



Date: February 18, 2025
To: Dr. Laurie Borowicz
From: Barbara Leach
Re: FA24 Advisory Committee Minutes

Computer Information Systems Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: October 28, 2024

Meeting Time: 5:30pm

External Participants:

Tim Swift – Service Team Lead, SunDog IT

Adam Larson – Assistant Superintendent, Oregon Community Unit School District 220

Vickie Klick – Distinguished Member of Technical Staff, Nokia Corporation

David Klick – Retired Kishwaukee College Computer Information Systems Professor

Internal Participants:

Dr. Laurie Borowicz – President

RJ McGarry – Executive Director of Campus Operations & Technology

LaCretia Konan – Associate Vice President of College Relations

Chase Budziak – Dean of Instruction

Jescelyne Gibbons – Associate Dean of Instruction

Paul Gullman – Computer Information Systems Faculty

Pamela Pascolini – Office Systems Faculty

Michael Ebner – Application Programmer

Catherine Macias – Administrative Specialist

- I. Program Update
 - A. Fall 2024 Enrollment
 - i. College-Wide Growth: Enrollment has increased by 7.7% compared to Fall 2023.
 - ii. The CIS program saw a decrease of 33 credit hours (-4.7%) compared to Spring 2023.
 - B. Program Facilities and Modalities
 - i. New Location: The CIS program has transitioned to the A1300 conference center area.
 - ii. Hybrid Offerings: Expanded options now allow students to attend courses either on-campus or virtually.

- iii. Increased Face-to-Face Opportunities: Greater availability of in-person classes.
 - iv. Enhanced Modalities: Combining asynchronous, synchronous, and hybrid formats expands student access and flexibility.
 - C. Student Success Metrics (Grades of A, B, C)
 - i. Improvement: Success rates increased from 63.1% in Fall 2023 to 72.2% in Spring 2024.
 - ii. Long-Term Comparison: Success rates remain relatively stable, with a slight change of -0.03% from Spring 2022 to Spring 2024.
- II. Employer Feedback & Discussion
 - A. Industry Update
 - i. Trends
 - 1. Cybersecurity Skills: An essential skill for employees, focusing on both scripting and compiled programming languages.
 - 2. Source Control Knowledge: Critical for software development and testing, encompassing configuration management, production, and marketing processes.
 - ii. Hiring
 - 1. Employers do not require an AI-specific degree but prioritize experience and expertise in AI.
 - 2. CIS graduates are not expected to develop advanced generative models but should have foundational knowledge in AI concepts.
 - iii. Skills in Demand
 - 1. Critical thinking and problem-solving for engineering prompts in language models.
 - 2. Debugging and scripting skills, particularly in Python and PowerShell, for automation tasks.
 - 3. Proficiency in navigating Windows environments, managing users, and enrolling systems.
 - iv. Employee Development
 - 1. Emphasis on upskilling and reskilling current employees to keep pace with evolving technologies.
 - v. Artificial Intelligence (AI)
 - 1. Graduates need basic awareness of AI applications, their limitations, and ethics.
 - 2. Suggestions included:
 - a. Offering site-wide access to AI tools like ChatGPT for training.

- b. Introducing basic instruction on large language models (LLMs) to clarify their capabilities and limitations.
 - c. Addressing AI's integration into tools like search engines and its implications for legal and ethical information use.
- B. Curriculum Feedback
 - i. Feedback on Networking Server Courses
 - 1. CIS 182 and CIS 282 (Currently Windows-Focused):
 - a. Courses should emphasize core server functionality applicable across multiple operating systems, such as Windows, Linux, Azure, AWS, and others.
 - b. Windows certification is not a primary hiring requirement for employers.
 - ii. Curriculum Review
 - 1. Faculty will review course learning outcomes based on employer feedback to develop a proposal for the Spring 2025 advisory meeting.
 - 2. Topics under consideration include on-premises and cloud servers, as well as diverse operating systems and platforms.