Computer & Network Technology
Advisory Committee Meeting October 25, 2018
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:
Don Campbell, Instructor
Mark Meuleners, Instructor
Kaitlyn Rosencrans (Student)
Jason Larson (Student)

Absent
Aaron Harlow
Bert Burkholder
Brian Woinarowicz
Jeff Compton
Jeremy Van Dyke
Joanne Johnson
Josh Benson
Karla Hammer
Ken Satkunam

1. Reviewed Minutes from March 13, 2018 Meeting
   a. Minutes were approved as written
2. Discussed general program information
3. Discussion of additional programs/paths
   a. IT Cybersecurity Program status update
      i. The Program has been approved by Northland's Academic Advisory Committee
      ii. Awaiting approval from MinnState (anticipate response in 2-3 weeks)
      iii. Discussed industry certification tests that would be applicable to the materials
      iv. Student representative's questions
         1. Are there preferred electives?
            a. Discussed how students need to have freedom to choose electives based on their own directions.
               i. Students planning on starting their own businesses might prefer business-focused electives such as accounting or business law.
         2. A programming language is not required in this major?
            a. Discussion:
               i. A specific programming language (like the Visual Basic Programming course) is no required.
               ii. Scripting skills are a part of several courses already, and the Cyber Security courses would also contain more of that as part of their curriculum.
   b. Revisions to the Computers and Networking Program
      i. Micro Maintenance course is being moved to first semester
      ii. Info Systems course is being removed

  iii. Help Desk is being added as a requirement (it was formerly an elective)

  iv. UNIX/Linux is being moved to 3rd semester

   v. Fundamentals of Network Security is being moved to second semester

     1. Student comments on Fundamentals of Network Security Course

       a. "UCertify labs would be more valuable if they did more than just baby-step through the process."

         i. Clarifying the purpose of the activity would be helpful

       b. "UCertify resources are good, but the labs don't require enough thought and the book doesn't reinforce best practices enough."

  vi. Student Comments on the program plan in general

     1. "[A] lighter first semester [13 credits] would definitely be good help for [student] retention."

 4. Gratitude to the attendees and adjournment

Respectfully submitted by Mark Meuleners

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Computer & Network Technology
Advisory Committee Meeting March 13, 2018
Notes

Attendees:
Don Campbell, Instructor
Mark Meuleners, Instructor
Aaron Harlow Networking Specialists
Brian Woinarowicz, Networking Specialists, Inc.
Jacob Bakke (Student)
Kaitlyn Rosencrans (Student)

Absent
Bert Burkholder
Jeff Compton
Jeremy Van Dyke
Joanne Johnson
Josh Benson
Karla Hammer
Ken Satkunam

1. Reviewed Minutes from October 24, 2017 Meeting – Approved as written.

2. Discussed general program information

    a. Server Operating Systems –

        i. Industry reports that most of their clients moving to 2016

            1. It's really just Server 2012 with some tweaks

            2. Server 2016 has good acceptance in industry

    b. Desktop OS:

        i. Industry reports that Windows 10 has been well accepted in the business environment

        ii. Windows 7 are difficult to license anymore, so everyone is moving to Windows 10.

3. Discussed additional programs/paths

    a. IT Cyber Security Program

        i. Projecting Fall 2019 start

        ii. Investigating a Pearson Learning Technology program in cyber security

        iii. We have been working on draft of a parallel program that would allow a student to pursue either program, or both a Computers and Networking and a Cyber Security major with only a few extra courses to complete both

        iv. Some proposed changes to the existing curriculum

            1. Reduce Microcomputer Maintenance to 3 credits

            2. Eliminate Information Systems Course (2 credits)

            3. That would free-up 3 credits in the 60 credit program to

                a. Could make the Help Desk course a requirement (since most students will start in that role)

                b. Or offer a more hands-on technology "experience" course.

4. Some of the courses would be moved around, schedule-wise, to complete pre-requisites for some of the more advanced courses

    a. The first two semesters are the same for both programs

    b. Students could choose to specialize in the third semester, or plan to complete both degrees at the start of their second year

v. Questions: Would this be two AAS degrees, or would they be "emphases"?

    1. What will best serve the graduate? Two degrees or two emphases?

        a. It was recommended two degrees would best serve graduates.

    2. It could provide options for two degrees and the Cisco Certificate.

    3. For students who need remedial course, and would be planning to be here more than two years anyway, that would give them additional options and incentives to complete the second degree.

vi. Industry considers the exposure to cyber security to be important.

vii. Student representatives had a very positive response

    1. It would also be a great benefit if it was possible to have the courses online, to provide a continuing education environment to students who had already completed the Computers and Networking Program

viii. No additional equipment would be necessary. The Pearson program has the simulators necessary to provide a thorough experience.

4. Discussed Industry Trends and Needs

    a. The industry is always rapidly changing

        i. Implementation of High-speed internet in the area

5. Questions/Answers

    a. Would it be a benefit to have industry professionals come in early in the first semester to talk to students about the field? - Yes.

        i. Students would appreciate it.

        ii. Industry is offering both that, and job shadowing opportunities to students

    b. Would there be additional resources to help with learning PowerShell?

        i. Replacing Visual Basic with PowerShell is a possible discussion

    c. Could there be another hands-on course that would pull more of the concepts all together in a practical course? That is a direction that we are looking at, and attempting to fit into the program credit limits.

    d. Could more online courses be made available? It would be a big help to those working and going to school at the same time.

6. Gratitude to the attendees and adjournment.