IT ALLIANCE FALL 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Romain College of Business at USI

Wednesday, December 7, 2016, 7:30 a.m.

Business and Engineering Center, Lippert Hall, 0035

Members Present: Terry Clements, Susan Everett, Patrick Heck, John Kamin, John Knight, Kevin Kolley, Alan Letterman, Doug Petitt, Kelly Reisinger, Joab Schultheis, Dave Smith, Richard Toeniskoetter, Mark Uhrin

Members Absent: Brian Beard, David Bottomley, John Cobb, James Derk, Pat Fleck, Scott Franzel, Jeff Gorman, Lisa Hobgood, Bob Humphrey, Kim Angermeier Poynter

Ex-officio Members Present: Abbey Foroughi, Mohammed Khayum

Faculty Present: Scott Anderson, Dinko Bacic, Julie Brauser, Sharlett Gillard, Bruce Mabis, Kenneth Shemroske, Srishti Srivastava, Jennifer Williams, Gongjun Yan

Students Present: Senior project students attended.

Guests Present: Jason Emmerson, Jane Tang

Administrative Assistant Present: Michelle Simmons

WELCOME: John Kamin welcomed everyone to the fall meeting. He stated that the Alliance will be focusing on updating the By-laws and refocusing for more traction.

SELF INTRODUCTIONS: Kamin requested self-introductions of members and faculty.

MINUTES: Kamin asked for a motion to approve the Spring 2016 minutes as distributed. The minutes were APPROVED.

CIS SENIOR PROJECTS: Dinko Bacic stated that all projects being presented are CIS projects. The students had three months to complete their projects while taking additional classes and working. There were four projects presented: United Caring Services Website whose client is Jason Emmerson; The You Social Movement Website whose client is Zach Wathen; AACSB Website whose client is Mohammed Khayum; Senior Project Repository and Website whose client is Gongjun Yan.

IT ALLIANCE CHAIR’S REPORT: Kamin restated that the Alliance will be revamping the By-laws on the basis of why the Alliance exists. He stated the internships provided by Alliance members need to be a true program. It should be a foundation for working with the IT Alliance while providing quality students for potential employment. Kamin also stated that some committees needed to be removed while others needed revamping.

ALLIANCE/STUDENT INTERACTION: Kenneth Shemroske and Julie Brauser discussed changes to the mentorship program. Students are no longer being asked, they are being selected. The program will group the mentors with mentees on a one a day basis. Currently there are four mentors and five mentees. There will be a kickoff dinner to meet and greet in a more casual setting. The students will go through an interview process to determine the final selection. An internship report is attached.

The current selection of students are Sophomores instead of Juniors and Seniors this time. This allows the students a great chance at focusing their major. Shemroske noted that the mentoring program gives students prime opportunity to get a new perspective on industry. The kickoff this year is later than desired and the plan is for an earlier kickoff in the future.

Srishti Srivastava talked about the new ACM club which is the biggest organization for CS majors. The club began August 2016 with ten members and now has 53 members. The ACM is working on projects such as a drone project, various websites, and speaker presentations including students. One goal for the club is to get students to conferences for enhancing learning and exchanging ideas. Currently the club has participated in multiple fundraisers but requests assistance from the Alliance for funding. Srivastava stated that a Women ACM chapter is in the works. A report on the ACM is attached.

Shemroske reminded the Alliance that the AITP was dissolved and the ACM and AIS clubs took its place. Currently the AIS is getting chartered and will be official beginning Spring 2017. Students involved in the AIS are working toward attending the Brigham Young Conference with a focus on security solving problems and analytics competitions.

These clubs are working together to present a speaker panel of four to six speakers for the Spring.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Kamin stated that we provided six scholarships last year. He pointed out the scholarship donation card in the packets. Abbas Foroughi told Alliance members that the scholarship needed around $12,000 and currently has around $9,000. It was brought to the Alliance’s attention that the scholarship card needs to be changed via the By-laws change, to remove AITP and replace the wording with CS/CIS clubs in general.

SUB-COMMITTEE DISCUSSION: Foroughi and Shemroske remarked that the sub-committees were more in name than action. The suggestion was made to dissolve most of the sub-committees and keep an action list instead. There will be a meeting early in the year to create the action list with Shemroske being the initial contact. Kamin motioned to disillusion the current sub-committees except membership and scholarship. Doug Petitt seconded the motion. The motion passed. Kamin stated that he sees this as a reset to the Alliance making it more viable.

ALLIANCE/FACULTY INERACTION: Foroughi and Jennifer Williams talked about the high attendance of the last speaker panel and that it was better than specific in-class speakers. They still encourage speakers in individual classrooms.

PROGRAM VISION AND CURRICULUM: Scott Anderson presented the current CS degree highlighting the four directed electives. He showed the available electives and requested feedback from the Alliance on additional elective possibilities. He explained that CS 499 is an adaptable course that teaches on various programming topics by semester. A copy of the degree checklist is attached.

DEPARTMENT CHAIR’S REMARKS: Foroughi thanked everyone for coming. He praised the faculty for their efficiency and going beyond the call of duty. He pointed out the increasing enrollment trends for CS majors with more freshman enrolling directly into CS. He introduced Srivastava.

Gongjun Yan gave a brief discussion of the Bal State Competition coming in Spring and that they are currently selecting the projects to be submitted to the competition.

DEAN’S REMARKS: Mohammed Khayum praised the growth of the CS program. He told the student presenters they did a great job. He said it was no longer acceptable to just say we are doing good. We have to demonstrate it. The repository project will allow for that demonstration.

Khayum discussed Blockchain technology and asked the Alliance for feedback. Would it be feasible to incorporate it into the College and if so how quickly. Dave Smith stated his company was investigating this technology but currently has no executable plan to use it at this point. Khayum noted that this technology has far reaching implications by removing the intermediary and would affect management, marketing, finance, and accounting careers.

NEXT STEPS: Kamin said the Alliance has lots to do for the reset. He would be working on the By-laws. The main focus over the next year will be: Alliance interaction with ACM; filling the speaker panel; re-writing the By-laws; changes to the internship process; updating the donation card.

ADJOURNED