



ARDR Advisory Committee Minutes, Spring 2016

Date: Thursday, March 17, 2016

Number of Attendees: 14

Called to order: 8:39 am

Adjourned: 11:27 am

Chairperson: Bob Hall

Recorder: Jennifer Woods

Members present from industry: **Ron Balmer**, Bridgers & Paxton; **Robert Ferguson**, TLC; **Brandon Garrett**, DPS; **Robert Hall**, Integrated Design and Architecture; **Chris Jiron**, HB Construction; **John Quale**, UNM School of Architecture

Members present from CNM: **Amy Ballard**, AT Associate Dean; **John Bronisz**, Dean, AT; **Phyllis Cece**, Instructor; **Amanda Glennon**, CTE Outreach; **Peter Kalitsis**, Instructor; **Andrew Martinez**, Instructional Support Tech; **David Miertschin**, Instructor; **Tania Rihani**, Career Center Advisor; **Jennifer Woods**, Academic Tech. Asst.

Next scheduled meeting: To be decided

I. Welcome/Introductions: Bob Hall opened the meeting and introductions were made all around. **Bob Hall** said that he uses AutoCAD and SketchUp at his office. **John Quale** teaches a full suite of software: Adobe Suite, Revit, Grasshopper, Rhino, energy modeling. **Bob Ferguson** uses Revit, Navisworks, and does a lot of laser scanning. **Brandon Garrett** said that his company uses everything but mostly Revit, Dynamo, Rhino, Grasshopper, and Adobe Suite. **Chris Jiron** uses mostly Revit, cloud-based products, Navisworks, AutoCAD products. **Ron Balmer** said he uses Revit, AutoCAD, Microstation, Dynamo, Navisworks, cloud-based collaborative software.

II. Minutes: Minutes from spring 2015 meeting were approved as is.

III. Reports: Peter said that we are working on changing our first term classes so we can retain more students. Amy will be speaking about our collaboration with another CNM department for developing a pre-Architecture program. We have a couple of grads who are getting their BA degree from ENMU, which offers a distance learning opportunity for students with an Associate degree. We still have job shadowing. We are marketing our new summer first-term classes.

Summer: Amy talked about Summer Camp for first termers. One of our part-time instructors is teaching our first-term classes at Data Charter School in order to create a better pipeline for bringing young students into the CNM classes. This will become a compressed ten-week term that APS students can complete during summer vacation (and taught at CNM), and will give experienced HS students the ability to test out of certain CNM courses, then come to CNM in second term. We would like to have more of our courses taught at different high schools. APS drafting teachers have Perkins grants, just like CNM. We have contacts within the APS committee, so it is easier to coordinate with them. Bob asked if this pipeline has a job at the end of the tunnel. The answer is that this is career training, and we are at about 80% job placement. The job connection center tracks our grads. John Q. said there is an articulation agreement between APS and UNM too. We will be marketing to other high schools besides Charters.

The CNM ARDR program has been working with the CNM School of Communications, Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS), and with UNM to create a 2+2 Pre-Architecture program. John Q. said that UNM software needs to be revamped and aligning with CNM is a big help. He is trying to integrate Revit into the program. The target date for the new degree is fall 2018.

Phyllis said that CNM is looking at revamping the entire ARDR program. We are looking at reducing the credit hours, and making decisions about the software that we will focus on.

IV. Old Business - None

V. New Business - Discussion

Bob Hall asked the group to talk about software use in their offices:

Bob H. – Uses mostly AutoCAD and SketchUp. In a small office, everyone needs to know how to do everything.

Bob F. – Foresees Revit as being the only software in the future, because BIM is so much more useful.

Brandon G. – Sees the CNM graduates as the software experts and UNM grads as designers. He tries to put the two sides together, and has a principal act as a guide for both groups. His office has different software for different jobs: Revit for production and Rhino or Dynamo or Grasshopper for design and rendering. Discussion followed about programming. Amy mentioned that we do have a programming class (Python) in another CNM department and suggested that ARDR could get more involved with that. Brandon agreed this would be a great idea. His office conducts trainings every month. This is a learning profession and education is on-going.

John Q. – Wants to see UNM students become more facile with different types of software and how these programs interact with each other. Many students cannot sketch by hand and this can be a big problem. These students are a lot more comfortable with a computer program.

Chris J. – Thinks CNM grads know a lot about many things and are really valuable employees. He said that CNM is doing a great job training its students. (Applause all around!)

Ron B. - Thinks our M/E/P and Materials and Methods courses are terrific. He said that a lot of grads don't know how a drawing set should be put together. He doesn't want to do a whole lot of red-lining, because this is counter-productive. His office hires CAD techs and then puts them together with an experienced engineer who can tell them what is needed for each project. The data from a project is really important, and engineers are not quite sold on Revit use. He sees contractors that still use AutoCAD because it is easier for them. He can't spend a lot of time training, but thinks CNM ARDR does a good job. His office uses a lot of Excel too. AutoCAD still needs to be taught.

All members agreed that this is not just a job but a career path, and students need to go above and beyond the minimum required in class in order to shine as a prospective employee. Students need to work on some of their soft skills, namely speaking with confidence and speaking correctly to the different people one would encounter in the architecture/construction world. It was noted that New Mexico students have a tendency to be timid, and they need to get over this. A firm handshake speaks worlds about the person too. Tania R. said that the Job Connection Center (JCC) assists students in these skills. The JCC is transitioning its job fairs to become more like networking events, so that students can learn more about their industry instead of just look for a job.

Job shadowing seems to be preferable among the members, because internships are more complicated and present legal and financial elements that not all offices can support. Several of the members are willing to come to CNM classes in order to talk with students about the industry.

VII. The Advisory Committee Feedback Survey was administered to the members.

VI. Adjournment: 11:27 am. Date of next meeting to be decided.