

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

Members Present: Dick Arneson, Jim Derk, Susan Everett, Mark Freeman, Pat Heck, Larry May, Mike Neeley, Dave Smith, and David Yoak

Ex-officio Members Present: Nancy Bizal, Abbey Foroughi, Mohammed Khayum

Faculty Present: Marv Albin, Scott Anderson, Greg Murphy, Ernie Nolan, Seungjin Parks, Joy Peluchette, Jennifer Williams

Student Present: Brooke Perkins

Guests Present: Joyce Babillis, Ginny Bryant, Janet Johnson

Members Absent: Dan Bugher, Amy Drake, Derek Faughn, Bruce Lane, Phil Lieberman, Krista McDivitt, Mark Neidig, Mike Russ

Ex-officio Member Absent: Kay Forbes-Smith

Welcome: Chair Jim Derk called the meeting to order by welcoming everyone.

He then asked the new chair of the Management, Computer Information Systems, and Applied Computer Science Abbey Foroughi to introduce himself. Scott Anderson then introduced new Assistant Professor of ACS Seungjin Parks, and Mohammed Khayum introduced new Associate Dean Greg Murphy.

Self Introductions: All present introduced themselves. Khayum thanked Joy Peluchette for her leadership of the department through June 2006.

Minutes: The April 11, 2006 minutes were approved as distributed.

IT Chair's Report: Derk expressed excitement to be in the chair's role because of his support of the University and the role it has played in his personal life. He explained his new role as IT Operational Excellence Leader at GE. Derk reported the Curriculum Committee has not been able to meet because of scheduling conflicts.

Internships and Co-ops: Chair Dick Arneson reported on the activities of the Interaction Committee. (*The report is attached.*) He then called on Janet Johnson, Assistant Director of Career Services at USI, who provided a list of the internships and co-ops, held by CIS and ACS students from fall 2004 (*The report is in the meeting packet as well as employer guidelines for establishing such programs*). She encouraged members to visit the website or to call her to explore this option. When asked, she reported that most internships are paid. Johnson noted the Vectren internship may be the result of the IT Alliance Interaction Committee activities.

Scholarship Committee: Larry May reported for the Scholarship Committee made up of Susan Everett and Derek Faughn with assistance from Ginny Bryant and Nancy

Bizal. He stated that the purpose of the Alliance is to help find resources to support the USI CIS and ACS programs. After the Alliance learned that no IT-related scholarships existed, the committee was formed and identified ways to fund scholarships for the purpose of retention of the best students. The committee proposes an IT Alliance Scholarship. (*The IT Alliance Scholarship proposal is in the meeting packet as well as donor cards for individuals and corporations.*) He explained that the Alliance Scholarship is designed to become endowed but the first \$500 will be awarded each year. Other types of scholarships are possible: Keller Schroeder will award a \$1000 KSA Award and will follow the Alliance guidelines; two other companies are exploring setting up scholarships. One guideline not addressed in the IT Alliance Scholarships is whether it is renewable, not renewable, or optionally renewable. The committee recommend optionally renewable.

Ginny Bryant, Assistant Director of USI Foundation, explained the difference between an award and a scholarship. An award is cash which can be used as the student desires. A scholarship is to be used for tuition. The Foundation recommends scholarships. The two types of scholarship are an annual scholarship which is a commitment on an annual basis and an endowed scholarship. It takes \$10,000 to endow a scholarship with no time limit for that to build up; at a 4.5 spending policy that amounts to a \$450 annual scholarship; to generate \$500 annually \$12,000 would be needed. Criteria for a scholarship can be customized to the donor's wishes.

May announced the Keller Schroeder Award would be a scholarship rather than an award.

Derk called for the question regarding the IT Alliance Scholarship Proposal.

Carried.

IT Professionals in the Classroom: Joy Peluchette reported for this—Derek Faughn, Amy Drake, and she met in May. After looking at the syllabi of CIS 315 classes and finding points in the course that lend themselves to professionals in the classroom, they established an organized effort for start-up and recommended a coordinator for the program. Until a coordinator is in place, Faughn agreed to be the conduit for establishing speakers.

This past summer Marv Albin reported he prepared an outline of topics for his CIS 315 course and mailed it to the IT Alliance inviting members to participate. Jim Derk spoke on the use of Six Sigma and other quality tools in IT; Dave Smith spoke on using IT to solve business issues. Albin reported they fit in well and added a great deal; students provided positive feedback. He has repeated the invitation to the Alliance for this semester and at this time is working with Susan Everett on report data presentations for his Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9 a.m. class and Monday 6 p.m. class. Derk mentioned the GE90 jet engine firmware and how that will be quite a career. Albin circulated his class schedule, noting it is not particularly time sensitive, and invited members to participate. Jennifer Williams expressed her enthusiasm for

the IT Professionals in the Classroom because it is more than information but shows relevance. She invited participation in her class next semester.

Foroughi noted this endeavor is a real career help for students. He also invited speakers to his CIS 601 class. Dave Yoak has spoken in his class and even hired an MBA student whom he met there. Yoak stated the he found it to be a good opportunity for him to tell the Red Spot story—small Evansville headquartered company operating in the global economy—and an opportunity to talk about what keeps CIOs awake at night.

Jennifer Williams announced that CIS111 has been revised to help clarify what CIS really is to students and suggested this course would also be a good place for speakers.

Foroughi announced that Marv Albin would be the coordinator of IT Professionals in the Classroom.

Foroughi promised the CIS curriculum will be presented at the next meeting.

AITP Revitalization, Coaching, and Activities: Ernie Nolan's report is *in the meeting packet*. He explained the "elite 20" means that students will need a certain GPA and a recommendation from faculty to be eligible to go to AITP competition conferences. This is in an effort to restore the awards record: 8 out of 11 conferences have resulted in USI students bringing home awards. He introduced Brooke Perkins, president of the student chapter of AITP who went to the Dallas conference last spring. She spoke of the challenge and now the determination to be better prepared and asked for coaching from the Alliance.

ACS Curriculum Report: Scott Anderson circulated the new computer science program check sheet (*in the meeting packet*). The five-course sequence is highlighted and is designed to take advantage of the fact the program is housed in the College of Business. Anderson does not know of another school doing this. The first students are enrolled because of interest. Anderson is hoping to produce some actual product in the senior project—product for Alliance members to evaluate and maybe even adopt. In response to Pat Heck's question about when a student takes the sequence, Anderson explained that a student on a four-year plan would take 201 and 301 in the freshman year, 311 in the sophomore year, 478 and 483 in the senior year. The junior year would be for special topics. Typically what happens is that all five courses will happen in the last three years. With only two faculty members in this field, the course offerings are limited and some are offered on a rotating basis. Anderson noted 48 students signed up for 201 this fall so the class was split. Derk asked if the program is sustainable. Scott said yes at the 65 majors level. It was noted that the faculty load includes teaching, advising, scholarship, and service.

High School CS Faculty Outreach: Scott Anderson contacted CS high school teachers in southern Indiana this summer and met with six of them; eight others expressed interest. He learned high school educators are not trained to teach programming and set up a one-day seminar to begin to address this. Only two signed up so the seminar was not held—the

summer break was part of the reason not enough interest was there; Anderson hopes to offer the seminar later this year. The absence of EVSC teachers was notable. He believes he sparked interest as Extended Services has been contacted by the Catholic Schools to provide JAVA training for students. Anderson stated the goal of the program is to recruit students and to raise the expertise of students in this area before they come to our program. Larry May said KSA has done such a course for Reitz and noted that the high schools are so constrained by state requirements that few students can take advantage of such a course. He added that a one-day seminar does not allow for great depth for teacher training.

Other Initiatives:

Site Visits: Jim Derk announced he would contact the members to determine the possibility of offering student and/or faculty tours—number of students/faculty that could be accommodated, what company has to offer, and what circumstances.

Mentoring: Abbey Foroughi introduced the idea of IT Alliance members mentoring students and asked Nancy Bizal to explain the Rotary Mentoring Model. He invited a subcommittee of the Interaction Committee to explore this possibility and present at the next meeting.

Student Placement Successes: Marv Albin referred to some successful placements, KSA, Berry, Atlas, GE, Accuride; many are hired full-time after their internships are completed. Albin thanked the companies for making these experiences possible. He read a recent e-mail from a student who five months ago went to work for Sallie Mae in Fishers, Indiana, “Without your help I would not be where I am today. You led me to the point of feeling comfortable in this position.”

Department Chair’s Remarks: Abbey Foroughi introduced his remarks *detailed in the meeting packet* by saying he would discuss where we are and where we are going and noted that students are our highest priority. Dave Smith asked if USI’s enrollment trend was the same as other universities. Foroughi responded: 63% of our enrollment is female and 36% is male; CIS and CS are not common female interests. This enrollment, including in business, is a national trend. Albin added between 2001 and 2006 nationally a 60% decline in CIS and CS enrollment, 80 % is some places, occurred and pointed out USI is not in that steep of decline. He said some positive signs are beginning to surface. Smith asked about goals for enrollment; Foroughi replied to reverse the trend and that the redesign of CIS 111 and the CS program was done for that purpose.

Mike Neeley asked Ernie Nolan if he had considered making it possible for the “cream of the crop” students to teach in high schools and give them credit for doing it—it could be an internship.

Abbey Foroughi stated that some students have opted for skill training such as that offered at the new southern Indiana Career and Technical School.

Dean’s Remarks: Mohammed Khayum stated that retention issues have impacted the programs’ enrollment (investigation is on going in this area) and suitability or perception of employment in this geographical area has also had an impact. We need to address quality of

students coming in and to elevate the student profile. CS student profile is older, higher SAT scores, and higher GPA than CIS students. He also noted that the College of Business enrollment was 1918 in 2005 and is 1940 in 2006.

Khayum stated that the IT Alliance has done a tremendous job in its short term and is moving us in the right directions by asking questions and thanked the Alliance members for their time and encouragement.

He then reported on the progress of the preparation for the new College of Business building which will also house the Engineering Department and the opportunities that will bring about. He showed drawings and asked Alliance members to indicate their design preference regarding the atrium on the quad, stepped, or imbedded as well as for ideas of “fancy” “crazy” things suitable for the building. In five years he forecasted that we will not need the five labs equipped with desk-top computers as students will all have laptops; we will need that space for classroom purposes. He requested input and will put this information on the website. He stated that community support is something we are looking for to assure the legislature that we indeed have community support. We want a landmark building that also fits into the campus; a building that the community will want to come and use, i.e. decision-making lab; a futuristic building with a sense of energy that sends a can-do attitude; and a building that is flexible to adapt to the future.

Next Steps: Jim Derk listed the following next steps:

Scholarships: Submit blue and/or cream donor card by the end of the year

Curriculum and Interaction Committee meetings: need to be scheduled

AITP: Contact Ernie Nolan if you are interested in helping

Site Visits: Jim, Nancy, and Abbey will get form together for your response

Mentoring: Interaction Committee will brainstorm this

Building: Provide ideas for the future.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Interaction Committee Report

Location: Atlas World Group

Attending: Nancy Bizal, Janet Johnson, Dave Smith, Dave Yoak and Dick Arneson

The purpose of the meeting was to define actionable activities for quick implementation on the topics of (1) interns and co-ops; and (2) AITP revitalization, coaching and activities. (The Scholarship Committee will address the AITP student competition expense scholarships.)

Nancy brought Janet Johnson, from USI's Career Services Office, to the meeting as the expert on co-ops and intern programs; she contributed greatly to the meeting.

Coops and Intern Programs

- Want companies to have on-going plans for co-ops and interns. Often today it is considered only when an obvious need is determined which may be mid-semester.
- EIEG will make its mailing list available to Janet so she can prompt the members at the right time to be looking at program candidates. This should help both companies and students find the right match at the right time.
- Salaries: USI doesn't specify salaries but several methods are used by various companies: based on academic background (seniors paid more than juniors), based on GPA and/or based on specific course work. \$12 - \$14 per hour is considered good.
- Qualifications: Can be whatever the company requires: experience, course work, GPA, etc.
- Hours: Students need 150 work hours per semester for credit. However, part time work opportunities can be posted where students, if selected, get paid but no course credit. The 150 hours over a semester could be 10 - 15 hours per week or more depending upon the need. Some programs are full time for one semester and none for the next.
- Work goals: Need to be defined before the assignment and evaluated during and after the assignment. A follow-on assignment (next semester) should be different work, if possible. Companies should provide a job description where possible.
- Timing: Janet will send notifications to EIEG members prior to each semester reminding the CIOs that they need to think of intern/co-op projects.
- Company contacts: USI's contact list includes H R, finance and IT. The EIEG list is an IT contact list.

AITP Revitalization

- We assume the issue here is revitalizing the student chapter and all comments are directed at that. There was no enthusiasm in revitalizing the regular chapter.
- There is some overlap with Mary Rhodes's Tech Tuesday and other meetings.
- Student competition: EIEG will be pleased to help judge and work on local student competitions that the chapter may devise.
- The EIEG membership list is available to the AITP faculty representatives to solicit any help from EIEG members. EIEG members are willing to meet with the AITP leadership to discuss programs, activities or other issues.
- We discussed the possibility of a joint dinner of EIEG and the student AITP organization.

Other

- We discussed having a faculty member participate as a member of EIEG. It would allow direct feedback to students of what is happening in the IT community and also find opportunities where students might benefit from EIEG scheduled activities and programs.
- Approval of the EIEG activities and mail list use must be approved by that group. It will be brought up at the May meeting and will likely be approved.