COMPUTER SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2007
9:00 a.m. Room 407B

Those in attendance:

Vicki Gibson – Acting Dean of Information Technology
Tom Ashby – Department Chair of Computer Science
Kathy Cupp – Professor of Computer Science
Tm Green – Professor of Computer Science
Al Heitkamper – Professor of Computer Science & Cyber/Information Security
Haifeng Ji – Professor of Computer Science
Sara Mathew – Professor of Computer Science
Anita Philipp – Professor of Computer Science
Brett Weber – Professor of Computer Science & Cyber/Information Security
Mary Williams – Professor of Computer Science

Kathleen Patton – Kathleen Patton and Associates, Inc
Robert Eubank

Professor Ashby opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending. He then had everyone introduce themselves.

The packets with the course descriptions and the AAS Degree Programs were provided to everyone.

Professor Ashby had the lead Instructors explain the curriculums, updates and changes for each emphasis.

First, Professor Mathew explained the Computer Programming emphasis. One of the major changes made was the beginning programming course; the language was changed from Pascal to Beginning C++. Besides the basic programming courses we offer Java, Visual Basic, C++ and C#, Oracle and SQL Server. Those courses are including more scripting, which industries require these skills. She also shared that most of the courses are taught online except Java, in which Professor Cupp is looking into its online material.

Professor Green explained the Computer Systems Support emphasis. There is no major change for individual courses, but the actual program title was changed from Microcomputer Specialist to Computer Systems Support.

Professor Philipp talked about Web Design and Development. Two new courses were developed for Advanced Website development. Server-side programming includes PHP & SQL and Client-side programming which includes java script and CSS. Also, Digital Editing (Photoshop) and Secure E-Commerce were added for this emphasis. Another big development in progress is the development of two Certificate of Mastery programs; Web Design and Web Development. These certificates are created for the students who already have degrees, are working for the industry and need to validate their skills.

Professor Weber passed out handouts and explained the Cyber/Information Security emphasis. One change he made was in the CS1103 Intro to Computers and Application as a General Education requirement, which was replaced with Physical Science.

Two new courses; CS2753- Information Systems Assurance and CS2773 - Secure System Administration and Certification are being added as electives to allow the program majors to complete the requirements for two additional Federal Certifications (CNSS4012 & CNSS4013).

On behalf of Professor Ji, Professor Ashby explained our new program, Database emphasis which is still in the process of final approval from the Higher Regents. This program is designed to prepare students for entry-level positions such as database administrator and students will learn the basic fundamentals and tools. Besides Oracle Database, other programming languages such as SQL Server, Java and Visual Basic will be taught in this emphasis.

Professor Ashby reported on the hardware structure changes we have made this year. The biggest change is that the computers in one of the class rooms were replaced with high-end workstations, which include dual processors, plenty of memory and three hard drives. This class room is primarily used for cyber/information security, SQL server, oracle administration and network administration. There are router switches and firewall that could be reconfigured when needed. He also shared with us that the mobile devices are introduced in this semester. PDAs and Pocket PCs are used in his media and gaming classes and he has tried to introduce the appropriate classes to these new mobile technologies.

Professor Ashby also told us that we are experimenting with Windows Vista and Office 2007 and will start teaching it in the fall semester. Also he mentioned that we are looking into going to a high-end, a 64-bit architecture technology for a couple of classes next year, which is still in the budget process.

Professor Williams asked the members for input on current and future trends.

Ms. Patton first mentioned that the change we made to C++ for the beginning programming class was great. She also likes the curriculums for the Computer Support Systems Emphasis very much, and agrees that our curriculums and the selections of programming languages we teach are fit for the real market. She shared with us her thoughts as a consultant; she thinks the necessary skills for this profession are communication skills, project management skills and general business skills as well as all the technical requirements. She thinks that the internship program would beneficial students a lot having chances to see the real market. She also mentioned that research skills are very important in order to create a report.

Professor Williams mentioned that the assignments for the research paper and required business communication classes for the curriculums would help students to develop the necessary skills.

Professor Ashby added that the lack of communication skill is actually one of the common problems for IT specialists. We have focused on making students understand the importance of communication skill.

Mr. Eubanks shared with the group that he had experienced some problems with inexperience and younger generations due to the lack of communication and general business skills. It seems like that many those people do not realize how to act their roles as IT professionals and team players. He also mentioned that writing skills are very important as well. He agrees that research skills are another necessary skill to analyze the data and identify determine problems.

Professor Ashby asked if there was anything new that we needed to be aware of in the market.

Mr. Eubanks mentioned that the objected oriented programs are coming back in the market.

Ms. Patton brought up that, security is one of the major subjects with mobile devices and its related programs are hot topics as well. Especially the security issues on mobile devices.

Professor Green asked what aspect to look for Unix and Linux. And Professor Philipp mentioned that Linux is a requirement course for Web Design and Development emphasis students for Apache server.

Mr. Eubanks told us that Microsoft is dominate, the problem that Unix and Linux has there is no standard choice for industries.

Professor Ashby asked if there were any more suggestions or thoughts from the members and thanked everyone again for participating in the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.