

Chemical and Biomedical Engineering Industry Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2026

In attendance:

IAB members: Corby, Marcus, Dan, Jason, Jerry, Len Schweitzer, Christy, Michael

Faculty: Katie Oakey, Ian Hammontree, Paige Brimley, Juhyeon Ahn, Hoon Choi, John Oakey, Vladimir Alvarado, David Bagley

Previous Meeting Minutes Approved

Agenda approved as Amended

Outreach/ Recruiting – Paige Brimley

1. Both Ian and Paige have their teaching load adjusted so they can focus on marketing and outreach.
2. Using hands-on modules for K-14 with field trips
3. Visit K-12 schools in the region
4. Assist with events at the College and University levels such as competitions, New Student Days (IAB was able to witness this event) and Discovery Days
5. Focus on recruitment for undergraduate recruitment
 - Continue to develop hands on modules
 - Scaling classroom visits
 - Participation in big events through UW
6. Current focus is on Northern Colorado and Wyoming

NEED

1. Funding support to be able to purchase materials for modules, in addition to that coming from the department
2. Board members to visit classes
3. Ideas to build modules to tie in industry needs

Board Suggestions:

1. Can we have high school students intern/volunteer over the summer? Paige and Ian are going to research this idea.
2. Broaden focus to include Nebraska
3. Sponsoring an award for regional competitions

Presentation by – Hoon Choi

Discussing research on rare earth materials and separation. Important research for USA as currently most rare earth materials are coming from China currently.

Department Head Update – Vladimir Alvarado

Personnel updates

1. New instructors: Hoon Choi and Judd Larson (joining officially in Fall 2026), Faculty search with SER and IANB Faculty search with School of Computing (choice is pending may not be split with CBE),
2. Retiring: David Bagley supported for Emeritus status, approval pending Board of Trustees

Recruitment

1. Randy Pfeifer and students are at the AIChE regional conference in Utah and have a table for recruitment
2. Enrollment has been declining since the announcement that the program was being eliminated. However, it seems to be plateauing, and we should start to see some increase soon
3. Agreement with NAIT in Canada. We are proposing they complete two (2) years in Canada and the 2-3 years at UW to complete their degree in Chemical Engineering.
4. See if CBE can get involved with the Summer Programs offered for each students and teachers.
5. Using endowed chair funds for recruiting needs to be sustained over several years.

MSE Minor

1. Decided to wait before rolling this out until we have an increase in recruitment.
2. CBE cannot implement any curriculum changes until after ABET review in 2027

Board Suggestion: Work with Chemistry about a Minor

Continued Outreach/Recruiting – Ian Hammontree

1. We have a lot of ideas on improving programs, but we would like to know what gaps are showing up in industry that we should focus on.

Board Suggestion: Process Control is an area that is lacking. Maybe a Process Control Certificate with 9-12 Credits could be even offered online.

2. Exit survey with Department focused questions: how would we implement, what format, and what information do we want to gather
3. Get Industry to tell students what skills they need. Maybe a short video that we can share with students and post online.

Board Suggestion: focus on Instagram and Tik Tok to reach the targeted audience. YouTube is another great platform that many generations are utilizing to learn new tasks.

Next Meeting either October 2 or 9th. Maybe have someone from SER to talk about their focus and programming. Determine what the skills and background that we are looking for in new IAB members for those positions that we need to replace. Need to determine a Vice Chair.

TASK: Create IAB TEAMS Channel.