CIS Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

October 12, 2017

6:00 PM A-1228

Adam called the meeting to order at 6:09PM after refreshments

1. Introductions

    Present: David Klick, RJ McGarry, Dave Kornfeind, Mike Ebner, Adam Larsen, Joanne Kantner, Federico Bassetti, Bill Nicklas, Jim Sager, Matt Feuerborn, Vickie Klick, Paul Gullman

2. Approve minutes from spring meeting

    Matt reported that Redshelf has been piloted in a couple of organizations on campus (business and criminal justice). There were some issues to work through, but it has contributed to improved student engagement and follow-through. CIS101 is the most likely application for Redshelf in the department; one challenge is toggling between the e-text and the application. Several options are available (such as connecting a laptop to an external monitor), including buying the physical text at a greatly reduced price. The advantage for using Redshelf in CIS101 is that the students all already have to buy an access code, and their cost will be reduced.

    Mike moved to approve, Jim seconded, all approved.

3. State of the school

    Joanne reported that the college is down slightly more than 10% in enrollment for summer and fall 2017. The state has notified the school that they will be getting F'17 and F'18 funds; some of the money has been received. The college is starting some new programs. There are 20% more applications to the college for Spring 2018.

    Bill said that some of the reasons for the decline in enrollment are within the school's control; others are not. Some of the external reasons particularly impact out-of-district enrollment. Programs are seeking creative solutions to make their curricula more attractive and increase both enrollment and funding.

    One of the problems with declining enrollment is that it is more difficult to fill sections and have courses run that are required to complete a degree or certificate. Joanne emphasized that the A.A.S. degrees need to include the material required for an entry-level position. There is currently no system available to track students from graduation to jobs and wage data (the state is building one); today, the only way to find out is to contact former students directly. A Kishwaukee alumni group on LinkedIn might be helpful. Bill said there will be a Kishwaukee alumni group on Facebook soon. Federico suggested that CIS could help students prepare their LinkedIn profiles. David has connected with some CIS graduates on LinkedIn already.

4. State of the department
   - [CIS enrollment numbers 2014 - 2018](#)
   - [CIS enrollment numbers 2014 - 2018 by term](#)
   - [CIS unique enrollment numbers 2014 - 2018](#)
   - [CIS program enrollment numbers 2011 - 2017](#)

   David also shared additional information on enrollment based on questions asked at the last meeting. The majority of students taking CIS courses are not pursuing a CIS degree or certificate. Other departments have dropped the requirement to take CIS 101, which has impacted enrollment. One of the state directives is to generally limit A.A.S. degrees to 60 semester hours; that work is still in progress. Joanne said they are working on a campaign for the college as a whole to stress the benefits of completing a degree.

   After Dana Fellows left suddenly just before the semester began, some classes were cancelled and other classes were taken on by adjuncts at the last minute. The position is currently still open, but it is unclear whether that position will be high enough priority to be filled for the next academic year. Adam expressed concern about the viability of the department without a second full-time employee. There is no one with the expertise to guide and implement the networking side of the program.

5. Advice on course changes and report on previous change
   - CIS 111: status regarding advised change from Java to Python

   David reported that Python is working out well. Interestingly, very few students have prior experience with Python. Federico suggested that there might be a market for a second and possibly even a third course in Python, oriented toward big data/data analysis and software development for the sciences. As an example, the server side programming course could be taught with Python (it is designed to be able to be taught with different languages). Data science is primarily a master's level subject today; the challenge is to figure out what can be taught as a foundation at the 100- and 200-level. There are lower level jobs (data analyst/analyst assistant) that could be a good match for the program.

   Adam suggested that a course that focuses on awareness of the myriad of Python libraries and how to use them would be helpful.

   - CIS 160: requesting to remove applets from topic coverage

   Applets are only in the schedule (not in the objectives or the course description); Java is not supporting applets, so they need to go. We agreed.

   - CIS 119: requesting advice on topic emphasis (ES6/7, jQuery, other frameworks)

   jQuery is still useful, but the newer JavaScript features and frameworks are taking up that same space. Angular would be good to cover, but is very broad. React and Moment are possibilities. The course would not change officially (it is sufficiently general to cover this sort of evolution).

David solicited input via email. Adam mentioned Underscore as another possibility. Node could be mentioned in this class and covered in more detail in the server-side class.

- CIS 115: should we move topics into other courses and eliminate

The students think they know Internet fundamentals, so they don't show up and then they can't do the assignments. The three students present (out of 12) said it was a good class and they were learning. David wants to defer a decision and think about it until the spring meeting.

- Advice on general direction of networking courses and online formats

The CIS 143 course (Wireless) hasn't been taught in 4-5 years and is pending revision by Cisco. There is a LOT that can be covered under the Wireless umbrella. For the networking program, simply getting the Wi-Fi working across a building is a good fit. However, there are many other significant topics such as IoT (Internet of Things), 4G/5G, etc.

The Cisco courses are not running this year; they were moved to the 2nd year of the degree, so it is possible there will be interest next year.

Federico suggested iFiber/DATA (http://dekalbcounty.org/FiberOpticNetwork/) as a possible source of advisory committee membership, students, and ideas. Adam will help make the connection via Kevin Finley. Matt will reach out to Dan Westin in the Rochelle Municipal Utility to make a similar invitation.

Adam will pull together a working group to reconsider/redesign the networking program. It would be good to discuss this at the spring advisory committee meeting. Dave Kornfeind, Mike Ebner, Paul Gullman, RJ McCarry, and Jim Sager agreed to participate; Adam will bring one of his networking guys from Oregon. The working group will meet 2/22/18 and 3/22/18 at 6PM.

CIS 238 (Systems analysis and design) is not required for any degree or certificate right now and is not being taught. The college does not want to keep courses on the books that are not being taught.

6. Suggestions from committee members

We agreed to hold the spring advisory committee meeting on Thursday, April 19, 2018.

Mike moved to adjourn; Dave Kornfeind seconded. The meeting broke up at 7:45PM.