



GIT/SURV Advisory Committee Minutes – Fall 2015

Date: November 11, 2015

Number of Attendees: 30

Called to order: 12:15 pm

Adjourned: 1:40 pm

Chairperson: Theresa Watson

Recorder: Jennifer Woods

Members present from industry: James Combs, Souder Miller; Shirley Baros, Earth Data Analysis Center; Candace Bogart, US Forest Service; David Acosta, Construction Survey Tech; Chuck Cala, High Mesa Consulting Group; Nathan Cruz, Holmans; Don Fox, Geo Shack; Gathen Garcia, Public Service Co. of NM; John Gonzales, Holmans; Kathleen Hawkos, US Forest Service; Andrew Mathis, Running Start Program, Mayor's Office; Christopher Medina, Terra Land Surveys, LLC; Larry Medrano, Precision Surveys, Inc.; Loren Risenhoover, City of Albuquerque; Glen Thurow, Land Links Consulting Services; Gerry Trujillo, NMDOT Geospatial Team; Tony Trujillo, Holmans; Joseph Solomon, High Mesa Consulting Group; Laura Merino, Bohannon Huston; Derek Bohannon, Volo Pervidi, LLC; Tami Wiggins, Blue Skies Consulting; Clay Wygant, Maser Consulting

Members present from CNM: Amy Ballard, Assoc. Dean Applied Technologies; Ron Forstbauer, SURV Instructor; Amanda Glennon, CTE Outreach Manager; Andrew Martinez, Instructional Support Technician; David Ruff, CM Instructor, Faculty Chair; Rick Watson, GIS/GEOG Instructor; Theresa Watson, GIS/GEOG Instructor; Jennifer Woods, Academic Tech Asst.

Next scheduled meeting: To Be Decided

I. Welcome/Introductions: Theresa Watson opened the meeting and introductions were made all around.

II. Minutes: Minutes from the spring meeting approved

III. Reports: None

IV. Old Business

- ✓ Amy talked about the **NMGIC** Pathways Project. A survey was sent out to industry people in order to find out what software is in use, open source, new technologies, and areas of training that are desirable for GIS students. She received 37 responses. Results will be on the **NMGIC** website. The information is mainly for those involved in education. The survey may become a yearly attempt to monitor the GIT/SURV community.
- ✓ **Changes:** Theresa asked about the name change of the CNM program. It has not been changed yet. There have been a few changes in the GIT and SURV programs. **GIT** had some credit hour changes. Some sequencing changes have been made. **SUR** changed in that we added the Surveying Technician Certificate. This helps students to enter the workforce right away instead of going to a four-year college for more training. We have added more advanced training. Hopefully this change will boost more interest in our program and boost enrollment. Tony T. asked if the governing board needed to be involved in approval to changes. A new degree request would go to the governing board, but the changes we are requesting now may not have to go before the board. The surveying certificate also applies to the credits needed for the degree program. When a student aims toward a degree, they can earn a certificate along the way.
- ✓ Chuck asked if it is feasible for a student to be enrolled full time and take on an internship. Ron said that it can be problematic because of class scheduling. Out of the ten upper level students he has now, four are working as surveyors.
- ✓ Amy added that built into the new certificate, is space for special topics courses. These are designed to allow for continuing education for existing surveyors as well as the community. Professional Development Hours have not yet been discussed.

V. New Business

- ✓ Ron talked about the need for the industry to provide more internships for students. Related to this, Tony T. thinks there is a disconnect at APS with the career counselors. They do not know what GIS and Surveying really entail, and cannot talk well with students. We need to engage more HS students to come to CNM. The Running Start Program is a way to get more internships going. (More on that later in the meeting.)
- ✓ David A. asked if CNM would partner with NMSU with distance learning classes. Amy said there is a big push to get more DL classes going, but it is challenging because we have only two instructors who could design these classes and they already have their hands full. Our two-year degree will transfer directly to NMSU, but not to UNM. Discussion followed about how all schools in the state should work together for the good of the industry and NM economy.
- ✓ Chuck said that the NCEES Board of Licensure (BOL) has never done a study to evaluate what the future of the profession might be, since so few people apply for licenses now. Glen added that this body has found that the lack of new licensed surveyors is a nationwide problem. The council created the *Future of Surveying Taskforce* which is tasked with addressing the issue of the falling numbers of applicants. In 2014, nationwide, there were 775 applicants. That number is dropping. One thing the Taskforce is doing is identifying programs of distinction, mostly for four-year programs. Jim C. said that surveying programs need to be more widely available.
- ✓ Ron said there is now a NM Professional Surveyors (NMPS) student chapter.
- ✓ The National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) Conference will be in mid-March. They hold a competition for students, and for 2016, we have a team of six, with three going to the competition. Ron said there are ten upper level students in surveying and 3 or 4 want to go on to NMSU, including the three who are working now. In the intro class, there are 5 or 6 students who would like to go on.
- ✓ Ron asked about the Survey program goals for the next five years. How is CNM doing? :
 - Chris M. would like to see a copy of the curriculum. Ron will send.
 - Surveying Math is on-line now. What other courses could be on-line? Land Info Systems is on-line now but will be beefed up soon. Should we do an Ethics course on line?
 - Don F. said that this profession is now technology driven, with integration of BIM, project management, construction management, cloud-based management. Surveying can lead a student to forensics, agriculture, and down many other avenues, such as monitoring mining sites, landslide areas, bridges, DOT, etc.
 - Theresa asked about the GIS side: Is there a need for people who are capable of working on a project from beginning to end? The members thought that it is important to be able to have project management skills. Contractors need a four-year degree, and see a project all the way through. The industry needs good problem solvers and people who have wide experience with software and tools, or at least be willing to dive in and learn a new skill. Clay W. thinks CNM does a great job.
- ✓ Rick W. talked about the two new UAS classes, one of which is dual credit in the spring term, as part of the Running Start Program. A second course later in the term will be offered too. The course material relates to film, surveying, construction management, among other things.
- ✓ Andrew with the Running Start Program said that the program targets juniors and seniors. It offers internships. The program covers all of central NM.
- ✓ Amanda G. works with the Mayor's office for CTE outreach. All college and career counselors receive information about programs through the Running Start Program. HS seniors are being encouraged to sign up at CNM.
- ✓ Candace remarked that the GIS and Surveying programs relate to conservation and environmental issues, and felt we should target people interested in those fields.
- ✓ In addition to conventional surveying operations, the surveying community expressed their need for our students to be trained in the use of total stations, robotic total stations, network/rover GPS and LiDAR.

VI. Adjournment 1:40 pm After the meeting, the members were given the opportunity to check out CNM's new fixed wing and multi-rotor equipment that will be used for the UAS class.