

OSU Boone Pickens School of Geology Advisory Board Annual Meeting Minutes

Saturday, April 13, 2024, 9:00 am CT

**Sue & Mike Gaskins Synergy Room, Noble Research Center, Stillwater, OK and via
Teleconference [https://okstate-
edu.zoom.us/j/95165640425?pwd=c2ZzMVISN0s3TzhiY1k0K1pSSE9YUT09](https://okstate-
edu.zoom.us/j/95165640425?pwd=c2ZzMVISN0s3TzhiY1k0K1pSSE9YUT09)**

Attendance: Mike Gaskins, *Dr. Todd Halihan, Lawrence Walker, Patty Walker, Barrett Cieutat, Kristie Ferguson, Mike Kuykendall, Bart Gaskill, John Brett, *Nick Colburn, *Dr. Jack Pashin, *Dr. Daniel Lao Davila, Lanny Holman, Gary Ford, *Dr. Mary Heilman, *Dr. Tracy Quan, *Dr. Camelia Knapp, Dr. Jay Gregg, *Dr. Jim Puckette, Mike Thornhill, *Blake Kirby, *Dr. Yipeng Zhang, Rebecca Hillman, *Dr. Jim Knapp, Rick Fritz, Dr. Andrew Katumwehe, Kelsey Bufford, and Rick Ely

*Member of OSU Faculty or Staff

Call to order: Mike Gaskins

Approval of minutes from previous meeting: Rebecca Hillman

Introductions: All

Remarks by Interim Dean OSU College of Arts and Sciences (CAS): Dr. Keith Garbutt

- Note: Dr. Keith Garbutt was not in attendance, so Camelia gave CAS updates
- Regards from Dr. Camelia Knapp, Associate Dean of Research:
 - New strategic plan working groups have been created to help implement the plan
 - New CAS strategic plan on website
 - New CAS Dean has been selected and will start in the Fall

BPSoG Report of the Head of the School: Dr. Todd Halihan

- GeoVista Newsletter was released Spring 2024
- Faculty update: two faculty members are leaving at the end of the school year (Dr. Ismail and Dr. Puckette); Dr. Yipeng Zhang has started this year (hydrogeology numerical modeling)
- Faculty searches:
 - Assistant Professor - Energy Transition Geoscience: Dr. Xiaofeng Chen, Ph.D. OU, Petrophysics

- Assistant Professor – Near Surface Geophysics: Dr. Andrew Gase, Ph.D. UT Austin, Seismology
- Teaching Assistant Professor – Online Teaching: Trenity Ford – soon to defend OSU, Paleontology
- Searches for next year will focus on replacing Dr. Puckette and finding a new Department Head
- Staff Updates: Sheri Orr will not be the undergraduate academic advisor anymore due to rearranging of advisors at the university level, Blake Kirby has started as a new geochemistry laboratory technician
- Student Organizations: doing well, very active, key focus of organizations has been bringing employers in to talk to students
 - Active student organizations:
 - OSU Geological Society (OSUGS, undergraduate focus)
 - American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG)
 - Society for Exploration Geophysicists (SEG)
 - Association for Women Geoscientists (AWG)
 - Geology Graduate Student Association (GGSA)
 - American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG)
 - Cowboy Energy
- Field Camp 75th Anniversary and Retirement of Dr. Jim Puckette
 - June 7-9, 2024
 - About 80 guests have registered already
 - [75th Anniversary and Dr. Jim Puckette's Retirement | Oklahoma State University \(okstate.edu\)](https://okstate.edu/75th-anniversary-and-dr-jim-puckette-retirement)
- Outreach:
 - GEO-REx – high school resident academic camp, free for the students, July 9-12, Dr. Tracy Quan is the lead contact for this camp
 - Starting a second camp this year that will be focused on more advanced research, contact Dr. Riedinger

- Various outreach programs are leading to freshman majors
- Goal of having a fund set up for outreach so that the school does not have to keep asking for \$10,000 each year and can use PhilantroPete for other projects
- Awesome Aquifer – a digital outreach program led by Dr. Caitlin Barnes that gives 5th to 8th grade students an exposure to a career in geology
- Fundraising Priorities
 - Field camp
 - Summer camp
 - Geology truck
 - Student lounge
 - Facilities maintenance
 - Faculty and staff development
 - Post-doctoral fellowship
- Curriculum
 - 3 B.S. tracks (Geology, Geophysics, Environmental Geoscience)
 - School is coming up with new resources to better communicate to students the requirements of each option
- Advising
 - Need to communicate with new freshmen advisors on what geology is and how to sell it to students
 - Trails Program (transdisciplinary minors) will include geology program across several trails
 - School might reach out with requests for alumni mentoring
- Student Recruitment
 - School is hoping to have a committee of alums to look at recruiting rules and give advice
- Short Courses/Workshops

- School is getting a lot of offers to host workshops but is having issues managing/scheduling them. Could use alumni help, specifically, the professional development committee
- Banquet 2025 Choices
 - ConocoPhillips Alumni Center
 - Saturday, March 8th
 - Sunday, April 27th
 - Wes Watkins
 - Saturday, April 5th

Report of the OSU Foundation: Nick Colburn

- FY24 Year-in-Review: \$708,845 from 179 donors from 15 states
- Scholarships: 48 total, 33 are endowed, changed policies to make scholarship criteria less restrictive, one new endowed scholarship coming in 2025
- Field Camp Fundraising:
 - Foundation is willing to aid in marketing, corporate relations, and prospect development
 - Board of Regents will need to improve any naming rights (for external spaces/facilities)
- T. Boone Pickens Foundation Giving to Geology: \$3,657,210 divided in two installments in FY25 and FY26
 - School will reanalyze budget to determine how much if any of this money should be routed to Field Camp improvements

Advisory Board Report of the Chair: Mike Gaskins

- Brought back the Advisory Board Retreat in Fall 2023
- Looking for a new Professional Development Committee Chair
- Field camp fundraising has been a major focus for 2023-2024

Committee Reports

- **Academic Development: Lawrence Walker**

- Important to support Faculty by compiling databases, instrumentation, equipment, teaching materials, examples, and mentoring
- Looking out for more examples of alumni and faculty working together (i.e. research articles)
- Petrel workshop led by Lawrence in March
- **Capital Development: Mike Gaskins**
 - NNTR
- **Communications: Rick Ely**
 - Working on updating alumni contacts
- **Honors and Awards: Rebecca Hillman**
 - Recognizing Dr. Estella Atekwana at the banquet
 - Kelsey Bufford will present the award
- **Nominating: Patty Walker**
 - NNTR
- **Professional Relationships: Jake Jones**
 - Will be looking for a new head for this committee
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Kelsey Bufford**
 - OSU has rebranded DEI program to Division of Access and Community Impact
 - Suggested we create channels for alumni to interact with students
 - Observations of why some alumni are not joining the Board:
 - Lack of representation among gender, race, age, and geological disciplines
 - Students are not sure how the Board can really help them, they would like more resources, mentorship, they sometimes view their alumni interactions as transactional
 - Interdisciplinary collaboration is key
 - Board must remember that our main objective is to serve the students

- **Past Chairs: Patty Walker**

- NNTR

Ad hoc Committees

- **Strategic Plan: Kristie Ferguson & Dr. Jack Pashin**

- Key identified goals
 - Improve student recruitment to increase undergraduate and graduate enrollment
 - Ensure school is staffed, equipped, and funded
 - Improve collaborations and seek stakeholder input
 - Increase visibility and outreach

- **Field Camp: Dr. Brandon Spencer**

- Revised estimate: \$3.34 M
- Currently one of the largest expenses of camp is managing water supply and sewage
- GH2 is the architect firm
- Will be a major fundraising campaign
 - Suggest having meetings with companies who could aid in funding
 - Give them a range of sponsorship opportunities
- Construction will not interfere with camp activities, we will still be able to hold camp during construction
- Goal is to raise all funds needed at once so construction can be in a single phase, another option would be to raise money to cover the kitchen cost first, construct it while getting more funds

- **Banquet: Barrett Cieutat**

- Recommend keeping banquet committee next year
- Can focus on sponsorship more next year

New Business

Election of New Officers: Mike Gaskins

- Chair Elect – John Brett
- Secretary – Jake Jones
- Director-at-Large – Rebecca Hillman

New Board Member Nominations: Mike Gaskins

- Dennis Logan, c.o. 1960, reinstated

Comments from incoming Chair: Mike Kuykendall

Meeting adjournment: Mike Gaskins