

CIS Advisory Committee Meeting

November 21, 2013

Room A-228 In the BID center (the room we usually meet in)

6:00 PM

Present: Jim Sager, David Klick, Vickie Klick, Cohen Barnes, Gene St. Louis, Adam Larsen, Mark Uscian (on break), Susan Grever (on break)

The formal meeting started at 06:13 PM

1. Approval of minutes from Spring 2013 meeting

Moved to approve by Cohen, seconded by Gene, unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION: It is still unclear why CIS is considered a "low enrollment program". No more information has been provided since the last meeting.

Cohen commented that from his perspective, he didn't care about how many students there are in CIS, but rather how many of them get jobs - it's a measure of the quality of the program. Soft skills and teamwork are vital, along with technical capability (assessed with certifications and scenarios). Concerns about current skills (e.g., teaching an old version of Windows Server). Cohen's comfort level with what is being taught in Kish's program is relatively low, with technology changing so fast. Even the students who take the Cisco classes don't demonstrate that they know the material without passing the exam. He wants to see people who got the 2-year degree AND the certificates, versus people with only the certificates who may have crammed for it and don't remember anything.

We discussed (again) including the cost of the CCNA in the tuition for the Cisco classes. It is unclear whether or not the school has access to the results, so even if it's included, the school may not be able to learn from the results. Mark thinks that if passing the CCNA was a requirement for passing the final course, he might only have a 50% pass rate, which would be bad from the school's perspective but fine for a potential employer. He would like to see 80-100% of the students with an A or B pass the CCNA. Office Systems is going to be a testing center for Microsoft, which will enable the department to offer the Server I and II certification exams locally. Cohen and Adam strongly recommended that taking the CCNA certification exam should be a requirement for passing the Cisco program - no matter whether they pass the exam or not. It would give Kish CIS feedback on how students are doing in the program and where weaknesses are, and would be an independent measure of what the students have learned. On the other hand, it would be harder to tell if the students have the drive to actually schedule and take the exam.

Mark would like to revise the networking program to add a capstone project at the end to bring all the pieces together (a team-based project that uses the various skills learned throughout the two years). Synthesis of what they've learned would be helpful.

Cohen recommended the faculty reach out to Kish Health Systems, NIU, and other large local employers to find out if they're hiring Kish CIS graduates and if so, what the results are. Those people should be **HERE** in the advisory committee, but they need to feel their presence is worthwhile. He suggested that we try having Tom Choice ask people to come for a single meeting (not a long-term commitment).

2. Overview of program enrollment and discussion

See above.

3. Result of survey

4. Finalize(?) changes to CIS Webmaster Certificate: Web Development Curriculum No. 454

Discussion and voting will be completed via email.

5. Discuss avenues for increasing committee membership

See above.

Adam moved to adjourn; Cohen seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:28PM.