IT ALLIANCE FALL 2011 MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011, 3:00 p.m.

Business and Engineering Center, USI

Members Present: Brian Beard, Terry Clements, Larry May, Mike Neeley, Todd Richardson, Dave Smith

Members Absent: Chris Boeke, Jim Derk, Susan Everett, Derek Faughn, Pat Fleck, Mike Frankenberger, Karen Fuchs, Pat Heck, Kevin Kolley, Bruce Lane, Alan Letterman, Krista McDivitt, Mark Neidig, Martin Roth, Jaci Romershausen

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

Ex-officio Members Absent: Kerry Jackson

Faculty Present: Scott Anderson, Sharlett Gillard, Sandeep Goyal, Janet Johnson, Ernie Nolan, Seungjin Park, Laci Rogers, Kenneth Shemroske, Jennifer Williams

Students Present: Scott Adelman, Luke Anderson, Adam Franke, Zach Herbig, CJ Herrmann, Chelsie Jackson, Matt Pearce, Chris Render, Travis Seuta

Administrative Assistant Present: Michelle Simmons

WELCOME: Mike Neeley welcomed everyone to the fall meeting and asked everyone to do a self-introduction with a special emphasis on those attending for the first time. Assistant Professor of Management, Laci Rogers, Ph. D. gave a brief autobiographical sketch.

MINUTES: Neeley noted the minutes were distributed electronically and in the meeting packet. The minutes were **APPROVED**.

CIS SENIOR PROJECTS: Sandeep Goyal introduced the Senior Project. Two competing student teams built websites for Acculieve Therapy. The project allowed students to work with a real business to come up with real solutions to business problems using what they have learned during the pursuit of their CIS degrees. Team Web Doctors consisting of **Luke Anderson**, **Chelsie Jackson**, **Matt Pearce**, **Chris Render**, and **Travis Seuta** used Word Press software; and team Dynamic Consulting Group (DCG) consisting of **Scott Adelman**, **Adam Franke**, **Zach Herbig**, and **CJ Herrmann** used hard coding. **Pearce** and **Franke** presented for their respective teams. Acculieve Therapy has not yet chosen which team's product it will put in place.

Goyal thanked **Mohammed Khayum** for his support of the senior projects.

IT ALLIANCE CHAIR'S REMARKS AND REPORTS:

Neeley noted that the IT Alliance is dedicated to supporting the CIS and CS students and faculty and the College of Business.

Alliance/Student Interactions: Committee chair **Dave Smith** discussed the ITA mentoring program. The mentoring program started three years ago with three companies and three students. The program last year had 14 applications from students and five companies so students were interviewed and selected from the pool of applicants. This year there are seven companies (Atlas World Group, Deaconess Health Systems, Accuride, Flanders Electric, OFS, Berry Plastics, and Springleaf Financial) and eight students; Springleaf Financial has taken two mentees this year. **Jesse Cullison** last year participated at Springleaf Financial and was able to go directly into an internship with Springleaf. The plan is to have the mentees come to the spring meeting to talk about their experiences.

Janet Johnson, Assistant Director of Career Services and Placement, gave a report on the CIS and CS internships that USI knows about. She requested to be notified if a company has an intern so Career Services has accurate numbers for assessment and accreditation purposes. She said that the IT Alliance mentor program is one of the best.

Neeley discussed internships and how some are paid and some not. Atlas World Group internships are like a long-term job interview. **Neeley** and **Smith** discussed looking for interns and new hires that want to stay in the Evansville area.

Franke said he had a difficult time finding the offered internships through the university's Eagle Career Launch site. **Neeley** noted that the students should look at individual company websites. **Johnson** asked to be informed so she could help direct students to suitable internships. She said it all comes down to communication. **Todd Richardson** told the students not to be too specific in their intern search, to be more open to opportunity.

Program Vision and Curriculum: Scott Anderson and Jennifer Williams discussed the new program sequencing for Computer Science majors changing from a two-course sequence to a three-course sequence. Visual Basic is no longer going to be a focus option, and there is still discussion on how to complete the JAVA sequence.   Incoming freshmen will be required to take the new C# sequence instead of the JAVA sequence. **Ernest Nolan** and **Kenneth Shemroske** will be focusing more on web development. Communications and graphics are disciplines from across campus whose students are interested in the CIS/CS minors that are available. Discussions about developing Health Informatics that will use CIS/CS courses for that track are in process.

Surveys are being used to determine what skills are necessary for college students and how the classes should change accordingly. The survey is being used for the Accounting discipline also. Courses are being evaluated to remove unneeded redundancy.

Richardson asked if there was a focus on mobile app development. **Anderson** replied that it is occasionally in the project course but is not currently a requirement. **Anderson** said that the faculty are qualified to teach mobile app development but do not have the resources to dedicate a course at this time.

Franke said that he would be interested in seeing more on networking and data management. He talked about having to do external conferences or classes for certifications such as CISCO certification. **Williams** noted the curriculum is changing from theoretical to practical. **Anderson** discussed the Special Topics in Computer Information Systems course that would allow a student to get college credit for external training and certifications.

Alliance/Faculty Interactions: Chair **Brian Beard** noted that the focus of this committee is to get professionals into the classroom and faculty into the corporate setting. This past semester they were unable to get professionals into the classroom. **Beard** did visit one of **Goyal's** classes. Next semester the target is four professionals to be in the classroom for a 30-45 minute presentation. The committee is also planning to coordinate bus tours of some companies.

Scholarship and Competition Support: Chair **Terry Clements** reported three businesses that support scholarships: Keller Schroeder, Atlas World Group and Shoe Carnival. The IT Alliance scholarship fund balance is $8,021.61; the goal is $12,000. He encouraged the Alliance members to use the scholarship donation insert provided in the packet.

DEPARTMENT CHAIR'S REMARKS: Abbey Foroughi's presentation is attached.

DEAN'S REMARKS: Mohammed Khayum noted that the community is most aware of the accounting program and we need to get the community more aware of the IT programs. He said, for example, we need to do something on the mobile.

Khayum noted that it would have been nice for the community to have seen the presentations given by the students at this meeting. He would like to see a competition similar to the Ideation competition with a focus on IT, possibly focused on phone apps. He noted this could help the AITP students with future competitions gain experience in competing.

Khayum encouraged the Alliance to devise a high school day similar to the one hosted by Accounting Circle but giving the students a chance to do more than listen to presentations.

ADJOURNED