CIS Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

April 13, 2017

6:00 PM A-1228

Adam called the meeting to order at 6:17 PM after refreshments.

1. Introductions

   Present: Matt Feuerborn, Joanne Kantner, Paulett Bendixon, David Klick, Vickie Klick, Dana Fellows, Jim Sager, Dave Kornfeind, Adam Larsen, Federico Bassetti, Mike Ebner

   Eric Epps has left the committee due to work and education priorities.

2. Approve minutes from fall meeting

   Jim Sager moved to approve, Paulett seconded, all approved.

3. School and department updates/status

   Nothing significant is changing for CIS at this time. Joanne explained some of what was going on with the college as a whole. Matt said that while enrollment has declined, retention and graduations/completions are stable, so the students coming are more serious and more successful. On the transfer side, engineering is down, but physics is up. There is a significant increase of in-district applications, but a significant decrease in out-of-district applications. 68% of students are in the 17-24 age bracket.

4. CIS enrollment numbers 2015 - 2017

   Dana pointed out that 16 students took Cisco I and only 8 took Cisco II. Many of the Cisco I students were brand new to networking, and could benefit from taking Introduction to Networking before moving on to Cisco II. Mike observed that Cisco has completely restructured their curriculum in the past couple of years, so comparing history of attrition is misleading. Matt pointed out that taking Cisco I through IV required a minimum of a two-year commitment (more if they start in spring); the new approach to offer Cisco I/II and Cisco III/IV in a single academic year will help increase the likelihood of completion.

   Eliminating Visual Basic seems to already be helping enrollment in C++ and Java. Reducing the number of times some classes are taught in the year are also going to help improve numbers for course offerings. Network Security, CIS 283, was changed to an online course to deal with low enrollments and eliminate a conflict with CIS 142, PC Repair and Configuration.

   Paulett asked for counts of unique students by semester (how many unique students enrolled in a CIS course per semester). Federico suggested having a breakdown by how many CIS classes each student is taking. It would also be interesting to know how many students are returning adults who are working, versus traditional students. A student survey would probably be needed

to determine when each student would prefer taking their classes (daytime/evening/online-hybrid).

5. RedShelf use for online textbooks

   This is an online textbook rental service – really a broker between the colleges and the publishers. Some texts are $150-$200 now, and can be rented on RedShelf for $35-$40 for 120-180 days. This seems like an excellent approach for many students. Joanne said that this may be operated through the college and rolled into the fees (with opt-out available) so that a student could have the book available when the course starts. The college would pay RedShelf at the end of the refund period each semester, so there will be a two-week grace period (which should ensure the rental doesn't expire before the end of the semester). There's a need to work out how to use the same text for multiple classes without paying for it multiple times. Mike mentioned that there sometimes are extra materials that come with the book which are not available with the rental; Matt said that is also under discussion. Analytics on usage will also be available to instructors and to the college. Adam asked about the impact of not having the book available as a reference after the course. Some publishers allow download chapter by chapter; other books are out-of-date as soon as they are published. Some Microsoft books can be downloaded for free two years after publication.

6. Oracle Academy possibility
   - Curriculum
   - Java Fundamentals
   - Java Foundations
   - Java Programming
   - Database Foundations
   - Database Design and Programming with SQL

   Oracle Academy is free for schools. Dave looked at the Java track. The standard they follow is AP Science (K-12); the standard for the CIS 160/260 courses is the Illinois Articulation Initiative CS1 and CS2, which is more important to follow. Federico looked into the database track, hoping that there would be some classes that could be offered in summer and/or online with low overhead. Federico thought the Database Foundations class was too basic as a standalone course, though it could be combined with other materials. The Database Design and Programming class was more interesting; however, the materials are better suited for spending a few days or a week in the course rather than for meeting once or twice a week for a semester. At this point, the materials aren't a replacement for any of the CIS courses. It still might be worth joining if the other perks of Oracle Academy, such as certification discounts, were sufficient, but that would only be relevant if there were enough students who were candidates. The number of students taking database-related courses are very low. NIU are using it; Federico will ask some more questions of his contacts there to see what the benefits are and how much it is being used. If only a small amount of work is required to claim conformance, it might be worthwhile.

   Kishwaukee also has a connection to Ed2Go, which provides online courses on subjects like Introduction to Java and Introduction to Oracle for a low price.

7. Advice on possible course changes

- CIS 111 Program Logic & Design: Possible language change to Python

  The course is language neutral. It has been taught in Basic, and is currently taught in Java. Some students have requested Python. Python has become very valuable in industry. It might be useful to make people aware that the course is being taught in Python, as there are likely some people who would be interested in the course specifically for the language. Overall, it seems like a good idea.

- CIS 123 Management Information Systems: Possible change to more emphasis on advanced MS Office applications and less emphasis on MIS general topics

  CIS 123 is articulated (IAI) under one of the business course numbers. However, the IAI course is mostly office application based, while CIS 123 is still oriented toward MIS general topics as well as Office. NIU's version of the course is mostly office application based, and also includes building a simple website to get an idea of what that means. Dave would still like to include some of the management topics, but reducing the proportion.

  For both of these items, Dave will follow up and bring back to the committee as needed.

8. Suggestions from committee members

  Mike asked if the CIS 135 (Access) and CIS 133 (Excel) classes that are currently cross listed from Office Systems should be dropped from CIS and exclusively listed in Office Systems. Matt pointed out that the department identifier can make a difference when enrolling. Dave said that the Microsoft agreement is by department, so CIS students can download Access but Office Systems students can't! The current courses prepare students for Microsoft certification. Unfortunately, for certifications, using different versions of Office gives different results. Federico suggested redefining the courses based on the cloud capabilities in Office 365. Dave will look into the cloud-based Office materials when reassessing CIS 123.

  Federico asked about inviting people to join the advisory committee. Potential employers are of greatest interest.

Vickie moved to adjourn; Jim seconded. All voted to adjourn at 7:56 PM.