

Industry Advisory Board “Best Practices Survey” Summary

As a follow-up to the IAB Best Practices Event in Fort Lauderdale, a survey was sent to all event participants. The survey listed twenty (20) best practices. To avoid biasing the results, no attempt was made to define the best practices. A summary of the results of this survey is provided below.

Total Responses = 25 (not all respondents answered every question).

1. Bylaws

Yes – 16

No – 3

Comments:

UW Stout-Bylaws actively maintained.
This tool is used as a guideline for the "business" conducted by the IAC.
We are currently going through the process of updating our bylaws.

2. Dues

Yes – 9

No – 9

Comments:

We have voluntary dues since the primary purpose if the IAC is not fund raising. We do this to be able to fund things for the program the state does not.
UW Stout- Tiered Dues structure.
Annual recommended contribution.
Some members pay which gives them first look at students for hire
We feel that a time commitment and a passion for the program is sufficient and do not subscribe to a "pay for play" scenario.

3. Development (fund raising)

Yes – 13

No – 6

Comments:

Because the main purpose of IAC's is not fund raising such as other alumni organizations are designed to do our IAC does not have a formal Development plan at this point although we do have a particular construction project - new lab- we are working on for the department.
UW Stout- Endowed Chair active fundraising efforts underway.
One annual dinner.
Both through the voluntary giving of the IAC members as well as supporting the program's development goals.
Considering this activity.

4. Leadership Development (for faculty and students)

Yes – 9

No – 8

Comments:

UW Stout limited due to lack of funding.
--

5. Faculty Internships

Yes – 5

No – 12

Comments:

UW Stout- Limited due to lack of University funding.
We offer faculty short time employment where they are paid for 6 weeks to 2 months during summer break.
On a limited basis.
Our company does provide faculty internships, but not as a function of the IAB.

6. Student Internships (job shadowing)

Yes – 16

No – 1

Comments:

Our IAC recommends student internships but the department does not currently have a formal program of such.
UW Stout- Internships are a graduation requirement.
Only if available from the company.
As part of a larger program.
Students must work for a construction company to graduate but not limited to IAB members.
At a substantial scale.
Not as a function of the IAB.

7. Scholarships

Yes – 9

No – 8

Comments:

UW Stout- Several IAB sponsored Scholarships available to students.
For individual students no but our IAB has funding in budget for students to participate in competitions.
Not as a board but some individuals and companies do provide scholarships.
At a substantial scale.

8. Guest Lecturers

Yes – 15

No – 3

Comments:

Some members of our IAC have been guest lecturers for the department
UW Stout has IAB speakers on campus for program enhancement.
Throughout the program in many classes both undergraduate and graduate.

9. Adjunct Faculty (Course Instructors)

Yes – 10

No – 7

Comments:

We would like to have Adjunct Faculty but the administration is currently not allowing any due to budget and other items.
UW Stout has several Adjunct Faculty.
We did until recent state budget cuts and university budget cuts that cross the board eliminated adjuncts throughout the university.
On a small scale; however, the industry does financially support a fulltime VIP (Visiting Industry Professor) that rotates on a 2 or 3 year basis.

10. Research (funded and non-funded research activities)

Yes – 7

No – 11

Comments:

Currently there are no funded research projects underway by members to the department
UW Stout does not have research as part of construction program (yet)!
Both within the program as well as interdisciplinary research between programs internal and external to the college.

11. Participation in Capstone Course

Yes – 11

No – 4

Comments:

There is a Capstone course but I don't am not sure what this question is asking.
UW Stout has a Capstone course, limited IAB involvement.
We will consider shortly
On a case by case basis. However, industry does participate in the evaluation of the projects at completion.

12. Chair or Faculty Search Committees

Yes – 9

No – 8

Comments:

Our IAC has been asked for their input when the department head was replaced some years ago.
UW Stout IAB has been involved with faculty searches.
Some consultations but no voting.
Both related to the school as well as the college.

13. Meet with the ACCE Visit Team (during the accreditation site visit)

Yes – 18

No – 1

Comments:

UW Stout IAB has met with ACCE team during accreditation site vests.
A select group meets with the ACCE at each visit.

14. Provide "Real World" Projects (for use in courses)

Yes – 17

No – 1

Comments:

UW Stout IAB participates in class room projects bringing in actual jobsite examples.
Especially the final/thesis project which is based on a real project, requiring plans and specs.
Our company does, but not as a function of the IAB.

15. Provide Opportunities for "Site Visits" and "Field Trips"

Yes – 16

No – 2

Comments:

UW Stout IAB coordinates through student construction club to arrange job site visits.
Frequently.
Not as a function of the IAB.

16. Class/Course Reviewers (review syllabus - observe actual class instruction - provide an assessment)

Yes – 12

No – 4

Comments:

Members of our IAC do not have time to review actual classes. We do look over what is being taught and make Recommendations to the department on new items we believe the students should be exposed to. We meet with students and question them, without faculty present, about what they think of the program and how they are doing on job placement.
Both in a macro and micro sense.
Syllabus review.

17. Curriculum Review

Yes – 16

No – 2

Comments:

UW Stout IAB has a curriculum committee which review and suggests program changes such as adding MEP courses to curriculum.

Definitely.

18. Social Events (for students and/or faculty)

Yes – 15

No – 2

Comments:

Our IAC does not host any Social Events for the students or Faculty. However if one of our meetings occurs at the same time of a student event, we will attend. Note due to the location of our University within the state, in is not in a big city, most of the IAC members are from out of town and travel large distances to attend IAC meetings. I fly in the day before the meeting and fly out the day after the meeting. Each meeting is a three day process for me.

UW Stout IAB actively supports student activities and hosts social events for all involved in the program.

On a regular basis including each IAC meeting,

This tool is used as a guideline for the "business" conducted by the IAC.

19. Participation in Career Fairs

Yes – 18

No – 1

Comments:

UW Stout IAB participates in specific Construction Career Fairs twice each year.

Regularly.

20. Post Activities on Dept. Website (bylaws, officers, activities, etc.)

Yes – 5

No – 9

Comments:

UW Stout IAB has bylaws posted and student clubs websites. Working on improving involvement and "maintenance" of websites.

Limited.

Do you have any additional Best Practices that your IAB conducts or do you have any additional comments?

I think it is important to recognize the differences location of the Universities make in what type of programs and levels of interaction their IAC's provide to the departments. Those located in and close to big cities where many of the IAC members live can have programs and events that are not possible at more rural Universities.

UW Stout IAB participates in student internship reports, supports student construction clubs by donating tools, very active in supporting student competition teams.