CIS Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 17, 2019
6:00 PM A-1228

After refreshments, Adam called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

1. Introductions
   Present: Adam Larsen, David Klick, Dave Wessel, Dave Kornfeind, Paulette Bendixon, RJ McGarry, Paul Gullman, Joanne Kantner, Terry Lyn Funston, Chase Budziak, Mike Ebner, Laurie Hoecherl, Vickie Klick

2. Approve minutes from spring meeting
   No corrections were noted. Paul moved to approve, RJ seconded, all approved.

3. Update on changes at the school
   Judson Curry is now assistant vice president of instruction. CIS is now in the Business and Technical Education Division. David is retiring at the end of the academic year (May-June 2020). The school has a CAPIT grant to develop apprenticeships/internships/externships in IT, including cybersecurity. David represented community colleges in a panel at a statewide conference on computer science education in grades K-12. Community colleges would have an important role in getting teachers trained for this. Southern Illinois University will have the first batch of teachers graduating this year.

4. Enrollment Report
   The college is about 8.9% down in enrollment this fall, and about 7% down for the year. The state projects that enrollments will continue to decline for several years yet, based on high school enrollments. Enrollment is over 20% Hispanic now. CIS enrollment is down significantly, in large measure because of the suspension of the networking program.

5. Curriculum Status & Updates
   Chase gave a brief explanation of the partnership with Google to do training for entry-level IT support jobs. For a period of time (a year or more), the Coursera-based training will be available for free. Also, cybersecurity continues to be of interest, and is something that most of the private institutions in the local area are starting to offer. Demand for candidates with cybersecurity training without a four-year degree exceeds supply in Illinois, but it’s unclear what the local demand is. They are also exploring what credentials are really valued by employers (degree/certificate versus training for industry certifications). Cybersecurity training presupposes networking knowledge; the expectation is that this would help revive some of the networking program. Adam suggested that the ever-changing threats would be a basis for ongoing (repeat) enrollment, maybe every couple of years, and he would be very interested in sending employees to such a program. Adam will also connect Kish with other agencies in Oregon who would be interested. Mike said that what Aurora University seems to be doing is combining cybersecurity and computer forensics into a major. David suggested that a model like the Heartland College/Illinois Statue University partnership would be helpful, whether with Aurora University or NIU (when/if they get into cybersecurity at the undergraduate level). Certificates may be useful for new hires, but less so for existing employees.
6. Google IT Certification status and course

David has just completed all five of the Google IT Certification courses. It’s all online through Coursera; the benefit of taking the classes through Kish include (a) three hours of open lab per week with an instructor; (b) college credit. (It would not be free from Kish.) Google’s partnerships with colleges are intended to provide local support for students. David has not done the credit hour audit yet, but he thinks that six credit hours, with three hours of lab, is about right. In order to fit everything into the semester, the students have to do two weeks of material per calendar week. Course 5 (Digital Dark Arts) is an introduction to cybersecurity.

Joanne asked if this would be a good introduction to the networking program; Chase asked if an alternative would be CIS 101 plus another course. David said that the IT certification is much more complicated than CIS 101+; CIS 101 also teaches very different content. One concern is that the certification requires considerable self-discipline to complete. If someone comes to the college and has the Google IT Certification already, it could be used to fulfill some degree requirements.

Other colleges are also making this a six credit hour program. Other schools are splitting it into two short courses, also totaling six credit hours. David pointed out that the seminar courses, which will be used in the spring, currently can only be up to 3 credit hours, so both seminar courses will have to be used; changing the seminar courses to vary from 0.5 to 6 hours would help.

David asked if this could be a one-course certificate. Terry Lyn said that a certificate has to be at least sixteen credit hours to qualify for financial aid; Chase suggested that this could be stackable with a networking certificate to plan for the required hours.

David pointed out that the syllabus follows the Google grading scheme. Laurie said that this is the same as nursing and some other programs. Laurie recommended putting the requirement of 80% or more in ALL FIVE courses in bold in the syllabus; Terry Lyn recommended either a class session or a mandatory video orientation to go over such things at the start of the class.

Mike moved to approve the syllabus as presented; Paul seconded; all approved. Chase thanked David for his time spent preparing this.

7. Cyber security survey and possible course/certificate

See discussion under #5.

We chose April 2, 2020, as the date for the spring meeting.

Vickie moved to adjourn; Paul seconded. The meeting ended at 7:27 PM.