Members Present: Dick Arneson, Terry Clements, James Derk, Amy Drake, Derek Faughn, Patrick Heck, James Kloosterman, Scott Krodel, Larry May, Mike Neeley, Martin Roth, Dave Smith, and David Yoak

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

Faculty Present: Marv Albin, Scott Anderson, Bill Henderson, Greg Murphy, Ernie Nolan, Seungjin Park and Jennifer Williams

Guests Present: Janet Johnson

Members Absent: Dan Bugher, Susan Everett, Mark Freeman, Bruce Lane, Krista McDivitt, Mark Neidig, and Michael Russ

Ex-Officio Member Absent: Patrick Harvey

Welcome: Chair Derek Faughn welcomed everyone especially new members Martin Roth, James Kloosterman, Terry Clements, and Scott Krodel. He thanked Dick Arneson for the role he has played in the Alliance and wished him the best in retirement.

Self Introductions: All present introduced themselves.

Minutes: The minutes were approved as distributed.

ITA Chair's Remarks
Overview of November Executive Committee Meeting: Faughn distributed an overview of the November Executive Committee meeting. That meeting included a discussion about the six big things the Alliance is charged with, whether or not the Alliance is doing those things, and are the committees working. That discussion drove this meeting's agenda.

Faughn encouraged members to return the "Who Is Hiring Survey" regarding their company's hiring history of new CIS/CS college graduates which was sent out earlier via e-mail and is also in the meeting packet. He stated the survey results will help illuminate how the department could go about establishing a Center of Excellence and help answer the question "why go to USI to get a CIS or CS degree?"

University and College Missions: Mohammed Khayum began his remarks by echoing Faughn's remarks, "Where are you going and why are you on this board?" He stated he foresees that University will continue its mission of being regionally responsible. Prior to 2005, the College did lots of things based on needs and pressures; in 2005 the College designed and adopted its first formal strategic plan which is consistent with the University's mission with these specifics: student centered, nurturing social responsibility and integrity, value-driven, personal attention, and life-long learning skills. Khayum stated we do operational things very well from employers' and students' perspectives; we do a good job at what we do; however, we are not distinct. Our accounting program is our marker; the IT area is a logical one to become a marker. Khayum told the Alliance that it can be an idea source and a sounding board to help the College brand itself in five years—"we cannot brand unless we have something to

brand." We are ready to start the conversation of what we are really good at and what is possible followed by action steps, and then we can make a statement of what we have accomplished in three years.

Goals of the IT degrees and Enrollment Statistics: Abbey Foroughi thanked the members for coming to the meeting and referred to the Department Chair's Report in the meeting packet. He stated that the department's uniqueness can be its relationship with the Alliance: "We can give you our graduate, and you can help us keep up to date and align our courses for greater relevancy."

IT Internships and Co-ops Spring 2006 –Spring 2008, New Positions CIS/CS Graduates Obtained in Last Three Years, and Listings for Internships, Co-ops and Full-time Position for 2007 : Janet Johnson, Associate Director of USI Career and Placement Services, provided statistical reports (in the meeting packet). She noted that the reports were limited to the ones the Career Services office knows about and that there most likely are more; but the reports are much more positive than in 2000. She told the Alliance members it is quick and easy to post opportunities on the web site and encouraged them to post when they have positions available. Johnson announced USI holds two job fairs a year—one in fall and one in spring; the next one will be February 28 with 51 employers already signed up. She added the Career Services is eager to arrange for on-campus interviewing.

Faughn observed the postings are 50/50 between entry level and technical operator job types; based on the postings the curriculum is on spot. He noted there were few postings from the companies represented on the Alliance. The "Who is Hiring Survey" sent out via e-mail and in the packet will tell us who is hiring, the changing demographics, and what we as employers are looking for. Mead Johnson Nutritional is looking for MBA interns now.

Scott Anderson reported that the other six CS graduates were already employed at the time of their graduation.

Cameo of Internship: Mike Neeley reported that Atlas tries to keep interns at all times, looks at internships as long-time interviews, asks interns to do real projects with the same deadlines as full-time programmers, and gets lots of real work from them. Atlas has hired two of their interns in the last four years. Atlas looks for the following attributes: motivated, dedicated, open to learning, and desire to stay in Evansville.

Committee Reports: Faughn stated that the committees need greater and improved faculty and student interaction to evaluate opportunities to make the USI IT programs unique. He stated the new committee structure will have Alliance and Faculty co-chairs and opportunities to sign up will follow this meeting; everyone should be on at least one committee. He announced that Mike Neeley has agreed to chair the Interaction Committee following Dick Arneson's retirement.

Curriculum Committee: Faughn reported the Curriculum Committee has not met since the last meeting but used the Executive Committee meeting to discuss the Center for Excellence idea. Foroughi referred members to the mapping in his report and encouraged members to go to the website to see course descriptions, syllabi, and skill goals.

Interaction Committee: Dick Arneson provided the committee's e-mail meeting report (in the meeting packet). He stated probably the best interaction is the intern/co-op interaction. He stated the Professionals in the Classroom is less than successful but works well when activated. Larry May requested that more specific requests regarding topics and times from the faculty would produce better

response; other members agreed. Arneson wondered how to get company HR departments more involved with USI.

Scholarship Committee: Larry May stated the ITA became involved in scholarship awarding for a practical reason—IT Scholarships help with retention of high-achieving sophomores and juniors—and an inspirational reason—shows the value we place on IT (now there are two IT Scholarships, this one and the Keller Schroeder Annual Scholarship, both established last year) compared to the twenty or so accounting scholarships. The Alliance is trying to endow the ITA Scholarship over time; $12,000 will result in a $500 pay out. At this point, we are awarding the first $500 every year and letting the rest earn interest in the endowment account. May encouraged members to contribute and listed three things members can do: 1. Personally donate (note blue card in packet); 2. Influence your company to donate (note cream card in packet); 3. Sponsor a scholarship from your company. He noted Keller Schroeder has established a $1,000 annual scholarship which has resulted in his company getting good publicity. May would like to see one or two such scholarships added every year. Faughn added that by the end of 2008 the goal should be to reach $5000 in the ITA Scholarship Fund. The fund now has about $2,000 in it. May thanked those who have supported the ITA scholarship.

Mentoring Program: Nancy Bizal referred the members to the packet for information regarding the proposed IT Mentoring Program modeled after the long-time Evansville Rotary Mentoring Program. The resumes of two IT students who are interested in being mentored were also in the packet. Members who are interested in mentoring should contact Bizal. Faughn added that it is important to be clear about establishing expectations and when it is not working to get out.

New Committee Structure: Faughn announced the new committee structure:
    1. Alliance/Student Interaction Committee chaired by Mike Neeley
    2. Alliance/Faculty Interaction Committee chaired by Dave Yoak
    3. Scholarship Committee chaired by Larry May
    4. Program Vision and Curriculum Committee chaired by Derek Faughn

He called for faculty co-chairs and said this needs to be figured out quickly and the committees will meet frequently.

Management, CIS, CS, Chair's Remarks: Foroughi referred to the Chair's report regarding items not covered earlier in the meeting including curriculum changes.

Ernie Nolan explained that the general concept of the IS2002 model is identification of goals and objectives and is a set of standards for a common body of knowledge plus some specifics. The national testing program for professionals tests 1. IT skills, 2. organizational and professional skills, 3. strategic organizational development and then two specific skills such as network security and web design. A similar test for students exists. Three of our students took it last year; two of them passed. Nolan administered another test, Center for Computing Education and Research, to his senior project class last semester; his class's average was 43; the national average is 48. The results provided him with an assessment tool showing him what is being done well and what needs to be worked on for better results. He noted that exit tests have some problematic issues such as being taken seriously.

Marv Albin reported that the two senior projects in his class this spring are for non profits: The Wes Atterbury Foundation e-business web site and Hillcrest School web site. Both were identified with the help of Sue Ellsperman, Director of Applied Research and Economic Development.

Scott Anderson reported that Sun Solaris software has been purchased so CS students could dial in 24/7 rather than having to depend on the availability of he and Seungjin Park and the limited computers. He announced that CS majors formed a club last semester to focus on CS activities and asked for volunteer ideas. The first activity will be in February when the club will visit Shoe Carnival; they will have a gaming day and a programming competition.

Dean's Remarks:

AACSB Accreditation**:** Khayum announced that the AACSB accreditation team will visit on Feb. 3 -5 when they will be looking for how we know we have a quality program, is there evidence of improvement, and do we have a continuous improvement culture. Derek Faughn and Larry May will represent the ITA at a dinner with the visitation team on Feb. 4. The other advisory boards will also be represented.

New Building: Khayum reported some state clearances for the new building are still in process before we can start building. The time line will most likely be this summer with occupancy in Fall 2010, maybe Spring 2010.

Assessment: Khayum stated as Nolan and Albin go forward with the testing, we will know where students exceed expectations, meet expectations, and struggle.

Goals of the IT Program: Khayum asked the Alliance to give some thought and reactions to the goals as we must be able to do those things and demonstrate we can do those things. It is a great responsibility and the Alliance's insight is important to our success.

Next Steps: Faughn opened the floor to discussion; encouraged ITA members and faculty to sign up for committees (sheets were on the table near the door); announced the next Executive Committee meeting will be the week of April 21, the other committees will meet before then, the next ITA meeting is tentatively scheduled for 8 a.m. Thursday, May 8, in anticipation of senior projects demonstrations once again.

Faughn stated both the Alliance and the College must step up to accomplish the following three goals by the end of the year:
1. Discussion about what to do with curriculum and is a Center of Excellence feasible
2. Scholarship funded at $5000
3. Interaction in place

Adjournment: Faughn adjourned the meeting by wishing Arneson happy retirement and thanking all for their involvement.