Computer & Network Technology
Advisory Committee Meeting March 22, 2016
Minutes

Attending:

Don Campbell, Instructor
Mark Meuleners, Instructor
Aaron Harlow, Networking Specialists, Inc.
Brian Woinarowicz, Networking Specialists, Inc.
Joanne Johnson, Polk County
Matt Schumacher, Altru Health System
Jeremy Ouren, 2nd year student
Austen Rohlk, 1st year student
Mason Bjerke, 1st year student

Absent:

Bert Burkholder
Bryan Trosen
Don Fischer
Heidi Ballinger
Jeff Compton
Karla Hammer
Ken Satkunam

1. Reviewed and approved the minutes from October 27, 2015 meeting

2. Reviewed Computer & Network Technology AAS program material

   a. Discussed general program information

      i. Committee suggested/requested consideration of additional program training in

         1. Linux Desktop environments

         2. Linux/UNIX servers

         3. Electronic Medical Record (EMR) systems (such as EPIC)

         4. Desktop Deployment tools and techniques

         5. Account Management

      ii. Discussed possibilities of night courses starting in the Fall of 2016

         1. Committee members were not aware of significant demand.

         2. Employers were asked to check with employees and provide feedback regarding demand.

      iii. Discussed program attrition rate

1. Combined workloads in courses such as Network Operating System, Micro Operating System, Net I, and Net II make time management difficult for students.

2. More hands-on in Net I and Micro Operating System could invigorate students

3. Providing a Lab Credit for assisting with classroom setup (to facilitate more hands-on classwork) could be very attractive for students looking for workstation/switch/router/server experience beyond what the current courses provide.

   iv. Discussed program articulation agreements

1. Existing articulation agreements with Bemidji State, Minnesota State University – Moorhead, and Mayville State.

2. Some sort of articulation agreement with UND is desireable.

b. Consideration of additional programs/paths

   i. Administration is encouraging the Computers and Networking department consider adding additional programs.

1. Goals: Increase completion rates by offering paths that may be more attractive to students with certain skill subsets, while ensuring that those those skill subsets are desired by local employers and sufficient for entry level work.

2. Reviewed the worksheet showing current and suggested program paths with the courses required for those programs.

   a. Discussed possible programs in Network Security, Desktop Administration, and Server Administration.

   b. Requested that the employers review those programs and their requirements, and make suggestions relative to the skills needed/expected for their entry-level positions.

        c. Requested that all committee members take time outside of the meeting to review the options and provide feedback.

    ii. Career entry and progression opportunities for discussed programs

        1. The primary entry path amongst the respondents was Help Desk. Performance on the Help Desk is key to upward mobility.

3. Discuss Industry Trends and Needs

    b. New Ideas/Developments: No additional items were suggested.

4. Gratitude to attendees / adjourn

Respectfully submitted by Mark Meuleners