CIS Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

April 18, 2018

6:00 PM A-1228

Adam called the meeting to order at 6:24PM after refreshments and some initial discussion.

1. Introductions

Present: David Klick, Dave Kornfeind, Vickie Klick,Paul Gullman*,* Joanne Kantner, Matt Feuerborn, Adam Larsen, Bill Nicklas

1. Approve [minutes from fall meeting](http://kermit.kish.edu/~dklick/advisory/minutes/MinutesFall2017.pdf)

Dave Kornfeind moved to approve, Paul seconded, all approved

1. Upcoming departmental changes

As of July 1, CIS will not be in Career Technology any more. Most of the programming courses are being used as part of transfer degrees. Office Systems covers office products as part of business. OS and CIS will be moved into the same division as business and accounting (math, science, and business). The change in division is intended to bring related subjects together while doing some load balancing.

Matt is becoming the Dean of Curriculum Development and Dual Credit. He will be doing project management for curriculum design/revision.

There is no plan to hire a full-time networking instructor, given the decreased enrollment. Unfortunately, without a full-time networking instructor, there is little chance of increasing the network course offerings to encourage enrollment.

Over the last four years, 350 unique individuals have taken CIS courses, but only a small number have actually completed degrees and certificates. CIS 150/250 (C++) and CIS 123 (MIS) are both popular with students from NIU. Demand for Java is lower because universities locally don’t use Java; CIS 260 (Java 2) has low enrollment and is being taught as individualized study [though in practice it is being taught as a regular course].

Marketing is shifting to social media. Kish is working to get information included electronically at local high schools. Due to declining enrollment across the state, community colleges are now competing for students instead of cooperating. Community colleges can no longer market out of district in general, which in turn requires targeted use of social media.

1. Discussion on networking program/subcommittee results

Adam summarized the work of the subcommittee in the last few months. Industry certifications are a critical component of making the Kish networking course work credible to local employers. Some students are interested in industry certifications and some are not, so simply making the certification exams required as part of the course is undesirable. Matt thinks that the bookstore could offer the certification enrollment as recommended rather than required; according to Joanne, this would be reimbursable by WIOA.

The subcommittee found that there were only small changes needed to a few courses in the networking program, rather than a major overhaul.

1. Finding innovative ways to incorporate industry certification into the classes and certificates

We talked about starting with CompTIA A+ and Network+ certifications. Paul thought that interest in Network+ is not general among his networking students; the ones who are already working would likely not be interested in spending the money. Similarly, those who are working toward a bachelor’s degree probably aren’t too interested. It is important to advise students in ALL networking classes of the importance of industry certifications and the value of taking the exams. Marketing for the networking program could be changed to emphasize the importance of industry certifications and the way Kish courses prepare students for them. It may also be useful to advertise that students can get credit for certifications they already have.

1. Follow-up on data analysis proposal

Federico, who was the main proponent of data analysis, now has a full-time job at Blackhawk Technical College in Wisconsin. Dave has researched what is done at community colleges. All the data analysis from the computer science perspective is at the graduate level; the few data analysis classes are not in CIS. It would be possible to offer a course in the analysis language R, but this would assume a lot of math/statistics background. CIS could support such an offering, but it would have to be spearheaded by math and business.

1. Advice/updates on course changes
   * CIS 115: Proposed course deletion

Links to the syllabi are on the advisory committee website. Dave reviewed the CIS 115 material and confirmed that most of the content is covered in other courses, with the exception of job roles in IT and related material. In particular, much of the material moves to the new version of CIS 123. We agreed to remove the course (which requires updating the degrees and certificates).

* + CIS 123: Syllabus update based on IAI changes

The corresponding course at NIU is closer to the new IAI standard, and we want them to continue accepting CIS 123. As mentioned above, some of the changes effectively move content from CIS 115 into CIS 123. Also, Business/Marketing/Management and Accounting would like more Excel in the course.

Some specific additions from the IAI requirements including file management, safety and security, evaluating the reliability of website content, and creating a basic web site. Changes to the course will increase emphasis on spreadsheets and databases, and reduce the MIS content. We agreed to this update. Even though this won’t be in the catalog for 2018-2019, we can start using the updated version.

* + CIS 111: Update on first semester teaching with Python, proposal to remove stumbling blocks including flowcharting

Student success wasn’t too good the first time around. Dave is planning to have an actual hardcopy textbook next time. Dave would like to drop flowcharts (which don’t work well with Python), number systems (binary, octal, hexadecimal), and introduction to assembly language. The state has dropped number systems from the computer science requirements. He would also like to update the learner outcomes to change arrays to array-like data structures, to match Python. We agreed that these are reasonable changes.

* + Proposal for PowerShell course

There is local interest, but little to no interest among the educators statewide. Dave would like to create a course for the state workshop next summer, but wider marketing is needed to get enough students. If he does create the course, it would be available to use as a seminar here at Kish starting in 2019-2020.

Anything that can be done in the GUI can be done in PowerShell.

1. Suggestions from committee members

**We agreed to hold the fall advisory committee *meeting on Thursday, October 18, 2018, at 6PM.***

Vickie moved to adjourn; Paul seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:43PM.