



Date: June 3, 2024
To: Dr. Laurie Borowicz
From: Barbara Leach
Re: Advisory Committee Notes

Computer Information Systems

Meeting Date: April 10, 2024

Meeting Time: 5:30pm

External Participants:

David Klick – Retired Kishwaukee College Computer Information Systems Professor

Vickie Klick – Distinguished Member of Technical Staff – Nokia Corporation

Tim Swift – Service Team Lead - SunDog

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

Internal participants:

Barbara Leach – Vice President of Instruction

Chase Budziak – Dean of Instruction

Jescelyne Gibbons – Associate Dean of Instruction

RJ McGarry – Executive Director of Campus Operations & Technology

Pamela Pascolini – Office Systems Faculty

Catherine Macias – Administrative Specialist

- I. **Program Update** – Budziak & Gullman
 - A. Spring 2024 Enrollment
 - i. College up 7.6% since spring 2023
 - 1. CIS up 11 credit hours (+2.2%) since spring 2023
 - B. Program Facilities and Staffing – RJ McGarry & Chase Budziak
 - i. College is planning to close the A1400 Wing
 - 1. Moving A1400 to the Conference Area Space
 - a. Creating a new CIS computer lab space that can be utilized for a hybrid teaching platform.
 - b. Tours for CIS students will be available in the new lab space.
 - ii. Students and Staffing
 - 1. Leach shared student listening session information that while students appreciate online course options, they would like more face-to-face option.

II. Employer Feedback & Discussion – Budziak

A. FA21-FA23 Student Success Data

- i. A passing grade at Kishwaukee College is deemed A, B, or C; grade failure is considered a D, or F. A withdrawal happens when a student registers but does not show up on the first day or is not actively pursuing the class at attendance or midterm certification time.
- ii. The college compares the metric data to the National Community College benchmarking program.
- iii. Over the past 3 years in Computer Information Systems, there has been a 16% decrease in how many students are failing or withdrawing compared to college.
- iv. Gullman shared with the committee that he is working on curriculum changes targeting students that are interested in the course but do not intend to pay additional costs to complete the certifications offered.
- v. In general, students are interested in the content of the class but do not want to pay for outside certifications such as CompTIA.
- vi. The committee expressed that students should be provided with expectations about CIS courses and outcomes before students enroll in the course and spend time and money on books, etc.
- vii. Essentially, members suggested in an ideal world, a two-track course model would be beneficial. One course for students interested in learning the generalized content and others seeking out specific certifications that require additional time and payment outside of the classroom. Budziak, Gullman, and Leach will work on the framework for this type of course model.

B. CIS Lab

- i. The committee suggested that it would be beneficial to provide a physical coding lab, separate from the college network. The students can try systems hands on, use multiple types of equipment, make mistakes, and gather as a community for discussion.

C. Student Employment Prep

- i. What are your best interview questions?
 1. Committee members suggested asking simulated problem questions, such as, “You have suddenly lost network connections between your two co-located sites. Describe to me the problem, solving strategy, where do you begin first?”
 2. Another suggestion was to ask how they (students) handle conflict? Through their answers, the interviewer will be able to learn about the interviewee’s communication and soft skills.

3. A third question that the committee suggested was in relation to customers and dealing with people more than machines.
“How do you plan to meet your audience where they are at, and at a level that others will understand?”

D. Industry Updates – Emerging Skills, Tools, Trends?