IT ALLIANCE FALL 2013 MEETING MINUTES
Romain College of Business at USI
Wednesday, December 11, 2013, 7:40 a.m.
USI Business and Engineering Center, Room 0035

Members Present: David Bottomley, Terry Clements, Susan Everett, Patrick Heck, Alan Letterman, Larry May, Mike Neeley, Dave Smith

Members Absent: Kim Angermeier, Brian Beard, Chris Boeke, James Derk, Pat Fleck, Scott Franzel, Karen Fuchs, Bob Humphrey, John Kamin, Dave Klepak, John Knight, Kevin Kolley,

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

Ex-officio Members Absent: William Theby

Guest Present: Julie Brauser, John Dunn (FHM), Chenmei Guan (TSCCA), Rick Kaskel (FHM), Jenbien Tsai (TSCCA), Reghan Wetzel (CARED)

Faculty Present: Scott Anderson, Bruce Mabis, Ernest Nolan, Kenneth Shemroske, Gongjun Yan

Students Present: Rachel Bennett, Abbie Clark, Chris Howard, Jacob Knight, Randall McGrew, James Mott, Weston Nelson, Charlie Pride, Jerod Rexing, Jason Reynolds, Cortlin Sawyer, Sami Smith, Jeff Van Vorst

Administrative Assistant Present: Michelle Simmons

WELCOME: Dave Smith welcomed everyone to the fall meeting.

MINUTES: Smith asked for a motion to approve the Spring 2013 minutes as distributed. The minutes were **APPROVED** with changes. Need the changes.

SELF INTRODUCTIONS: Smith requested self-introductions.

CIS SENIOR PROJECT: Gongjun Yan introduced the Senior Projects. Two non-profit community partners participated in this semester's senior projects: Tri-State Chinese Culture Association (TSCCA) and Freedom Heritage Museum (FHM). The TSCCA's purpose is to bring the Chinese of the Tri-State area together and to inform others about the Chinese culture. The goal of the FHM is to preserve Evansville's history.

The class separated into two groups working separately on each partners' needs. (See attached list for details.)

The TSCCA project team included **Abbie Clark**, **Randall McGrew**, **James Mott**, **Charlie Pride**, **Jerod Rexing**, and **Jason Reynolds**. **Clark** presented for the TSCCA project.   The goal for the TSCCA team was to create a web presence. They focused on registration, calendar of events, contact, promotions, and

online presence. The team created a training document for new users of the administrative section of the web page.

Jenbien Tsai thanked the students and stated that the website went beyond their expectations.

The FHM project team included **Rachel Bennett**, **Chris Howard**, **Jacob Knight**, **Weston Nelson**, **Cortlin Sawyer**, **Sami Smith**, **and Jeff Van Vorst**. **Howard** presented for the FHM project. The goal for the FHM team was to update the current website and make it more user friendly. The FHM team created an administrators' guide for new users.

Clients representing the TSCCA (**Chenmei Guan** and **Jenbien Tsai**), FHM (**John Dunn** and **Rick Kaskel**), and CARED (**Reghan Wetzel**) observed the presentations. **Yan** stated that the clients were pleased with the projects.

Smith gave a short introduction to the committees.

Alliance/Student Interactions: **Terry Clements** discussed the mentoring program for getting CIS/CS students in local businesses. Originally the focus was on junior- and senior-level students. He stated that the next mentoring program would include two sophomore-level students.

Julie Brauser said she would be making presentations in classes in early Spring semester about the mentoring program and internships. She provided a report on internships from 2010-2013 (attached).

Clements mentioned that the scholarship fund starting in 2010 separated donations into an 80/20 split. The IT Alliance scholarship would receive 80% of donations while AITP support would receive 20%. The endowed Scholarship fund is currently at $12,359.58 allowing for a $500 scholarship from endowed funds next year. Businesses that also provide scholarships include Atlas World Group, Keller Schroeder, Old National Bank, Shoe Carnival, and a new scholarship provided by the Center for Software Development.

A discussion was opened regarding what employers are looking for in USI's CS and CIS graduates.

Smith and **Mike Neely** remarked that their internships are used as long-term interviews.

Skill sets include problem solving and the ability to interact. **Scott Anderson** stated that skills needs depended on the needs of the company. The size of the shop matters greatly in the skills needed. **Larry May** discussed the need for technical curiosity and self-learners. **Susan Everett** noted a need to understand business beyond the computer. **Neely** also stated that students need to manage their expectations. **Abbie Foroughi** said the students needed multi-functional ability. **Alan Letterman** noted that IT has changed to a service that deals with customer satisfaction and that the team projects are exactly what the students need. **Yan** said the students need good communication skills. **Kenneth Shemroske** questioned what direction IT was headed, traditional development or rapid development? The development style used, traditional (waterfall) or rapid (agile), is dependent on the project.

Alliance/Faculty Interactions: **Foroughi** listed some of the goals of the AFI committee including IT Professionals presentations to the AITP and Discussion Panels with all CIS/CS students. **Foroughi** thanked **Neely**, **Clements**, **Smith**, and Richard Toeniskoetter for their participation in the discussion panels.

High School Days was a success. Foroughi mentioned there was more CIS/CS interest than Accounting this year.

The faculty into industry project is a work in progress. The parings include **Neely** with **Anderson**, **Smith** with **Shemroske**, and **Clements** with **Williams**.

Foroughi reported that **James Derk** spoke at an AITP meeting. The organization is looking for additional speakers. Also needed are volunteers to host AITP members to view the company IT shops.

Program Vision and Curriculum: **Anderson** discussed the changes being made to the University and College core curriculum. He noted that additional changes to the CS and CIS programs are on hold while these changes are being made. Once the new University and Business cores (60 hours each) are set, adjustments related to graduating student expectations will be reviewed further. **Anderson** stated that CIS tracks have been incorporated and an analysis started.

Anderson discussed the addition of a third full-time CS faculty member. He also noted that with these changes, ABET accreditation (an engineering accreditation) could be obtained for the department which is typical for CS fields.

A discussion was opened regarding the need for proficiency in excel and access. It was noted that in-depth lessons are wasted on CIS/CS students. They need the basics only. It was stated that knowledge of access can cause problems in larger companies but is good for small companies. It was suggested that students need to have more problem-solving skills and can be taught other data base needs on the job.

DEPARTMENT CHAIR'S REMARKS: Foroughi noted that CIS 111 is being re-designed to meet real expectations. He also gave a brief overview of his report. His full report is attached. Foroughi stated that Yan is pursuing National Science Foundation grants. He also noted that though the CIS/CS curriculum was updated three years ago, it is already outdated. He said he was thankful for the commitment of the students, faculty and Alliance members.

Center for Software Development: Anderson discussed the not-for-profit business created to bring students and companies together on short-term projects. He gave a comparison of the start-up year 2012 to 2013. (Report attached). Companies that participated in 2013 were Shoe Carnival, Exceptional Sheets, USI, ProEngage, United Companies, and Body Makeover. Anderson discussed one success story of how one CSD international student has gained a sponsor to help change his visa status to gain full-time employment with United Companies. The CSD gives students paid experience and has an average of 2.5 students employed at any given time.

AITP: **Shemroske** discussed how the AITP is combining soft and hard skills to help train students. Speakers are needed to present to the AITP. He wants to start a speaker series that will allow anyone to attend. He also noted that facility tours allow the students to take what they have learned and see it in action, making it a reality. Tours will need to accommodate 3-15 students.

The competition this Spring will be held in Atlanta, Georgia. Shemroske is looking for more freshmen and sophomore students to participate in AITP so they can participate in multiple competitions and panel discussions. One project of the AITP is a resume builder which may advance to become a portfolio builder to allow guidance through students' academic careers. He noted that a portal will be needed to host the builder.

Shemroske put out a request for servers, switches, routers, and other resources for a security class lab.

DEAN'S REMARKS: Khayum discussed changes to the accreditation guidelines with an emphasis on innovation, engagement, and impact. He noted some examples that best describe these new guidelines. He stated that the College was very engaged. For innovation he gave the founding of the CSD that fills the need of companies to obtain short-term assistance from students. Though impact has many examples, the senior projects could be reviewed with the companies in the future to show impact. **Khayum** noted that experiential activities are very important to engagement.

Khayum stated that he would like to see more CIS/CS competition teams. He noted the Accounting Program is best known and most visible due to its performance at state, national, and international competitons. He would like to see IT professionals provide similar opportunities to make IT programs more visible within the community and beyond with more options for student engagement.

Khayum is looking to pair IT programs to other disciplines. An entrepreneurial focus is important. The Romain College of Business' entrepreneurial minor begun in 2010 is in review as one of the top 3-4 innovative entrepreneurial programs. He noted that most competitions do not lead to new businesses. There has been a decline in new startup businesses from 13% to 8% over the last year. He would like to bridge IT programs to the entrepreneurial minor.

Khayum thanked the ITA members for their support and involvement.

IT ALLIANCE CHAIR'S REMARKS: Smith noted that the discussions are a good addition to the meetings. He would like the Alliance to think about what success is for a CIS/CS student.

NEXT STEPS: The next meeting will be the week of April 28th.

ADJOURNED