Radford University College of Science and Technology

Alumni Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, October 5, 2012

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Hurlburt Hall, room 248/249

1. Welcome and Introductions
   1. Dr. J. Orion Rogers, Dean gave welcoming remarks.
   2. Alumni Council members in attendance were introduced.
      1. Mr. David Bradshaw, President, InteractiveGIS
      2. Mr. Mark Hanna, Founder, Mr. Analytical
      3. Mr. Rob Mancini, CTO for Washington, D.C.
      4. Dr. Maher “Max” Noureddine, President, ForensiGen, LLC
      5. Mr. Seth Peery, Senior GIS architect, Enterprise GIS Research and Development Administration at Virginia Tech
      6. Mr. Daniel Hansen, Survey Technician, Balzer and Associates
      7. Mr. Michael McCaughan, Jefferson Laboratories
2. College of Science and Technology Center for the Sciences
   1. Dr. J. Orion Rogers discussed the new $49 million, 115,000 square foot Center for the Sciences.
      1. The building will include a new planetarium, RU Museum of the Earth Sciences and Forensic Science Institute facility.
         1. The museum will include a retired Smithsonian Exhibit which is a model of the Rock of Ages Quarry.
         2. The new RU Planetarium will increase fixed seating and include a technology and projector upgrade.
         3. Forensic Science Institute will have more space in order to increase the institute’s service to local medical examiners’ offices.
      2. The building includes two named laboratories.
         1. Artis Biological Computing Laboratory
         2. Novozymes Biology Lab for introductory biology courses
      3. The facility will include a Biosafety Lab Level 3 laboratory for undergraduate research.
      4. Biology and Chemistry laboratory space expands and is designed to encourage more students to conduct undergraduate research.
3. Department updates
   1. Geology department chair Dr. Jon Tso mentioned on-going research projects including:
      1. Research into the draining of Mountain Lake in Pembroke, Va. (<http://www.radford.edu/content/csat/home/news_and_events/releases/2012/september-2012/going-deep-into-mountain-lake-mystery.html>)
      2. Research at Mount Rogers in Virginia, which is made up of ancient volcanic rocks about 750 million years old.
   2. Math department chair Dr. Jill Stewart mentioned that enrollment in her department is up 80 percent over the last five years. Students have been conducting research as interns in local companies, including Aspen Motion Technologies in Radford.
   3. Dr. Art Carter, chair of information technology, said that the department is creating a Master of Science degree in database. The degree program is in the planning stages and will be sent to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia for its approval.
   4. Dr. Fred Singer, professor of biology and representative for the program, said that the department views teaching and research as a part of the same process. He said that undergraduate research has increases significantly over the last 20 years since he arrived at RU. He also mentioned the National Science Foundation grant that is funding a collaborative program between the departments of mathematics and biology to offer better mathematics preparation for biology majors.
   5. Dr. Rick Roth, chair of the geospatial science program, says that enrollment in the major has increased to about 65 students. He says that geographic information systems is evolving and will continue to evolve as technology changes.
   6. Physics chair Dr. Walter Jaronski spoke about the department’s excitement regarding the new building. Physics will not be in the new building, but will be able to expand their space in a later renovated Reed and Curie. Their laboratory space will be significantly expanded. Physics recently acquired new equipment including a wind tunnel and a new scanning tunneling atomic force microscope.
   7. Chemistry chair Dr. Joe Wirgau said that more students are involved in undergraduate research than ever before. The new building will also expand their capability to offering students undergraduate research experiences.
      1. Dr. Francis Webster and his students were recently awarded a grant to conduct research with students to compete in the P3 competition sponsored by the EPA in Washington, D.C.
   8. Dr. Jake Fox, anthropological sciences representative spoke about the program’s unique niche in Virginia. It is the only science based archaeology and biological anthropology programs in Virginia. The program is partnering with Cultural Resource Management in new construction projects across the Commonwealth (<http://www.radford.edu/content/csat/home/news_and_events/releases/2012/august-2012/Remainsunderparkinglot.html>)
   9. Dr. Donna Boyd, co-director of the Forensic Science Institute, spoke about the institute’s mission of forensic science education, research and service.
      1. It administers a forensic science minor.
         1. Innovations in Forensic Science
         2. Advanced Forensic Science Research
      2. Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with University of Dundee in Scotland to offer a MSc program in advanced forensics
      3. Dr. Donna and Cliff Boyd have funded a scholarship specifically for forensic science students
      4. The institute is called to assist in Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team in Haiti.
      5. The institute assists in criminal investigations for the State of Virignia. In the past four years, the institute has assisted in 67 cases for the Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, of which 18 of those were homicides.
      6. Current research centers on pediatric trauma and is in the process of creating a database of national archival database of fracture healing times.
4. Lunch
5. College Support
   1. Dr. Dee Robinson, Vice President for University Advancement spoke to the council regarding the opportunity to be an advocate for the college when speaking with colleagues in the professions.
      1. The college’s statement for need will be sent to each council member when it is complete.
      2. The bi-weekly online college newsletter will be sent to the council each time it is published to keep the council informed of the latest accomplishments and developments within the college. This will give the council talking points when speaking with potential supporters of the college.