

Computer & Network Technology

Advisory Committee Meeting 10-29-2013

Minutes

Attending:

Brian Woinarowicz, Networking Specialists, Inc.
Ken Satkunam, Northstar Technology Group, Inc.
Heidi Ballinger, Northstar Technology Group, Inc.
Don Campbell, Faculty
Mark Meuleners, Faculty
Matthew Zirnhelt, 2nd year Student
Jared Larsen, 2nd year Student
Richard Hassett, 1st year Student

Absent:

Cindy Woinarowicz
Jeff Compton
Mr. Darin King
Karla Hammer
Arron Harlow
Bryan Trosen
Matt Schumacher
Bert Burkholder
Don Fischer

Review of the Spring 2013 meeting minutes.

Committee reviewed the Computer & Network Technology AAS program

1. Discussion regarding the version of Windows Server to be taught in the Network Operating System Course (CPTR-2214) starting in the Fall of 2014.
 - a. Most businesses in the region are using a Windows Server 2008 environment, and are not rushing to implement Windows Server 2012.
 - b. Discussed continuing to teach the Windows Server 2008 version, but add reference material for the 2012 version.
 - c. Noted that the students that would be receiving that training would be graduating in the Spring of 2014 or beyond. So the external operating environment could see significant advances towards 2012.
 - d. Noted that the "ideal resume" would show
 - i. Windows Server 2012 training
 - ii. Windows Server 2008 experience
 - e. Decision was to update the course to Windows Server 2012, but include some Windows Server 2008 exposure during the class.
2. Discussion regarding the version of Windows Operating System to be taught in the Micro Operating System Course (CPTR-1148) starting in the Fall of 2014.
 - a. Windows 8 is not being adopted by business in general. They are treating it like Windows Vista, and avoiding it, hoping that the next Windows release will be more along the lines of what they want in an operating system.
 - b. Students taking this course will likely be graduating in the Spring of 2016 or beyond.
 - c. Decision was to start teaching Windows 8 in Micro Operating System starting in the Fall of 2014.
3. Discussion regarding the version of Microsoft Office to be taught starting in the Fall of 2014.
 - a. Committee felt that anyone taught Office 2013, would be able to adapt to earlier versions that they may encounter in the work environment with little difficulty
 - b. Consensus was that it will be time to move to Office 2013.

4. Discussion regarding the Support Certificate proposed and recommended in the Spring 2013 meeting.
 - a. Rational
 - i. It would encourage students to take additional classes that can't be fit into the 60 credit Computers & Networking program.
 - ii. It might be an opportunity to add an Intro to Networking course that could "ease" students into networking concepts, outside of the Cisco program.
 - iii. It could help reduce the attrition rate amongst students in the Computers & Networking program.
 - b. It needs to be designed to provide a full credit load (and therefore, financial aid) throughout the certificate and the Computers & Networking program.
 - i. If overlap between the courses needed for the certificate, and the courses needed for the A.A.S. program are not carefully thought out, students could be left with too few required credits in their last semester to be eligible for financial aid.
 - c. The concept of the certificate will continue to be explored for possible future development.
5. Discussion of Optional or Additional Programs
 - a. It might be desirable to create additional programs for network management or programming.
 - b. Concerns are determining what the demand for those programs would be, and how to avoid dilution of students amongst the programs. If there are too many programs, there might not be enough students to run the higher-level courses of the programs due to attrition.
6. Explanation of Changes to the Cisco curriculum
 - a. Cisco had changed the structure of their courses
 - i. The first two courses will provide sufficient skills for basic networking.
 - ii. The last two courses will provide knowledge needed for wide-area networking.
 - b. These changes result in a problem in dealing with student starting the curriculum in the Spring Semester.
 - i. Under the old program, the Networking II and Networking III courses could be taken simultaneously, allowing students to be prepared to take the Networking IV course (and providing the necessary number of students to run the course) in the Spring of their second year.
 - ii. Under the new program, the second and third courses could not be taken simultaneously.
 - iii. It may be necessary to limit starts to the Fall semester.

Thoughts and Ideas

- Would there be interest amongst students for a Mobile Applications development program.
- The programs need to produce well rounded graduates, with not only excellent technical skills, but also communications and other soft skills.

Gratitude to the attendees / adjourn

Respectfully submitted by Mark Meuleners