyd Yager
 - b. ARBOT: Chris Inman, Dan Price: Absent Robert Stone
- III. Review Agenda and Approval of Minutes – Nellie Hohne
 - a. Motion to approve minutes, Kedar Murthy; seconded by Kameron Eisenhour, motion carried.
- IV. Staff Reports
 - Steve Brady – Institutional Aithe women’s basketball season. This year there are sixteen women playing with a new head coach and assistant head coach. The football team is doing well and have a game the weekend after next that will determine the conference winner. Men’s and women’s soccer are also doing well.
 - Charlie Ricker – Alumni Relations
 - iv. Charlie Ricker reported that another successful Homecoming season wrapped up and over 2,200 folks were on campus. That is a record-breaking homecoming, our third in a row. Obviously, this continues to create challenges with parking, facilities,

and does drone shows around the world. He was happy to help celebrate Rose-Hulman's Homecoming.

- v. As we step into the winter quarter and 2024, Rose will be focusing on the sesquicentennial. Events will begin popping up across the country in celebration of our sesquicentennial. For the athletes, there will be a triathlon where you can sign up to bike, run, or swim 150 miles or do all three. At the end of the year, participants will receive a medal for each event or, if all three events are completed, a special medal will be given to that participant. Participants that sign up will also get a bag of swag items. Information and signups for this event will be coming out in the next few weeks. There will be some other sesquicentennial events during the summer and updates on those events will be given during the April meeting.
- vi. Alumni Relations is continuing its search for an Assistant Director. There will be in-person interviews in a few weeks and the hope is to hire someone to start before the holidays. This person will replace Kerrie James-Hunter and will fill our Alumni Experience role. That person manages Homecoming and our Alumni Awards processes and going forward will collaborate with the Alumni Engagement groups that are created.
- vii. Steve added that Terre Haute is in the zone for totality for the eclipse in 2024. Rose has an observatory on campus, and there will be some events but those details are still being worked out.
- viii. Charlie added that there will be an alumni trip going to Scotland next summer to visit the ancestral home of Chauncey Rose. That trip will be August 3-12. Details forthcoming in the next couple of weeks.

V. ARBOT Report – Chris Inman

- i. ARBOT Report is on pages 24-27 of the handbook and the following are some highlights.
- ii. Life on campus-students are engaged in everything. The energy on campus is vibrant and palpable. From a business standpoint, the Board approved the following officers: Chairman, Carl Cook; Vice Chairman, Linda White; Treasurer, Tom Dinkel; Secretary, Greg Gibson. Two new trustees were introduced – Carla McFarland and Dan Price as the new ARBOT.
- iii. Summer programs had record enrollment. Welcome Back Wednesday is a new event that builds off what you might remember as the Student Activities Fair. They had 1,800 students attend; the student population in undergraduate is just over 2,200, so that participation was incredible. Nineteen companies attended.
- iv. US News and World report came out and Rose has been ranked #1 for a quarter century. What is most exciting for the school is the ranking in the Wall Street Journal; #1 in learning opportunities and learning facilities, #17 best colleges in America. That is putting our name next to some remarkable schools.

interested. There were over 130 applications for the program and fifteen were selected and are participating.

- xi. Again, a lot of focus on calculus and ensuring success. There has been a different curriculum that has been developed for those who come to Rose and do not have a strong background in calculus. This program is intended to help those students be better prepared for their time at Rose.
- xii. Athletics is strong. 640 student athletes out of 2200 undergraduates. The football team has 117 and similar numbers for indoor/outdoor track.

VI. Old Business – Nellie Hohne

- a. Spring 2024, Saturday, April 20 (Terre Haute) – Awards banquet
- b. Summer 2024, Saturday, August 10 (TBD) travel meeting tied to sesquicentennial event
- c. Fall 2024, Saturday, November 9 (Indy)
- d. Spring 2025, Date TBD (Terre Haute)
- e. Summer 2025, Saturday, August 9 (Terre Haute)
- f. Dr. Sriram Mohan is our guest speaker. He is the Department Chair for Computer Engineering and Computer Science
- g. Committee breakout sessions will be a little longer due to the Awards committee

VII. Break – Lunch

VIII. Special Guest

- a. Dr. Sriram Mohan, Department Chair of Computer Science and Computer Engineering

Dr. Mohan stated that he is currently in his 17th year at Rose-Hulman and his passion is for anything data related, data engineering, databases, data science, etc. Seventeen years ago the department was small with about 130 students. Currently, there are twenty-seven faculty members with hopes of increasing to thirty next year. There are two staff members and 525 majors in the department. Computer Science is the second biggest department next to Mechanical Engineering which has over six hundred majors.

The concern in the job market is that big tech companies such as Microsoft, Amazon and Google are laying off employees. So far, that has not been reflected in our hiring. Students continue to be in great demand with average salaries near or over the \$100,000 range.

There is talk around the school's #1 ranking and that Computer Science does not naturally fit into that ranking. The only ranking for Computer Science includes all schools, including Harvard, Princeton, and MIT. Rose-Hulman was ranked in the top

within the computer science department but the way it was designed, it is approachable to all majors. Our goal is to have engineers who are aware of cybersecurity and who think of cybersecurity as one of the first design principles. The way Rose constructed this cybersecurity minor, with the help of Dr. Sid Stamm, is to introduce two freshman level classes that students take and get one credit per class that introduces them to practical cyber security. This class covers buffer, overflow, common ways a system can be breached, and how to protect it. It is a hands-on class to a certain extent, taught by seniors with faculty helping. There are faculty in electrical and computer engineering, chemical engineering, and computer science who teach these classes. Students are required to take classes in the basics of computer security, a course on cybercrime and digital forensics. Students are required to take attend a cyber security seminar where experts from industry are brought to campus to give a talk. Students then have to take eight additional credits such as cryptography, blockchain security, network security, malware protection, and the chemical engineering faculty are developing a new class called protecting infrastructure (cyber security as it applies to chemical plants). Rose is in the process of adding more electives. The goal is to be approachable to non-majors and to produce engineers who are aware of cyber security in their day-to-day jobs.

There is also a minor in artificial intelligence that was started last year. Here the emphasis is on students with a computer science or computer engineering background. At the moment, this minor does not appeal to other areas, but the goal is to make this field approachable to non-majors because AI is making an impact everywhere. Students need a basic understanding of what it is, how it can be used, what is ethical and what should not be done. Currently, that program is being revamped. Tc -0.004 Tw 23.63 0 ec

over ChatGPT because it can do extremely well on about every assignment or project that is handed out in CS1, 2 and 3. How do we make sure that students are actually learning? How do we give them the necessary practice and not lead them down the road of temptation of just asking ChatGPT to do their homework?

The second thing our department is working on is integrating meaningful research experiences in the curriculum. Students are looking for research opportunities. Over the last year our department has developed a series of courses that students can take that will introduce them to 1) what research is in computer science, 2) what are the research opportunities within the department, 3) what research are the faculty within the department doing, 4) if interested in graduate school – how to start that process. It is a series of four classes that students take to get them involved with opportunities for research.

So how can alumni help? Our department is always looking for individuals to serve on our CSE Advisory Board. The expectations for someone on the advisory board are not significant. The expectation is for members to read a two-page document before the meeting that explains the state of the department and then participate in meetings for one day. Some people drive into Terre Haute for the day to participate and others join

- i. Our committee walked through the criteria and set up two zoom meetings. Our committee will study the awards, make their ranking and if agreed on during the first zoom meeting, done; if not, we have a backup meeting.
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