

**USI COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
IT ALLIANCE MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 11, 2006**

Members Present: Dick Arneson, James Derk, Amy Drake, Susan Everett, Derek Faughn, Patrick Heck, Bruce Lane, Phil Lieberman, Larry May, Krista McDivitt, Mark Neidig, Michael Russ, Dave Smith, and David Yoak

Ex-Officio Members Present: Marv Albin, Nancy Bizal, Mohammed Khayum, and Joy V. Peluchette

Faculty Present: Scott Anderson, Abbey Foroughi, Bill Henderson, Greg Murphy

Students Present: Robert Jenkins, Lance Richardt, Rasim Adjiasmanov, Ryan Greenlee, Isaac Phillips

Members Absent: Dan Bugher and Mike Neeley

Ex-Officio Member Absent: Al Ritz

Welcome: Chair of the IT Alliance Larry May welcomed all to the meeting.

Self Introductions: All present introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes: The October 25 minutes were approved as distributed.

Nominating Committee Report: May introduced the following four new members who were nominated by the Nominating/Executive Committee and by the membership **elected** through electronic vote prior to the meeting: Mark Freeman from Berry Plastics, Pat Heck from Cinergy, Bruce Lane from American General Financial Services, and Mark Neidig from Old National Bancorp.

May presented the slate for renewal of the following members and explained that these members were randomly selected to maintain staggered three-year terms as stated in the bylaws: James Derk, Derek Faughn, Krista McDivitt, and Dave Smith. **Renewed by acclamation.**

May presented the slate for chair-elect: Derek Faughn. **Elected by acclamation.**

AITP Dallas Competitor's Report: Ernie Nolan gave a status report of the student and local chapters of AITP (power point presentation attached). He asked for the support of the IT Alliance before turning it over to students, Robert Jenkins and Isaac Phillips, who reported on the AITP international competition in Dallas that 14 USI AITP members attended. They reported the AITP competition is a great opportunity for students to meet other students, to bond among their USI colleagues, to hear inspiring and knowledgeable speakers, to discover career options, to have fun, and to see how they compare to other

students—an excellent measurement.. The competition consists of being handed a real-world problem and competing to solve it on a timed basis as well as a content basis. Ways to prepare are to be aware of what is going to happen (this year's competitors vowed to be sure next year's competitors are ready for the process), attend local or regional events (the closest one is in Iowa this year), or to have practice on local problem statements. Nolan reported that some nearby colleges are interested in having a local competition, that prior students return to the national competition to work, and that USI has brought back prizes seven of eleven years of competing. The registration cost per student is \$225 for a total of about \$2000 this year. The Chapter sold a lot of pizzas.

IT Alliance Chair's Remarks: May reviewed the role of the IT Alliance and summarized that the Alliance is not a steering committee but an advisory council (An outline of his remarks is attached to the minutes.).

Interaction/Education Activities Committee Report: Chair Dick Arneson reported on the discussion the committee held on February 16 (the report is in the meeting packet). Discussion followed on each item.

Curriculum and Marketing the Program Committee Report: Department Chair Joy Peluchette made the report (the report is in the meeting packet).

Department Chair's Report: Peluchette's report is in the meeting packet. Discussion included the following: IT Professionals in the classroom needs coordination. Scholarships may be endowed at \$10,000 or a year-to-year award of any amount; most existing scholarships are between \$400 and \$1,000. Actual cost for a student to go to AITP Competition is about \$500. Sequencing of IT courses might be helpful.

Dean's Remarks: Mohammed Khayum complimented the young IT Alliance for its strides and interest.

He noted that the University and College budgets are enrollment driven and that it his job to defend faculty numbers; he does not expect change in IT faculty numbers. He expressed his bias toward information technology as critical and that this area should be the flagship program. He has anecdotal evidence that some IT graduates have good capabilities and some have poor capabilities. Focus groups of recent graduates are being assembled to find out what they would have liked and what could have been done. Focus groups of employers will also be assembled to learn what skill sets graduates have and need. A report on these focus groups will be made at the fall meeting.

Khayum put targets on two the prior discussion areas: To date we have 118/2000 of the college student body in internships or coops, 6 percent of the college student body; 10 percent in the next year or two is the goal. At least two IT scholarships or awards is a goal.

He noted that faculty members are pressed with their teaching load and other commitments and to stay on the frontier of their disciplines. To accomplish that, he

expressed desire for greater interaction with practitioners so that faculty can transform themselves to adapt quickly to the real world which is changing exponentially, not linearly. This group, he said, can give us some pushes. Academics move slowly; this area needs to respond quickly.

He responded to why the number of students the CIS area has gone down by asking “are we producing a good product?” He noted the number of ACS students has not gone down and that the profile of ACS students are as follows: they are older, have better SAT scores, higher GPA’s, their human capital is above that of other majors. He also noted that our total student body is changing so far as home counties are concerned—more from farther away.

Khayum referred to the college’s vision statement that includes fostering an entrepreneurial mindset among students, faculty, and staff. He pointed out that our students do not have a lot of academic self confidence compared to the norm of peer schools.

He expressed pleasure with where we have come but expressed concern about glossing over some problems. He admonished the Alliance to not let us get away with it. “It is my job to create an environment so we can move more quickly.”

Jim Derk asked, “How will I know you are successful?” Khayum answered: 1. University enrollment and resources. 2. What are employers saying about what our graduates deliver and add? 3. In five years what percent of our graduates have been directly involved in setting up new enterprises in the region (established companies are doing well but this region is not growing new businesses)? 4. How many CIS/ACS majors are self employed five years from now compared to now. 5. What do our employers say? 6. How many students are working in the area of their training? We must get a base line.

Pat Heck asked what we are doing with admissions and noted that we cannot get away from DNA. Khayum answered that admissions is focused on attracting students to the university, not so much to a major. Heck noted the needle only needs to move a little.

Scott Anderson told of a grant that he has received to establish contact with high schools about computer science in a 12-county area to make the program more visible and to learn what the computer science programs are in the high schools. Students come to us now needing 001 instead of 101 CS. Mike Russ noted high school requirements are a factor.

Recognition of 2005-2006 Chair: Khayum expressed thanks and gratefulness to Larry May for his leadership over the past year and for his interest and presented him with a plaque of appreciation.

Next Steps: 2006-2007 Chair Jim Derk asked new members for their committee choice.

Pat Heck and Bruce Lane chose Curriculum and Marketing the Program; Mark Neidig chose Interaction/Education Activities. Mark Freeman will be called to learn his preference.

Derk listed the action items and designated, with consensus, which committee would take the item:

1. Internships and Coops—Interaction/Education Committee
2. Scholarships—Larry May and Susan Everett will co-lead this sub-committee.
3. AITP revitalization, coaching, and activities—Interaction/Education Committee (Scholarship Committee will address AITP student competition expense scholarships.)
4. IT Professionals in the Classroom—Curriculum Committee

The next meetings of the committees will be in May; the chairs will call the meetings.

The Fall IT Alliance meeting will be October 11 at 3 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned.