# CIS Advisory Committee Meeting Notes 12/3/15

Present: David Klick, Vickie Klick, Eric Epps, Cohen Barnes, Gene St. Louis, Jim Sager, Dave Kornfeind, Adam Larson, Mark Uscian (on break)

The meeting was called to order at 6:10PM by Eric.

Minutes of the Spring 2015 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve by Cohen, seconded by Adam, unanimously approved.

David Klick reported news on the school and the department.

The state budget crisis affects the higher education system. 22% of Kish's budget comes from the state. The state may not pay anything on the six months already skipped. Kish has had a $6 million reserve, but it will go quickly – the estimate is that the school can survive one academic year with the reserve. Cuts include $0 budget for meetings like this, canceling classes with low enrollments, not backfilling instructors, etc. Tuition increases are being considered. At this point, it is unknown whether entire departments

At the department level, Susan Grever and Mark Uscian are both retiring at the end of the academic year. While there is a hiring freeze, Dave thinks there will likely need to be one instructor hired to support the CIS program. With the enrollment numbers the way they are, consolidation and paring down to a core of courses is needed. Numbers in web development are very low; numbers in programming are good but not great; numbers in networking were good but have dropped. Even if the state budget problem is resolved, the enrollment numbers still demand action.

Another change: Sara Pohl took over as dean of another division, and Matt Feuerborn is now dean of CT. There are no more assistant deans.

Some courses already identified to cut are Visual Basic I and II. C++ and Java are both accepted by 4-year universities, and both are articulated as CS1 and CS2. Having three programming languages dilutes the student population. Another easy reduction is to only have CIS 170 in the fall, when it is required, and drop the section in the spring.

There are many reasons for the decline in numbers. There were a lot of students retraining during the recession, and a number of returning veterans. There are fewer students in CIS 101 because a number of the vocational programs have dropped the requirement for the course from their degrees, replacing it with a course from Office Systems that just covers office applications. Web development changes so fast, formal education is not valued.

In order to continue the Cisco courses, we need an instructor with Cisco certification.

There are five courses that are articulated with Illinois Articulation Initiative: CIS 123 (MIS), CIS 150/250 (C++ I & II), and CIS 160/260 (Java I & II). The only other CS course that could be articulated with IAI is discrete math, which is not offered in the department at Kish. CIS 170 (Linux) is articulated with NIU, but the course at Northern is much different today.

What is success? Depends on the situation. The administration cares about completions, especially degree completions in a particular period of time; this doesn't match many of the CIS returning students. Programming students going on to four-year institutions and students getting placed in business are indications of success. Making classes require more problem solving is good for learning and preparation for employment, but reduces enrollment by making the classes more challenging.

One option to continue to offer the networking program without higher numbers is to offer at least the higher-level Cisco courses jointly with another school. Some courses like network security are offered online, which would facilitate joint offerings. At Kish, many students need at least some face-to-face contact. Many students think that online courses are easier, when in fact they require more personal discipline. There is some question of how much the administration supports online/hybrid courses as well.

Going forward, it would be helpful to have an ongoing email discussion with the advisory committee, both to make decisions as they come up and to build community. Adam also suggested that the Spring meeting be held early, maybe in February, when more information is likely to be available, but soon enough to have some continuity.

The advisory committee can recommend a direction for the department. One of the outcomes of that direction would be recommendation to the administration for the skills a new CIS faculty member should have. To do that, the committee needs data on value to the students and community and revenue to the college. Institutional research can provide some of this. There

is also some question about what the new president will care about, but we can have influence in that process too.

Changes that affect the catalog are already in for the next catalog; for the moment, schedule changes are what's feasible.

Jim moved to adjourn, Vickie seconded. We adjourned at 7:16 PM.