Department Chair's Report to the IT Alliance Fall 2013

Department Of Management and Information Sciences

Brief Update: CIS111 And ITA Panel Discussions

- CIS111 was redesigned to introduce freshmen students to the CS and CIS fields, highlight their differences, emphasize career opportunities, and help students make the best choice for themselves.

- Initial feedback from CIS 111 students is positive, and the redesigned course seems to be very effective.

- The two IT Alliance Panel Discussions were a true success — Thanks to Terry Clements, Mike Neeley, Dave Smith, Marv Albin, Richard Toeniskoetter.

A Brief Update:
Fall 2013 CIS/CS High School Day

- Fall 2013 High School Day was held for students interested in CIS/CS and Accounting.

- Participation exceeded expectations. At last count, we had a record number of students interested in CIS/CS attendance—52 (more than twice as many as were interested in Accounting.)

- This the first time we have seen more high school students interested in learning about CIS/CS programs than in the Accounting program.

- Enrollment of CIS/CS students is growing, and we are close to 300.

New CS Faculty: Dr. Gongjun Yan

- Dr. Yan was hired last year. He is a great asset to our CIS/CS major. In addition to his teaching, service learning activities, and very productive research agenda, he is also very engaged in community work with local companies.

- He is pursuing a grant from the National Science Foundation.

- At the CIS/CS High School Day, he engaged the students in developing a computer game, and he is very involved in the AITP Student Chapter.

- He is co-chairing the Search Committee for a new CS faculty.

- Dr. Yan has hit the road and has already made a significant difference in our department in the short time he has been here.

New CIS Faculty coming onboard in Fall, 2014

- We recruited our department's top choice, Dr Dinko Bacic, from Cleveland State University

- He comes with a strong record of teaching experience, a very timely research record, and an agenda of community engagement and consulting.

- Based on our request, he agreed to beginning training this January in ERP and is scheduled to teach this class and the Senior Projects class in 2014-2015.

- Thanks to Jennifer for chairing the CIS Search Committee and to Kenny for assisting her.

Brief Update: New CS Faculty

- Because of our increased enrollment in CS, we are hiring a new CS faculty.
- Our three finalists are truly outstanding. One has already visited the campus, and the next two will come tomorrow and Monday. We hope to finalize the Search by January 1.
- We are hoping that, with this new CS faculty, we will have enough CS faculty to consider applying for ABET(**Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology) accreditation for the CS degree.**
- Thanks to Scott and Gongjun for co-chairing this process and selecting this great finalist.

Brief Update: Curriculum

- Because of the dynamic nature of our majors, we continuously evaluate the curriculum.

- Even though the curriculum was revised three years ago to include three CIS tracks, we still need to reexamine it to be sure to give all CIS students more experience in areas such as ERP, big data, data mining, business analytics, and web development, which will give them a competitive edge in the marketplace as they pursue their careers.

- Therefore, beginning this spring, we are going to have weekly meetings to evaluate and refine curriculum, based on feedback from students, the IT Alliance, the IS2010 Curriculum Model, and other sources.

The Future of IT

- Organizations are relying more and more on IT to increase their productivity.
- They want employees to work effectively independently, but also to be able to network and collaborate effectively.
- They want to increase organizational agility with a minimum amount of disruption.
- They want employees to have greater knowledge intensity and to be able to use business analytics and big data to enhance decision making.
- They want employees to be better decision makers and to able to choose the most appropriate IT technology to enhance productivity.
- IT professionals are not only just in charge of technology—they are expected to have a clear understanding of the functional areas of business, business strategy, and to know how to leverage technology to increase productivity and to support other employees in decision making.

We are blessed with…

- great students.
- a very committed CIS/CS faculty that can make great things happen.
- committed IT Alliance members who are truly engaged and passionate about student success.
- a vey understanding and supportive Dean and top administrators who, in this economically stressful time, provide us with guidance, the necessary budget, and salary levels that can attract top candidates to our faculty.
- our beloved Nancy Bizal and the RCOB staff, who so effectively support the above activities.