CIS Advisory Committee Meeting

March 4, 2013
Room A-228 In the BID center (the room we usually meet in)
6:00 PM

Present: Susan Grever, Eric Epps, Jim Sager, David Klick, Vickie Klick, Matt Feuerborn, Cohen Barnes, Gene St. Louis, Mark Uscian (after class)

The formal meeting started at 06:25 PM

1. Presentation of financial information for the college.

   The state and local economic situation is causing a major impact. The state is behind over $3M on payments, and enrollment has decreased. There is a hiring freeze in effect, some capital projects are on hold, and some class sections have been canceled to cut costs. The state has mandated a minimum of 4.6% reduction in budget for next year; the cut in state funding will increase to 25% over the next few years. Property tax revenue is declining due to decrease in property values. Travel budgets have been decreased, hours for some offices are being decreased. A tuition increase is needed after holding tuition steady this year; the board is considering alternatives at different price points. Cohen recommended that the cost of using credit cards be folded into tuition, if necessary instead of charging a "convenience fee" - this is an antiquated notion and doesn't consider the benefits of credit payments. A $1 million shortfall is anticipated for the next fiscal year.

2. Approval of minutes from Fall 2012 meeting

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

3. Election of officers for the committee
     ○ Chairperson - Jim Sager
     ○ Vice-chairperson - no one present at the meeting was ready to accept the position
     ○ Secretary - Vickie Klick

   Moved by Vickie, seconded by Cohen, unanimously approved. This is a one year term; the next election will be held in Spring 2014.

4. Overview of program enrollment and discussion

   CIS has been labeled a "low enrollment program." The college is looking for suggestions on how to market the program more effectively. One problem is that the enrollments are only based on those who are formally declared in CIS programs of study (degrees or certificates), not those who are taking one or two courses for job skills, overall enrollment in courses like CIS 123, etc. The numbers for Cisco Networking, for example, are completely out of sync with the numbers enrolled in the courses. Students taking classes to transfer to a 4-year school like NIU are also not counted unless they choose to graduate from Kish. Apparently there are some counselors (e.g., at U of I) who advise students going on to a four-year school to NOT apply for graduation from Kish, but to transfer their credits directly. Cohen said that certifications are very important in his business, and it is a real detriment when students complete courses at Kish but don't go on to take the corresponding certification exams. He suggested that the exam fee could be spread across the prep courses and then the exam fee could be

paid by the college at the end. Matt suggested that it would be possible to do an audit and automatically graduate students even if they didn't apply for graduation. Cohen said that KEC is seen only as alternative education, and needs to be seen equally as an excellent vocational program. Jim said that KEC courses weren't offered as an option until his son was a senior, even though they were essentially out of courses to take at the high school.

It is unclear why CIS was declared a low enrollment program, nor what the criteria were for that determination. Sara Pohl is trying to find out.

5. Review changes to CIS Webmaster Certificate: Web Development Curriculum No. 454.

   Eric, Darby, and Adam got together and came up with a proposal. David said that we need to figure out where Wordpress can fit into the existing classes. He also suggested that it would be good to go for Java II instead of giving an option for XML, since XML has almost never had enough students to offer it. CIS 122 (authoring software) could be where the content management software would fit, in which case we need to find a place to fit it (maybe in place of CIS 115). However, CIS 115 is more rigorous now and could also be the home for content management. CIS 121 (Flash) is not needed. We discussed whether or not BUS 101 was needed; Eric said he wasn't absolutely committed to it. We agreed that it's useful for students to have some knowledge of business, but it isn't completely clear that an overview class will accomplish that goal. CIS 140 (Networking) gives a lot of practical hands-on; CIS 170 (Unix) gives command line and scripting experience.

   David and Jim pointed out that the first semester is pretty heavy-duty; however, it's ordered correctly in that the second semester builds on the skills in the first.

   Discussion continued on what should be done with CIS 122. The expected learner outcomes are out-of-date (e.g., frames). Instead of using Dreamweaver, it would be possible to tweak the course description and apply it to Wordpress. Adding CIS 122 to the spring semester would bring the total to 17 hours.

   Changes: Drop CIS 124 (XML) as an alternative, add CIS 122 to Spring with Wordpress as the suggested HTML authoring software, correct hours for CIS 119 (3), typo "mangement" in CIS 237.

   Since Adam and Darby couldn't be at the meeting, we agreed to vote by email.

   Mark brought up the fact that WEA is oriented toward getting people employable in nine months, which is a mismatch with the two-year programs we have. He encouraged ideas for quick "in and out" training.

   Eric mentioned that if Objective C was added, the web development program would be good for mobile apps (with Java for Android and Objective C for Apple).

   Vickie moved to adjourn; Eric seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 07:55.