**CIS CURRICULUM**

**Presented to IT Alliance 12/10/2014**

Whether formally or informally, the CIS faculty constantly engages in discussions of curriculum issues in an attempt to stay as current as possible in a dynamic field where change seems to be the only constant.

Recent changes in the USI Core Curriculum and changes forthcoming to the RCOB core curriculum have necessitated a closer look at RCOB core courses delivered by CIS; these changes/considerations have also led to further discussions about the CIS major curriculum and about resource utilization among CIS faculty.

**I. RCOB CORE CURRICULUM CONSIDERATIONS (must be approved by all RCOB faculty)**

 A. Skills based class(es) to introduce RCOB students to business software and productivity tools

 1. Currently offering CIS 151 and 261 (differs among majors)

 2. What are the objectives/desired outcomes for an introductory experience

 a. Will these outcomes be best served with one or multiple classes

 b. At what level should the class(es) be taught?

 3. Resources for skills class(es)

a. CIS faculty will not be teaching skills classes in the future as resources are needed for covering major courses.

4. How will these skills be reinforced throughout the curriculum for optimum learning and retention

B. To replace CIS 305 (currently not required by all RCOB majors): Topics based course (versus survey of CIS course) to introduce all RCOB students to IS/IT content that is relevant to and necessary for all business majors

 1. Analytics

a. Big Data

b. Introduction to tools

c. Decision making with information systems

2. Enterprise Web Applications

a. Distinction between web sites and business applications

b. Intro to HTML and CSS

c. Content Management tools

d. Application of the web to business processes

3. Information Security

a. Brief survey of the scope of IS security issues and impact

b. Policy, laws, best practices

c. Risk management

d. Overview of tools/techniques

4. ERP

a. Big Data, business decisions

b. Integration of business processes

c. Top tools/providers

d. Examples/issues

5. Project Management (SDLC and PMI)

a. 5 phases of project management and the PMI

b. Tools/techniques (shareware or enterprise)

c. The SDLC

**II. CIS MAJOR CONSIDERATIONS**

Based on feedback from industry leads and the resource/scheduling concerns the ‘track’ approach to the CIS curriculum has raised, a proposal is presented which better utilizes resources and restructures the curriculum to ensure all CIS majors are getting the appropriate skills.

Critical to an implementation of this proposal are the changes to the CIS261 course, redistribution of resources, and the revision of CIS305 and update/move to the business core curriculum.

Proposed CIS Core Curriculum (collapse of tracks):

CIS111 – Survey of CIS (should this be a freshmen experience or sophomore)

CIS276 – Intro to Enterprise Web Development

CIS258 – Intro to C#

This will be the one remaining choice/option course - CIS376 or CIS358 (Advanced Web or C#)

CIS345 – Information Security and Risk Management

CIS367 – Data Communications and Networking

CIS375 – Systems Analysis and Design

CIS377 – Database Concepts

CIS385 – ERP

CIS454 – Data Analytics and IT Management

CIS477 – Senior Project

Total = 33 hrs (same as existing curriculum with tracks)

This proposal combines the two tracks that are currently chosen by virtually all CIS students. By changing the 305 class, - which allows changes in 111, we can then combine CIS 454 (capstone case based) and 335 (cases and projects for BA which is current topic of 335) for example, and move to a much stronger and more consistent experience for all students. This is only made possible by moving CIS faculty away from 261 and utilizing all tenure track CIS faculty in the major courses.

These discussions reflect what we continue to hear from this group (IT Alliance) both formally and anecdotally in our various encounters.

**Please ask questions and provide us with your comments on the proposals/discussions outlined above.**

Thanks, Jennifer Williams