



U L M S O C M
INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL
ULM SOCM IAC Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2026

The Spring meeting of the ULM SOCM Industry Advisory Council (IAC) took place September 25th of 2026 at ULM.

IAC Members Attending

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Joshua Kidd | 11. Houston Carley | 21. Keith Roberts |
| 2. Nick Spillers | 12. Todd Roberts | 22. Chandler Neal |
| 3. Donovan Stewart | 13. Steve Traxler | 23. Tommy Lee |
| 4. JT Allums | 14. William Ray | 24. Henry Heier |
| 5. Andrew Barber | 15. Khole Beaudion | 25. Gary Hollander |
| 6. David Dorsch | 16. Jerry Fields | 26. Jacob Ramsey |
| 7. Addison McDougle | 17. Ty Barnhill | 27. Dalton Gray |
| 8. George Kragle | 18. John Franklin | 28. James Thiels |
| 9. Larry Favalora | 19. Charles Poole | 29. Lizzy Moon |
| 10. Jordan Alford | 20. David Dumas | 30. Jerry Brasher |

Honorary Members: Randy Alford, Ken Naquin, Shannon Knighten, Evan Roark

ULM: Dr Clint Martin, Greg Smith, Dr. Castille, Adam Traweek, Marshall Hill

Welcome/ Call to order- Josh Kidd & Donovan Stewart

- Josh Kidd, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 am, on September 26, 2026, with 30 members present at ULM SOCM Rm 100.
- Donovan Stewart has transitioned into President and Nick Spillers will remain as Secretary/Treasurer.
- IAC presented a thank you to J. Kidd for his years of service on the IAC.
- Self-introduction of attendees.

Moment with the Director and Q&A - Dr. Clint Martin

- Fall 2026 enrollment – Total after recent transfers is 231 up from Fall 2025 enrollment of 196.
 - o Fall 2026 freshmen enrollment at 86 which is up from Fall 2025 enrollment of 56.
- Men's restroom remodel complete – punch list pending
- Practices lab construction ongoing; ready by Fall 2027
 - o Planning to incorporate onsite construction into curriculum
 - Masonry day DRP Masonry scheduled for end of October
- Re-accreditation efforts ongoing
 - o Initial reports submitted, revisions ongoing
 - o Preparing for site visit Oct 11-14
 - o Donovan will serve as Industry Observer



- Career Fair held 9/24/26 – 43 companies represented and interviewing students
- Upcoming CMSA Christmas Toy Drive – Details forthcoming
 - o Last year's drive as able to help over 1200 kids
 - o Would like support from the IAC
 - o Students will set up drop boxes on campus
 - o Students are working on QR codes to make it easier for monetary donations
- DRP Masonry Day
 - o October 26, 2026
 - o Students compete in laying brick
 - o Plan to be an annual event
- Concrete Demonstration Day
 - o Additional part of efforts to add hands-on experiences
 - o Tentatively planned for Nov 9
 - o Students will learn from industry partners about concrete. They will be able to go to local batch plant and mix cement
- Technology
 - o Demonstrations of technology are better than buying technology due to the constant state of change
 - o Drone demonstration held in spring
 - o Students want to learn more about robotics. The faculty has arranged to have Si Tech to come on site and speak to the students to understand how they use that technology. They will have some small demonstrations performed.
- Updating curriculum
- Data Center employing graduates and students
- Requesting curriculum update ideas for emerging technology
- Room 127 computer updates happening soon
- New Crappie Tournament this Fall at Lake D'Arbonne, 10/16/26 & 10/17/26 (Wreck Tech weekend)
- Mardi Gras parade planning ongoing / throws purchased
 - o Seeing people around wearing throws. Return on investment.
- SOCM tent in Football endzone
 - o 50 tickets available for Homecoming Game
- 60th Anniversary planning appreciative
- SOCM banners / signs at local HS
 - o OCS
 - o St Fred
 - o West Monroe
 - o Sterlington
- Unsure about increase in staff being allowed by University
- Interested in pursuing student competitions, need industry reps to help



- Honored to attend Natl AGC Convention and appreciate recognition
- Great feedback from interviewing contractors
- Mostly GC, but some specialty
- **Q&A with IAC**
 - o AB discussed need for more permanent staff due to growth of the program.
 - 1/3 of classes being taught by 4 adjuncts / 7 sections
 - o DD discussed national advertisement efforts. No current efforts.
 - o DD discussed feedback from companies regarding new hires. Currently doing surveys to gather accurate feedback. Preliminary results show improvement related to project controls need. Dr. Martin addressing
 - o DD discussed rankings of SOCM. ACCE does not support rankings.
 - o D Dumas discussed average salaries of new graduates - \$84,000

LAGC – Randy Alford

- Workforce development starting in Shreveport to spread statewide
 - o Not a career fair, pairing with Junior Achievement for increased access to schools.
 - o Focusing on high school students will be working towards 8th graders
 - o 2-day event
 - o Career exploration is not a career fair
 - o Will include assessment test (construction, healthcare, first responder)
 - o Will include parental involvement
 - o Partnered with NCCER
- Construction Career options on LAGC webpage includes link to ULM SOCM
 - o Students will have be able to upload their resumes on the website
 - o Members will be able to post job opening
- Sunday 9/27 on KARD after football – LAGC showcase on La Hometown Network
- Looking for college students' help to provide visual aids to present at the Career Exploration day

CETF Check Presentation

- Dr Castille
 - o So proud of 30% growth in SOCM
 - o Thank you IAC
 - o Thank you CETF
- Michael McDuff Chair / Ken Naquin / Secy – CETF & Lic Board
 - o \$229,000 for 2026 - +\$5mil over last several years
 - Distributed based upon pro rata formula which includes previous year graduating numbers
 - o Recognize positive energy & enthusiasm of Dr. Castille about ULM
 - o Over \$35 mil given statewide to universities, comm colleges, and high schools



- Comments from Arturo Rodriguez & Clint Martin

Moment with the President - Dr. Castille

- Congrats on 60 years
- Balanced budget this year thru grinding, commitment, sacrifices
- Down 100 FTE
- Proud of SOCM faculty and staff pushing thru
- Focused on SOCM
- 5 new degrees –
 - including disaster mgmt. (Only undergraduate program in the state)
- ULM & SOCM must stay relevant and current
- Enrollment experienced dip due to dual enrollment and international decreases
- SOCM, Nursing, Pharmacy had enrollment increases
- State giving some additional money to colleges
- Partnering with other universities to help boost enrollment

Moment with the Provost - Dr. McEacharn

- Enjoying working with Dr Castille
- Hard decisions made getting back on budget, but enjoying the task
- Partner or perish attitude with other schools

Moment with the Dean - Dr. Rodriguez

- Difficult but disciplined budget process
- Good news to replace retiring faculty
- Funding faculty conferences
- College down 126 students mostly from Computer Science, mostly international students
 - Don't have a target number that he wants to reach. However, understands that enrollment needs to increase
- SOCM is the 3rd largest program in college without an online component
- Doubtful that SOCM would have many online offerings due to the hands-on component
- Impressed with how engaged the Alumni and students are in the program

J Harris Griffith Scholarship Endowment

- In memory of Harris Griffith 2022 graduate of SOCM passed away Nov 2025
- Layton Construction Present
- Dr McEacharn
- Dr Castille
- Megan Griffith (sister)

Financial Report- Nick Spillers

- Reviewed financial report



- o Nick had the reports displayed on the projector as well as printed out copies for all IAC members to review
- Henry \$1000 donation to Mardi Gras float. Challenge all others to donate.
 - o Discussed process of getting funds from foundation for Strategic Plan funding is not a problem as previously discussed

Subcommittee Breakout Helds

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Alumni & Industry – Addison McDougale

- 4/9 golf tourney
- Addl \$5k from AGC to attend national convention will be requested each year through LA AGC
- Add more football banners
- Fall crappie event – annual support
- Discussed general donations fund to avoid donation fatigue
- Regional meet & greets discussed
- **No motions**

Enhancement – Jacob Ramsey

- No major concerns related to facilities
- Students requested more exposure to software
- 2 printers not working / paper & supplies needed
 - o CM noted paper being used for non-SOCM activities
- Develop system to distribute paper
- Motion to help with supplies not moved.
- Discussed need for local contractors to give presentations to students
 - o All types of construction
 - o Students would like more presentations to spread throughout the course of the year. Not just at career fair time
- **No motions**

Curriculum & Accreditation – John Franklin

- AI used every day and should be introduced in the curriculum
 - o Would like to begin using AI as Freshman and continue to implement it in course work until graduation
 - o Also understanding that AI can be a good tool if used with integrity
- Robotics are not prevalent yet
- **No motions**



Strategic Planning- Larry Favalora

- Vice President vacancy – JT Allums / David Dorsch
- Henry proposed splitting - Secy / Treasurer to include 4-person executive committee
- Events coordinator – on-staff, consultant, student worker - \$35k desired
- Faculty suite upgrade
 - o New casework, new paint, RR upgrade, door finish, etc.

Executive- Donovan Stewart

- Make spring meeting 1 day in lieu of 2 day and move student dinner back to Fall
 - o Motion by Nick, Motion tabled.

New Business - Upcoming Events & Other Business:

- Todd Roberts- Need Ideas Engaging older alumni
 - o Ground breaker
 - o Email
- Crappie tournament
- ACCE meeting invites to some IAC

MOTIONS BY COMMITTEE

- See below.

Strategic Planning- Larry Favalora

- Motion to table voting of new officers until Spring meeting & allow JT work ex-officio until a vote can be made by Jacob Ramsey, 2nd by Ty, all in favor, none opposed
- Motion to amend strategic plan as presented by Larry, 2nd by David, All in favor, none opposed
 - o Surplus of \$196,030.78 from 2025-2026 Fiscal Year
 - o Reallocating dollars as indicated below:
 1. S1.1 adding \$26K to 2026-2027 budget
 2. S1.3.3 adding \$75K to 2026-2027 budget
 3. S2.3 add \$15k to 2026-2027 budget
 4. S2.9 decrease 2026-2027 budget by \$10k
 5. S3.2 decrease 2027-2028 budget by \$7,719.22 and 2028-2029 budget by \$16,500.00
 6. Create line-item S3.6: Professional Development and add \$6K to 2026-2027 budget to allow staff to attend development courses
 7. Create line-item S3.7: Annually fund Event Coordinator to assist director, faculty, students and IAC and add \$29,000 to 2026-2027 budget
 8. S4.3 decrease 2026-2027 budget by \$1,500, 2027-2028 budget by \$1,500 and 2028-2029 budget by \$1,500
 9. S4.6 Add \$25K to 2026-2027 budget
 10. S4.8 change description to read Accreditation Prep, Financial, IT Consulting Fees and add \$12,750 to 2026-2027 budget, \$13K to 2027-2028 budget, \$13K to 2028-2029 budget



11. I1.3 decrease 2026-2027 budget by \$5,000, 2027-2028 budget by \$5,000 and 2028-2029 budget by \$5,000
12. I2.4 Add \$25K to 2026-2027 budget

No further motions.

Special thanks to Lillian Sims for setting up and coordinating the event

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM 9/25/2026

Respectfully submitted:

Donovan Stewart, IAC President

Signed,

Dr. Clint Martin, Director