

## CIS Advisory Committee Meeting

March 20, 2014

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

6:00 PM

Present: Jim Sager, David Klick, Vickie Klick, Eric Epps, Joedy Smith (Devnet), Mike Sager (Devnet), Sara Pohl, Susan Grever, Gene St. Louis, Cohen Barnes, Adam Larsen

The formal meeting started at 06:12 PM

### 1. Approval of minutes from Fall 2013 meeting

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

### 2. Open floor for any last second changes to CIS Webmaster Certificate: Web Development Curriculum No. 454

No further comments, will be submitted 3/21.

### 3. Discussion of the college's software offerings vs. needed employee qualifications with representatives of Devnet Inc.

Several Kish graduates are still working for Devnet. While overall their experience hiring from Kish is positive, there are needs that aren't being met. Database experience (SQL) is lacking - how to lay out, structure, THINK databases; this knowledge is generally lacking for all new hires regardless of origin and they are having to train them internally. Database programming requires a different mindset. The ability to develop user-friendly, streamlined interfaces for specific purposes (e.g., extensive data entry) is also an area that needs improvement. Most of the people they've hired with these skills had an interest and are self-taught. Students really need to learn how to continue learning on their own, and be willing to try and fail in the course of learning on their own.

Job shadowing could be a method for introducing *instructors* to real world needs, so the courses could potentially be adapted to better meet those needs. Mike said they would be willing to participate in job sharing.

When interviewing, it is helpful to at least be able to see whether or not the candidate has exposure to databases in their coursework; at least that gives an idea of whether or not the individual has the ability to "think database." A senior project/capstone project can be a good vehicle for a job interview, too.

We had some continuing discussion about how to make use of this experience. Students and instructors both need contact with the real world (and this is not specific to CIS).

A survey of local businesses to find out which ones are hiring, to connect CIS with the business community, could be helpful. The "business breakfast" was intended to help build that connection. The college must communicate back to the businesspeople how they are making use of the information from ANY event; otherwise, the businesspeople won't keep spending their time that way. It has to add value for both parties. Any students sent to these local businesses for job shadowing or internship be carefully selected. The honors program might be one way to help select the students.

#### 4. Election of officers for the committee

Eric volunteered to be vice chair. Adam agreed to be chair. Vickie agreed to continue as secretary. Election was unanimous.

#### 5. Discussion of changes to learning objectives CIS118 and CIS170

The CIS 118 objectives need to be modified to de-emphasize frames and tables, so students can recognize them and work with them when encountered in real life, but learn more modern techniques for layout. Eric moved to accept the CIS 118 changes, Cohen seconded, all approved.

CIS 170 needs to have the objective for printing files removed, since the facilities for direct printing are no longer available. Similarly, the use of the X windows desktop environment is not really feasible with the current command-line environment connecting to a remote server. X windows is included in the course description, so that would have to be changed too. Vickie moved to accept, Gene seconded, all approved.

#### 6. Review enrollment numbers

Anecdotally, the number of students is a bit down; there are fewer incentives now that there are fewer programs to encourage ongoing education. The numbers don't represent students who have not declared their intention to complete a degree or certificate. While these are misleading in some ways (e.g., PC repair is always full), the numbers reflect what the state will use to evaluate the success of the program. Cohen suggested that the instructors come in with real enrollment numbers for their classes next time, so we have a more accurate idea of what's going on at the course level. KEC was helpful in providing a feeder population when Stephanie and Mark were here, but there has been no one to follow up for some time now. It might be worth finding ways to revive that connection.

Eric moved to adjourn; Gene seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52PM.