March 2011 Geology Advisory Board Recommendations

1) Increased communication necessary between faculty and students. Board recommends students vote on an undergrad and graduate representative that bring forward student concerns/questions during faculty meetings.

2) Obvious need for a lab tech to run/maintain new equipment. Board recommends using F&A funds for first year, until long-term funding can be secured. Board likes idea of creating new position that can serve as equipment manager and senior lecturer.

3) Board discussed Benchmark Fund, and recommends future utilization should continue to focus on graduate program

4) Board/students benefited from increased interaction via career forum and evening social at The Factory. Board recommends repeating this event next year, for those that can arrive a little early.

5) Geology Club needs more support and guidance. Board recommends co-leaders (undergrad and graduate), and active faculty sponsor. Board also recommends that they purchase for sale USU Geology trinkets such as t-shirts, lanyards, tote-bag (for Craig), etc... Al Jones generously donated to the club to enhance start-up funds.

6) Student Comments/Concerns:

   a. Could field camp be offered every year? Fund instructors by accepting students from other schools (have separate fee schedules)? Taught by instructor?

   b. Undergrad students expressed some frustration with Field Camp. They would like more flexible yearly options for participating in field camp whether it be through USU of another institution. They expressed some concern with obtaining prerequisite courses (Field Methods, etc...) if they want to go to another institution’s field camp

   c. Can we increase industry recruiting in the department? Strongly encourage students to attend AAPG, RM Rendezvous, etc.

   d. Update webpage more frequently.

   e. Graduate students would like to be listed on the departmental website, and have the option to link to personal/research pages
f. Have an alumni site on webpage for uploading photos of past field trips (for my review).

g. Have a Geology Club section on webpage.

h. Have an Advisory Board page on department newsletter. (They could make the pitch for donations.)

i. Have a server so students can exchange data files, etc.

j. Have a computer lab with specialized software (e.g. Petra)

k. More departmental computers need GIS capabilities

l. Computer lab dedicated exclusively to Geology department for purposes of teaching, group projects, and student research

m. Have grad and undergrad student representatives at faculty meetings.

n. Students want a lounge. (Current one is a dungeon, always locked.)

o. GEO 1110 and GEO 3200 labs need improvement.

p. More flexibility with GIS course offerings, maybe even a GIS course within the Department that would be more applicable to geology-related GIS projects.

q. Students would like a common space/lounge to relax, eat, etc... (they claim room in basement is always locked and a little creepy)

r. Students indicated that the Rock Lab is disheveled, and recommended that it be organized and updated.

s. Want USU Geo merchandise (lanyards, mugs, t-shirts) for sale and as gifts for donors.