Members Present: Terry Clements, James Derk, Amy Drake, Susan Everett, Pat Fleck, Patrick Heck, Alan Letterman, Larry May, Mike Neeley, Martin Roth, Michael Russ, Dave Smith, David Yoak

Members Absent: Chris Boeke, Derek Faughn, James Kloosterman, Bruce Lane, Rex Masterson, Krista McDivitt, Mark Neidig, David Stefanich

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

Ex-officio Members Absent: Carl Chapman

Faculty Present: Marv Albin, Scott Anderson, Sharlett Gillard, Brian McGuire, Ernest Nolan, Seungjin Park, James Powers

Guest Present: Linda Bennett

Students Present: Rebecca Adamson, David Batey, Devin Burke, Casey Cambron, Drew Helfert, Danielle Knolwes, Nathan Lambert, Jason Nichols

Administrative Assistant: Michelle Simmons

<u>**Welcome:**</u> **David Yoak** welcomed everyone to the meeting.

<u>**USI President-elect Dr. Linda Bennett's Remarks:**</u> **Linda Bennett** opened her remarks with a quick story about a paper she wrote about generational change. She then spoke of the challenges she sees affecting USI - the economy, public support, and international competition. She noted that USI is a healthy institution in the short run and is well managed with growing enrollment and retention.

Bennett continued her remarks with praise for the IT Alliance and stated she is glad there is a group like this at USI. She discussed her interest in technology and how she found it humorous that many consider the computer the start of technology. She acknowledged the printed word as the start of technology by giving a short story about how knowledge in the past was spread orally and how the printed word allowed knowledge to spread through mass information, and one time blackboards were considered technology replacing stone and wax tablets.

Bennett stressed the fact that technology has an impact on education. She noted the differences between student and faculty knowledge of technology and how each focuses on different aspects of technology. The big questions are: Is it valid knowledge? Do each use technology to its best advantages?

Bennett noted the structure of language has changed due to technology. We must recognize that to preserve what we do; technology must be part of the future or USI will be left behind. She stated that online education is part of USI's future and how USI is ahead of other local colleges/universities in the use of technology.

After a short description of what she does as Provost and Vice-President of Student Affairs, **Bennett** opened the floor to questions.

When asked, "What is the biggest challenge you face as you take over," **Bennett** replied the economy, donations and state revenue are down. She stated that USI has the lowest tuition of four-year state universities in the five surrounding states. USI has frugally limited the degree programs and faculty and retains a lean administration.

Minutes: **Yoak** presented the May 28, 2008 minutes. He asked for a motion to accept as distributed. **Carried**.

ITA Chair's Remarks: **Yoak** called on **Abbey Foroughi** who discussed the statistics regarding enrollment shown in his report provided in the packet.

Yoak gave mention of **Janet Johnson's** reports: IT Internships/Co-ops and the Jobs Graduates Obtained in Last Three Years. Both are provided in the meeting packet.

Management, CIS, CS Department Chair's Remarks: **Foroughi** opened the floor to **Ernest Nolan**.

Nolan discussed the AITP activities including the conference in Oklahoma City. He stated that over 600 students attended from approximately 80 colleges and universities. Twenty one USI students attended. There were 11 competitions and USI competed in most of them.

Nolan noted that the students were able to attend through fundraising by selling candy bars and pizza. They also applied for and received a grant that helped with the remaining funding needs. Registration was $4,000; the total cost was $9,333.

Students who exemplified themselves well were:
David Batey - 1st place in the PC Troubleshooting competition
Rebecca Adamson and **Ben Lantaff** - Honorable mention in the Web Development Project
Josh Sackett - 2nd place in Student Banner Competition
David Batey, **Devin Burke**, **Casey Cambron**, **Nathan Haynes**, **Drew Helfert**, **Jason Nichols**, and **William Walker** - Earned ACP (Associate Computer Professional) Certification. Fifteen of the 59 who took the certificate test passed, seven were from USI with **David Batey** receiving the 2nd highest score!

More detailed information was provided via the news release in the packet.

Rebecca Adamson, **David Batey** , **Devin Burke**, and **Casey Cambron** each gave a short statement about their experiences at the conference.

Abbey Foroughi thanked **Nolan** and **Marv Albin** for their help with the students and competitions.

Scott Anderson gave a brief description of the Computer Science senior project course, the senior capstone class. Their project was to develop a portion of the website for METS allowing riders to plot a path from their locations to the nearest METS stop and bus routes to their destinations.

Anderson showed a prototype of the program via the internet. There were ten students working as a team on the project, each taking a different portion. The City of Evansville provided tools along with Google's map program to make it possible. He showed that users would be able to provide an address or click and drag pins along the map to addresses or points of interest.

The program is written in C # and is at the stage of needing to be moved to the client's server for completion.

Anderson asked for questions:
- Does METS plan to use the program? - **Anderson** answered yes.
- Will it be interfaced with the route schedule? **Anderson** answered yes.

Anderson opened the floor for student comments. **David Batey** gave comments.

Committee Report - Scholarship Committee: **Yoak** asked to move the Scholarship Committee's report up in the agenda.

Terry Clements gave the report for the Scholarship Committee. He spoke of the purpose and funding. He announced the recipients of the scholarships:

Emily Rastl - IT Alliance Scholarship (unable to attend ITA)
Nathan Lampert - Atlas World Group Technology Scholarship (attended ITA)
Devin Burke - Keller-Schroeder Technology Scholarship (attended ITA)

Lampert and **Burke** made comments and expressed their gratitude for receiving these scholarships.

Clements continued with a brief discussion of when the scholarships were developed between 2007 and 2008 and how the IT Alliance Scholarship is funded by member support and member company support. He said the goal was to get the IT Alliance Scholarship to $10,000 and make it self-funding.

Clements referred to the donation cards provided in the packet, one for individual donations and one for company matching donations.

Yoak made the scholarship self funding a challenge.

Committee Breakouts: The committees met for about 15 minutes.

Committee Reports: **Yoak** brought the meeting back to order and opened the floor to the committees.

Interaction Committee Report and Plan: Chair **Mike Neeley** reported the committee had met August 19th where Nolan spoke on mentoring and internships. These projects need to be very structured and focused, similar to a job interview.

Faculty are looking for speakers on data, normalization, and skills required for success. **Alan Letterman** volunteered to speak on networking, **Clements** on data bases, and **Larry May** on Microsoft Sharepoint.

Practice for competitions is needed. Faculty are looking for companies to write up a problem and have the students come to the company to practice.

Curriculum Committee: Chair **Amy Drake** discussed the program review showing the status on the program's excellence and failures.

Facutly Interaction Committee: **Yoak** spoke of not meeting formally. There was some participation in service learning projects. He challenged members to step into classrooms. He said it is rewarding for both students and ITA members.

Yoak reported an assessment for Red Spot Blackberries given to users was developed by students. A note of interest provided by a questionnaire was user education on the use of the device. The assessment gave an analysis on the return on investment.

Yoak asked that those not listed on a committee to talk with **Nancy Bizal**.

Yoak informed the Alliance that **Derek Faughn's** mother passed away recently.

Dean's Remarks: Mohammed Khayum thanked the ITA for its involvement and assistance. Due to the economy and enrollment numbers, faculty will have a greater share of activities. He noted that the time members devote to ITA activities helps and energizes students.

He gave an update on the new building's progress - ahead of schedule and under budget. He expects completion in Spring of 2010 with the transition to the new building to begin Summer 2010. He said that the building will be student friendly including technology in alcoves which students will be able to use outside of class.

Khayum noted a need for video conference capabilities to be provided in the new building and that it would benefit the university and the community.

Khayum continued his remarks with asking how we know what the students are learning. He stated that the faculty does a decent job on the technical side and expressed a need for attention toward more skills and appointing measurable traits to those skills. He wants to integrate with the employer side to obtain general skills needed to get students up to employer standards. He believes this will help to increase student confidence.

Khayum said that the College of Business is embarking on innovation measurement. He said money is wasted on innovation when no measure is available. This need is global for both academic and business needs. He wants USI and the College of Business to be a center for innovation measurement.

Next Steps: Nolan gave an AITP challenge. He challenged each company represented in the ITA to encourage two employees to join the AITP professional chapter. He said more information is available at AITP.org. **Nolan** was requested to email each ITA member with the information to forward on to their companies IT employees.

David Smith is the reigning Chair of the Evansville Information Executives Group (EIEG).

Yoak noted that the charter required two meetings a year. The next meeting was set for Thursday, August 20, 2009 to be held on the USI campus. **Yoak** asked the committees to meet before the next meeting. The next meeting will include new membership recommendations.

Adjournment: Yoak adjourned the meeting.