Friday, September 12, 2014

Attendance: Lynnette Hoerner (RRCC), Barbra Maher (RRCC), Matt Semak (UNC), Cynthia Galovich (UNC), Aaron Brown (MSUD), Victor Andersen (CCA), Iain Probert (SF), Jude DePalma (CSU-Pueblo), Bill Hardwick (PCC), Joel Thompson (CCD), Steffanie Peterson (CCD), Angel Abbud-Madrid (CSM), Suzanne Taylor (WSCU), Willie Daniels (Shade of Blue), Steve Tragesser (UCCS), Liz Coelho (PPCC), Bob Walch (UNC), Charlie Hakes (FLC), Azer Yalin (CSU), George Sellman (ASU), Karl Castleton (CMU), Brian Sanders (CU), Chris Koehler (CU), Bernadette Garcia (COSGC), UNC Students - Anthony Saccomanno, Caitlin, Donovan Anderson, Amber Bekkali, Graham Stringert, JJ Peek.

★ COSGC Affiliate updates

**ACTION:** Send link about NASA's CubeSat Launch Initiative to all affiliates.

★ Introduction and welcome - new CCCE partners; Red Rocks Community College & Otero Junior College

★ Short presentation about Shades of Blue programs and expansion.

DINNER PRESENTATIONS:

★ COSGC Undergraduate Space Research Symposium
★ 9th Annual Colorado Robotics Challenge
★ 2014-2015 DemoSat (Balloon Payload) Program
★ RockSat C & X (Sounding rocket payload) Programs

Saturday, September 14, 2014

★ Final affiliate update.

**ACTION:** COSGC affiliates should become familiar with liability policies at their home institutions

**ACTION:** Berna will check with CU Office of Contracts and Grants to understand if there are any stipulations about grant liability when students/faculty/staff get hurt during COSGC sanctioned/paid-for event(s).

★ Colorado program updates.

★ Review of new Logo versions.
SUGGESTIONS:
★ Number of stars = the number of COSGC affiliates.
★ Moon orientation not accurate. Fix so it is astronomically correct.
★ Any logo with only COSGC acronym not sufficient. Need full name spelled out to be meaningful.
★ Is there any way to incorporate the NASA logo? NO. NASA does not allow the use of the NASA logo in that manner (incorporated into other logos).
★ It would be cool to incorporate the Colorado state flag!

★ National program updates.

★ Future funding discussion.
   (Synopsis of presentation: Current 5-year award ends 5/18/15. No RFP in place for next 5-year award. Must complete 5-year evaluation before NASA can release the next 5-year RFP. Expect to receive an RFP for a “bridge grant” that will cover Space Grant programs between end of current 5-year award and start of next 5-year award. Expected that the “bridge” will be for less base funding than in previous years AND will include a 20% tax by NASA Education. Expect a 12-30% cut across the board for all funding for the COSGC program. We have to work as a group to figure out how to continue to move forward and provide high quality student programs across the state.)

Funding Discussion:
★ It seems like a good idea to “recall” funds that are not being spent at affiliate institutions and re-distribute them to affiliate programs that could use more funds.
★ We need to approach industry as collaborators for space hardware projects.
   ★ Students can build payloads that fly industry hardware/research if industry provides funds to support students and effort.
   ★ CU does this - in fact, there are not HASP or RocketSat payloads unless students can find industry partners to pay hardware, hourly wages, and even travel.
Q: In cases like this, do students contact companies, or is that something faculty, or even COSGC leadership does?
A: All of the above. If students have contacts, they can be the initial contact. Likewise with faculty or COSGC leadership. Chris is happy to work with COSGC affiliates to help facilitate communication with possible industry collaborators. If students do make contact, faculty/academic mentors should join the conversation as soon as possible to ensure things proceed appropriately.

★ What about approaching institutional development offices (foundations)? The could help “beat the bushes” to talk up the COSGC programs and figure out the best approaches to asking for support.
   ★ This approach would be local (funds for single campus Space Grant program) as opposed to funds for the statewide program.
★ COSGC needs to approach 3 or 4 large companies in Colorado aerospace industry as a concerted effort to get major support to carry the consortium through the “bridge” years and beyond.
★ This should show-off the strength of COSGC’s statewide network. Collectively making the request will support this.

★ Small, local companies can provide small project ideas and support, while control of the project stays within the Space Grant program on campus.
★ Alumni would be a great “in” with small, local companies.

★ COSGC needs to approach the State of Colorado budget committee. There may be carryover funds that COSGC could access since it is an established, statewide, higher education program.

★ We should not forget out-of-state companies like SpaceX and Bigelow Aerospace. They could benefit from project collaborations and would be interested in accessing talented graduates.

★ COSGC needs to do better marketing. We need to make sure that the community knows how well our alumni are doing and the great things they’re involved with that Space Grant enabled.
★ We need to share stories of individuals.
★ We should target not only Space Grant alumni, but institutional alumni in general. Most are very excited when they hear about amazing things taking place at their alma maters.
★ Getting the message out to “movers and shakers” in the Colorado aerospace industry is important. Organizations like the Colorado Space Coalition would be the perfect place to begin. All major space industry and state government and educational institutions are all at the same table. This would immediately get the message out to a large number of all the right people.
★ We should also approach Colorado’s Joint Budget Committee and the Lt. Governor’s office so they know what’s up with the great things COSGC does and the financial situation we are in.
★ Would be helpful to have a concise white paper that could easily be disseminated to industry.
★ What about Colorado Space Business Roundtable?
★ We should have stickers or buttons to give away at events and to have a general presence as wide as possible.
★ We could have a “mention Space Grant to someone” moment of awareness day where we ask alumni to bring up Space Grant to people they work with or otherwise network with.
★ We should engage a graphic arts department to create promotional materials that could be disseminated.
ACTION: A subcommittee will be established to organize a coordinated approach to industry and create a plan for moving forward.

Q: Wasn’t COSGC longitudinal tracking students 5 or 6 years ago? It would be great if there were a database where affiliate directors (especially new ones) could access contact information for alumni from years back.
A: We report students “first step” away from the Space Grant program, but do not track them after that. There is no database. COSGC institutions should facilitate this on their own.

★ CoAMP is a good organization to approach for small bits of funding to support specific projects. They have funded small things at TSJC (Cindy can provide more information as needed). [Colorado Alliance for Minority Participation - coamp.colostate.edu]

ACTION: Send link for COSGC Facebook to ADs.

★ COSGC should have a LinkedIn account. This would help keep track of alumni and might help grow industry partnerships.
  ★ COSGC does have a LinkedIn account
  ★ Might be best to establish the COSGC account as an alumni associate group

ACTION: Brian will work with some affiliates who regularly use the online tool in order to use it more effectively.

★ PCC would be willing to “give back” some COURSE funds that are currently unspent if they could be better used by other institutions.
  ★ Chris would prefer that the funds be spent on PCC students if at all possible.
    Will work with Bill to figure this out.

★ We should consider corporate sponsorship of the Colorado Robotics Challenge.
  ★ Would bring in money.
  ★ Would provide marketing.
  ★ Perhaps we could offer alumni naming rights to single robots.

★ HP has a matching education grant. There might be other companies (not necessarily aerospace or robotics companies) with which we have personal connections we could approach for support. Many support STEM initiatives.

★ Perhaps it’s about time to approach CCHE again.

★ Work with foundations and development offices to look for funding sources with goals to specifically engage underrepresented students in addition to project support.
Would be worthwhile to network at community gatherings like MakerFaire in Colorado Springs where there are groups of local companies participating.

It would be worthwhile to recruit other faculty members on campus to get more voices talking about the great work Space Grant does with students.

Instead of sending information to ALL faculty members, which could be ignored, make a hand-picked distribution list that includes a few very specific folks who might be most amenable to the message.

When in collaboration with other faculty members need to explore alternative funding opportunities such as SBIR/STTR or other grant opportunities, not just rely on COSGC funds for project.

Making Space Grant programs more inclusive (diverse) would make the programs more attractive to industry and academic partners who are also working to recruit a more diverse workforce.

COSGC seems to be Colorado’s “best kept secret”. Perhaps we should consider a name change - something that better explains who we are and what we do.

Incorporate words that reflect our strengths:

Education
Students

World Space Week - perhaps we could coordinate COSGC events to be an active participant in WSW.

When we are out in the community facilitating events or helping to facilitate activities, we need to make sure everyone knows it’s Space Grant in action.

Have we ever considered Kickstarter?

Approach community members - not necessarily alumni or aerospace folks, but mid-career people who are STEM minded. They should know about COSGC and should also be considered possible sponsors/mentors.

Utilize farmers markets and other similar community gatherings to do grassroots efforts to recruit students, get community buy-in, get the Space Grant name out there, and perhaps attract sponsors.

The State of Colorado is getting ready to showcase aerospace efforts in a campaign. Might be a good time to get on board with the effort.

Administration at COSGC institutions like to brag about the amazing things students are doing in Space Grant programs. We should have honest conversations with our administrations about what we need if they want programs to continue.
It would be great marketing to get Space Grant on the main page of all COSGC institutions’ websites.

Communication with students so they know it’s good to spread the word.

Subcommittee Volunteers:
- Mark Korbitch (OJC)
- Azer Yalin (CSU)
- Chris Koehler (Director)
- Liz Coelho (PPCC)
- Warren MacEvoy (CMU)
- Iain Probert (SF)
- Angel Abbud-Madrid (CSM)

ACTION: Chris will be in contact about setting up a telecon with the subcommittee.

Presentation of COURSE Year 1 accomplishments and Year 2 plans.

ACTION: Encourage students to apply! Website updated and good to go
ACTION: Affiliates should check their dedicated pages on the COURSE website and let Berna know whether they want any changes.
ACTION: May change November due date to early spring date. Will notify membership when decision has been made.

Presentation of new Colorado Community College Expansion program.

ACTION: Berna will organize a “kick-off” telecon closer to program start date (October 1)
ACTION: Berna will disseminate information on how students apply for internships/scholarships/RockOn workshop opportunities once things are up and ready to go.
ACTION: We are still working on bring Arapaho Community College on board.

DISCUSSION ABOUT INCLUSIVITY EFFORTS

- What has worked to recruit and engage a more diverse student population?
- Personal invitations
- 3D Printing Course
- Providing short workshops that provide meaningful content to student societies (Society of Women Engineers, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, National Society of Black Engineers, etc.) Recruiting participating students into projects.

ACTION: Chris will send workshop slides and kit info to affiliates.
ACTION: We will schedule telecons to talk about successes and frustrations to check-in with everyone about their approaches and how things are going.

Next meeting: Tentatively at CSU (Fort Collins)

ACTION: Azer will find out whether there is a conflict with the date in 2015.