

Computer & Network Technology

Advisory Committee Meeting October 27, 2015

Minutes

Attending:

Don Campbell, Instructor
Mark Meuleners, Instructor
Brian Woinarowicz, Networking Specialists, Inc
Jeff Compton, Grand Forks Public Schools
Jared Larsen, 2nd year student
Jeremy Ouren, 2nd year student
Austen Rohlk, 1st year student
Mason Bjerke, 1st year student

Absent:

Aaron Harlow
Bert Burkholder
Bryan Trosen
Don Fischer
Heidi Ballinger
Joanne Johnson
Karla Hammer
Ken Satkunam
Matt Schumaacher

1. Reviewed and approved Minutes from March 24, 2015 Meeting.
2. Reviewed Computer & Network Technology AAS program material
 - a. Discussed general program information
 - i. Fall Starts & Spring Program Starts – There is a desire by administration to eliminate spring starts, to improve class size and program viability.
 1. Loss of the opportunity for a spring start
 - a. May demotivate students anxious to start the program, and complete it within two years (four semesters).
 - b. May demotivate students who are coming in from other institutions with their general studies completed.
 2. The current system provides for graduates entering the job market at two points during the year: December and May.
 - a. Does the local job market specifically need job candidates at both time? Represented employers noted no clear preference.
 - b. Would the availability of an entire cadre of graduates exceed the local demand, and make it more difficult to find employment in the field? Represented employers noted no clear preference.
 - ii. Retention-
 1. High-School offerings of Cisco Courses can discourage students that have already completed similar courses in their high-school experience. However, pre-test and test-out options are available for those courses.

2. Students seeking a 4-year degree, who are starting with this program, face great difficulty getting credit for completed degrees and courses when transferring.
 - a. Students would appreciate better program coordination with NDSU or UND for an easier progression. It was noted that North Dakota schools are relatively uncooperative in assisting with A.S. and course-credit transfers.
 - b. Articulation agreements were noted
 - i. University of Minnesota – Crookston
 - ii. Minnesota State University – Moorhead
 - c. Discussed a co-emphasis on an Associate's degree track combined with the A.S. degree track, as an option for those desiring a path to a 4-year degree.
- b. Highlighted NOCTI (National Test) performance by program graduates:
 - i. 2014 Graduates outscored state and national averages by 15%
 - ii. Quality vs. Quantity vs. Retention discussion
 1. Greater completion and graduation of students is desired
 2. Increasing graduate numbers by decreasing program standards are not desired.
- c. Discussed changes to courses that apply to the program
 - i. Micro Operating System: Looking at updating to Windows 10 focus as soon as materials are available.
 1. Businesses are still avoiding Windows 8
 2. Businesses are likely to avoid implementing Windows 10 until the first service pack is released.
 3. Implementing Windows 10 in the M.O.S. course during or after the Fall 2016 semester should meet business needs.
 - ii. Network Operating System: Updated to the Windows 2010 Operating System this fall.
 1. Noted improved curriculum and pacing.
 2. Noted specific lessons designed to ease Windows 8 integration in businesses where needed.
 - iii. Unix: Noted the inclusion of construction of Wiki, SQL, and Web servers in the course.

1. SQL experience was definitely desirable
2. Represented businesses reported very little direct integration of Unix/Linux and Active Directory integration. More data porting and interfacing is being used at this time.

iv. Cisco Curriculum Conversion

1. Net I – Easier and better interface/educational program. Additional information is included in appendices, decreasing the tendency to overwhelm students in the old curriculum.

d. On-line High-School Courses

i. Discussed revision of Information Systems – Spring 2017

1. A fun and engaging format is desired, with less “dry” vocabulary component.
2. Small projects and activities to introduce students to the concepts and vocabulary.

ii. Discussed revision of Web Concepts – Spring 2016. Noted that Don Fischer will be implementing this course in Spring 2016.

3. Discussed Industry Trends and Needs

a. MS Office versions in use? Plans for future?

i. Discussed Microsoft’s subscription-based revenue direction.

1. Considered to be the likely future.
2. Market conditions and alternatives may moderate pricing

b. New Employee Readiness: What are the most common “shortfalls” in your new employees? Experience.

i. Internships can be valuable in providing experience, but the value and outcome usually depend on the self-motivation of the students.

ii. Students are unfamiliar with the jobs, opportunities, and working environments for I.T. graduates.

1. Job shadowing could provide opportunities

- a. For students to see various working environments and professional positions.
- b. May not provide sufficient exposure to observe both the pros and cons of the positions.

c. . New Ideas/Developments

i. SQL/Sharepoint/Interface engines

4. Questions/Answers- None offered.

5. Gratitude to the attendees / adjourn

Respectfully submitted by Mark Meuleners