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 Schroeppel, 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 Advancement
       i. Steve Brady reported that the groundbreaking happened for the new residence hall. It is south of Speed and Percopo near the ravine. Hall will be four stories and house 160 beds. It will be like Speed but with air conditioning and newer facilities. As soon as it comes online in the fall of 2025, Speed will go offline, and renovations will begin. The Moench Hall renovations are completely done.
       ii. Halloween was a big success on campus. Institution Advancement along with Communications and Marketing took Honorable Mention. Our offices were converted to Barbie Dreamworld. Venture's won with their display of Indiana Jones and HR and Student Affairs had a display of Jurassic Park.
       iii. Athletics are going well. Just over a year ago, athletics was suspending the 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 our space limitations. This doubled the size of campus overnight for 3-4 days. It was the 100th anniversary of the bonfire, and that was displayed on the Homecoming pint glasses. There was an impressive 500 drone, drone show, during the bonfire (a video was shared with the group). An alum owns this company

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.

v. Moench Hall renovations are complete. It was heroic moving offices and classrooms and getting things scheduled. For students it is an amazing space and accessibility has improved. The campus was unfriendly towards people with mobility issues and this renovation has significantly improved that. Root quad renovations have started and should be finished in the spring. Steve touched on the new freshman residence hall which is supposed to be ready in the fall of 2025. Tom Bear is going to appreciate that new hall as they are giving campus tours. Speed renovations will follow after the residence hall is completed.

vi. Tom Bear spoke to us about the increased competition for students and the enrollment cliff that is coming/that we are currently experiencing. Schools are becoming very competitive in how they go after students. Dipping into wait lists and offering significant scholarships. If the school has a large endowment, they can do that. A school with a smaller endowment is going to struggle to do that.

vii. Enrollment is a little over 2,200. The freshman class is 568, down thirty-four from last year. About 30% racially/ethnically diverse with 22% female from forty states and nineteen countries. There were a record of applications and diverse applications. This is not translating into an increase in population diversity. The number of African American students has been declining for the last three years. The school is trying to increase its engagement with community-based organizations; piloting this in Indianapolis and Chicago to see where we get the biggest benefit before trying to engage this in other cities. This involves reaching out to students at a younger age and getting them excited about STEM. When Tom Bear was asked how alumni can help, his answer was to continue to help by driving enrollment. Alumni are using their fee waiver codes to help students apply for free. As alumni are reaching out in their communities to promote STEM education, they can also be advocating for Rose-Hulman at the same time.

viii. What is Rose doing about representation in the leadership levels of the university? Chris commented that there are several initiatives being implemented in the hiring process. Steve Brady added that the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging has been charged with not only helping to increase the diversity of our students but also faculty and staff. The HR office has instituted several expectations when doing searches for faculty and staff that require a pool of diverse candidates before it is allowed to move forward. If you cannot meet that expectation, then there must be a waiver from the VP of HR or the President. They are closely monitoring these searches to make sure that Rose is trying its best.

ix. The Career Fair was a success with almost 1,700 students attending. The number of companies was a little less but was probably a lot more manageable. Career Services continues to do a wonderful job of placing our students.

x. Take note of the new Rose Research Fellows program. Typically, Rose is not known for research but there are students who are very much

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 fifty.

Computer Science consists of four majors. Computer Science, Software Engineering, International Computer Science and a Multi-Disciplinary Second Major in Data Science. There is a difference between the way

faculty perceives the program and how it is chosen by students. Faculty think of computer science as the science behind the field with principles, algorithms, and the theoretical underpinnings of the field. The faculty envision this to be what students would potentially be interested in pursuing in graduate school. Software engineering is how to develop software that a company will choose. There have been boom and bust cycles across these two majors. For the last 7-8 years, because of name recognition, computer science is more universally known compared to software engineering. About 80 - 90 percent of our students are computer science majors, with 10 percent being software engineering majors. The demand is so high that companies do not seem to care whether a student is a computer science or software engineering major, they just want a student from Rose who can hit the ground running. About 10 percent of students go on to graduate school. Some of them are going for a master's degree in a specialized subdiscipline of computer science. AI is popular along with data science and cybersecurity.

International computer science is a dual degree program offered by Rose-Hulman and a university in Germany, Hochschule Ulm. Students take courses from both departments. The first two years are at your alma mater. All students spend the third year at Hochschule Ulm and then the senior year all students are at Rose. At the end of the four years, students from Rose-Hulman get a degree in International Computer Science and a bachelor's degree from Hochschule Ulm in computer science. On average, there are about 2-3 students in this program. Courses in both schools are taught in English; however, Rose students are required to take a year of German before they go to Germany. The other difference between the two programs is that Germany requires students to complete a senior thesis as opposed to a CAPStone project.

The last of the majors offered is a multidisciplinary second major in data science. It is a program that is jointly offered with the math department and the computer science and software engineering department. It is a strong major. Most data science programs in schools outside of Rose are run out of a particular department such as math, stats or computer science. Rose is one of the few schools where it is multi-disciplinary. Rose wants its students to have expertise in understanding the mathematical foundations, be comfortable with data modeling and data engineering in order to get the data ready. Students will also have expertise in building machine learning models. It is a particularly difficult second major in data science. A student usually ends up overloading or has brought in a ton of credit. The foundational underpinnings that students get at Rose are not seen in other schools.

Historically, there were only two minors, computer science and software engineering. There is now a new minor in cybersecurity. This is the first year that students can get a minor in cyber security. The minor is offered

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. Right now, this class is really geared towards the student who is interested in the technical side of AI.

The standard problem within the department is that there are many exciting things happening but resources are an issue. The number of students continues to grow and hiring faculty is challenging. Hiring faculty that will fit with the program at Rose is difficult plus getting someone to come to Terre Haute is challenging.

Our department is always working on revamping the fundamental sequence of the first three classes. That is CS 1,2,3 within the department. Increasingly, when students are asked why they chose this field, the answer is so they can get a job. How do we accommodate those students? Rose wants those students to adhere to the standards that Rose-Hulman graduates are known for. There have been changes to CS1 and CS2 to make them more approachable for students with no background in computer science. This is a constant journey of discovery and innovation of what works and what does not work. There is concern

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. Our department piloted a program that seems to work and starting next year, those classes will be in the catalog.

The third thing our department is working on is differentiating computer science and software engineering. Rose wants to make sure that students are channeled into the right major. If a student is headed towards industry, the goal would be to have them in software engineering. How do we communicate that message to prospective students, and to freshman? The goal is to make sure that the balance is set up correctly. The department is looking at setting up tracks within a major. Do we need two majors, or do we have one major with tracks? If a student is interested in science, they will take these courses; if they are interested in graduate school, they will take these courses, etc. This is in the very early stages and the hope is to have it ready to present to our Board of Advisors at the end of this year/early next year, get their input and proceed.

Another item our department is working on is the notion of rigor. Rose-Hulman classes are hard. Faculty like to push students and see what they are capable of; however, we are beginning to wonder if it has gone overboard in terms of how hard some of these classes are for students. Our intention is to address what is essential and what helps us maintain our standard without affecting student's mental health.

Lastly, our department continues to work on supporting opportunities for course development and professional growth. The concern is faculty retention. Rose does not want faculty to burn out. Our preference is that faculty will stay until retirement. Our department is working on grant opportunities for funding faculty during the summer to help them develop classes so that over the school year they can focus their attention on educating students rather than developing new classes.

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 virtually. During the meeting, the department head will provide updates on what we are working on, along with updates from the President, VPA and the Dean. The Advisory Board also meets with students. At the end of the day, we want feedback on what are our strengths, areas that could be improved and concerns for the coming year. This allows us to figure out what we need to be focusing on. If anyone is interested in joining the CSE Advisory Board, the department is always looking for volunteers. Our department is always looking for guest lecturers in a variety of classes or tech talks. The only difference between a guest lecturer and tech talk is whether it is focused on a particular class or if it is open to campus or a particular department. Tech talks are sometimes organized by student clubs. Our competition teams and student clubs are always looking for mentors and role models who can help them grow. If you are interested in teaching a class, alumni can do that in the classroom or virtually. We are always looking for senior capstone experiences. If anyone is interested in any of the items discussed, please reach out to Charlie Ricker and let him know so that he can pass your information on to me and then my department can reach out to you.

IX.   New Business
a. Alumni Engagement – Dieter Schultz
   i. The charter is in the board book on pages 15-16. During our last meeting, the board decided to put together a draft charter and the members that helped support that are listed on page 15. In addition to receiving input from Steve and Charlie, our goal was to bring in a draft that could be adopted into the AAB as a stand-alone Committee, in which there will be a Committee Chair.
   ii. When the break-out committee sessions take place, this committee is seeking people that are possibly interested in becoming the committee chair.
   iii. Charlie helped develop a list of 15-20 focused cities or regions that we are going to try and target an alumni coordinator. That will allow us, as a committee, to take this from conceptual, to adopt and then act and execute from amongst the board.
   iv. Within the draft you will see that there is a mission, a purpose and an outline for roles and responsibilities to make it clear where this committee is headed and what the purpose and objectives are of this committee.
   v. Nellie added that the intent is for this committee to meet and make any revisions needed during the break-out session. During the committee report out session, a vote will be taken to adopt this new committee into our policy document. Also, if anyone is interested in being the Chair of

this committee, let us know. The goal is to have a chair in place by January.

b. ARBOT Selection – Nellie Hohne
   i.   Quick overview was presented for several new board members. There are three ARBOT positions. ARBOT is an Alumni Representative to the Board of Trustees. These three positions serve a three-year term. Each year the Board selects one ARBOT position. In the past it has been the Past President's job to select that person. The Past President has worked with the Board of Trustees to produce a process in selecting someone that the Board of Trustees would like (younger alumni, seasoned alumni, male or female, etc.).
   ii. The Board of Trustees came to us with two proposals for the three ARBOT positions. One position would be considered a young alumnus, about 15 years out; one position would be an open alumnus and the third position would be the current Past President, with the option for that person to opt out if they cannot fulfill the requirement. It would require the Past President to attend ARBOT meetings. Overall, that means attending six meetings a year (3 AAB meetings and 3 ARBOT meetings). Two ARBOT meetings are on campus and one is a travel meeting in February. If the Past President opts out, then a special election will be held, and the Past President will pick someone to fill that role for that 2-year period.
   iii. A draft proposal will be written up and given to Steve to present to the Board of Trustees. It will also require some revisions to our Constitution.
   iv. For clarification, if there is a year where the Past President cannot fulfill the ARBOT position, a special election will be held but this will only be for a two-year term. The Past President/ARBOT position will be a two-year term and the other two ARBOT positions are a three-year term.
   v.   ARBOT members are selected at the same time as new AAB members.

c. Awards Update – Nellie Hohne & Charlie Ricker
   i.   The awards banquet in April will be a little different and Charlie is going to give us more details.
   ii. Charlie discussed the logistics of what Sawmill weekend and the Alumni Awards weekend together will look like. For this group, it will not change significantly. The meeting will still be on Saturday along with Sawmill events so there will be a few more people on campus. Friday night is what will be a little different. In the past, there was a dinner for award recipients on Friday night. With the addition of the Sawmill Society it will be more of a reception style event where everyone is invited rather than just award winners and the committee. The Saturday Brunch might be a little different, but the overall structure of the weekend will be the same.

d. Committee Assignments – Amanda Stapleton
   i.   Several members selected two different committees to sit on. Those individuals are encouraged to think about if supporting two committees is in line with what you like. There is considerable interest in alumni engagement and student recruitment. The Membership Committee is on the sparse side so please feel free to join the break-out session.

Membership and Awards is a somewhat limited time commitment committee. Explore your options and if changes are needed, that is fine.

    e. Alumni Gathering, Centerpoint Brewery – Charlie Ricker
- i. Alumni gathering at Centerpoint Brewing following this meeting. Centerpoint brewing is alumni owned. It has a cool venue, old warehouse style tap room, tasting room and Nameless Catering will be providing the food. There will be a full taco bar, everyone will get a drink ticket, and there are eighty-two registered for the event.

X.   Committee Breakout Sessions

XI.   Committee Report Out
- a. Alumni Engagement – Dieter Schultz
    - i. There were no changes to the charter, only forward-looking actions.
    - ii. Nellie asked the Board if they are in favor of accepting Alumni Engagement as an official Committee to the Alumni Advisory Board. Nellie entertained a motion for it to be added; Bill Schott seconded the motion; motion carried.
    - iii. Anyone interested in being the Chair, please reach out to Nellie.
    - iv. Dieter added that the committee will pair the regions with an Advisory Board member and then they can self-assign cities they want.
    - v. Action Items going forward:
        1. Dieter will send out email to committee asking for those to respond back with any interest in the Chair position.
        2. A link will be shared with members to view the alumni regions and members will be able to go in and populate their name directly to a city or region in which they are interested.
        3. That will enable the Chair to take the lead on establishing network coordinator expectations. How do we engage them? What information do they need? What is the process engagement with alumni relations? It is really where the committee hits the alumni network. This will be the first action the committee chair will have.
    - vi. Our goal by the April committee meeting is to have each AAB member have one target city in which they have a coordinator assigned, or are close, so that we can have an event by August 2024.
    - vii. The goal is to make sure this is done correctly and not get too far ahead of ourselves. We want one city for each member to focus on so that we have 4, 6, 8 really good, targeted events. The committee can solicit feedback and make any refinements to the process before fully scaled.
- b. Membership – Amanda Stapleton
    - i. There will be five open positions, four from the 2010's and one from the 2020's. Encourage anyone that you know of who would be a good fit on the board to submit a nomination.
    - ii. Wording for the next membership cycle for the next ARBOT will need to be defined.
- c. Awards – Mike Chaney

   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.

  d. Career Services – Gary Bullock

   i. Career Services had an invigorating discussion on the mission, vision, and values of our committee and the necessity of viewing its strengths and weaknesses. This committee wants to help the Rose-Hulman Career Services and employee relations department, but they are doing such a good job that there is not a lot of room for us. Committee is looking at ways to be able to meaningfully support them, support the services of the alumni and the newest graduating alumni.

  e. Student Recruitment – Alexa Myers, Nellie Hohne and Charlie Ricker

   i. Alexa reported she will assist Dieter with the notecard project.

   ii. In-depth conversation about engaging with perspective students early, how to get them to engage with alums similar to them and hear their stories and how they are doing.

   iii. Charlie gave an enrollment update that Dr. Bear shared.

    1. Early action deadline is November 1

    2. As of November 1, enrollment received 4,409 applications which is up from 3,673 last fall and up from 3,418 from the fall (2021)

    3. ME still has the largest number of applicants

    4. International applicants are up by 100

    5. Growth continues in California and Ohio and Kentucky have rebounded

    6. Provost scholarship for students studying biochemistry, biology and chemistry. Department chairs Dr. Bill Weiner and Dr. Ross Weatherman will be reaching out to selected alumni to help in the selection of the recipients for the Provost scholarship

    7. The Office of Admissions is welcome to opportunities to host prospective students in conjunction with alumni at hosted events

XII. Adjournment – Nellie Hohne

  a. Next meeting will be April 20 in Terre Haute. This will the Alumni Awards in conjunction with Sawmill Society

  b. Meeting adjourned