

Information Technology Advisory Meeting

Falls 2012 Meeting Date
September 26th @ 6:00 in room B150
Adjourned @ 8:30
Minutes Taken By: Dave Hjalmsquist

Attending

Tim Preuss – M State Instructor
Deb Flaskerud – M State Instructor
Dave Hjalmsquist – M State Instructor
Randy Johnson – M State Instructor
Dan Gronlie – Second Year Student
Bruce Curtis - NDSU
Don Stieha – Titan Machinery
James Anderson – City of West Fargo
Kris Boland – Nodak Mutual
Sandy Kjellvik – Discovery Benefits

Agenda

MSCTC welcome
Informatics class overview - Is our definition worthy of creating a program?
Discussion: Identify current and future processes and technologies
Review of Computer Programming course of study topics
Review of Information Technology courses of study topics
Discussion: Educational relationships with vendors
Discussion: Change management
Questions and Answers

Advisory Member Functions

Identify specific subject areas of program inclusion
Prioritizing the recommend subject areas
Specifying appropriate program content level
Reviewing program outcomes on an ongoing basis
Assessment of program quality
Specifying appropriate foundational skill standards for local needs
Identifying general education and related technical skills needed by graduates
Recommending equipment to support the program content

Discussion

Tim touched on some of the areas that the Informatics class will cover and asked what everyone thought of them, he listed so of the areas that will be covered

- Basic Power Management/Battery Management
- Essential Input/Output Ports
- Logons/Passwords
- Essential File Location
- Essential Office Package
- Basic email and calendars
- Basic encryption
- Basic SQL commands

Sandy thought this class is exactly what her employees need at Discovery Benefits

Don said these types of computer skills are critical at his employer Titan Machinery

Several questioned why the class was called Informatics and Tim explained that Informatics is a common term in Europe for computer science. This country, informatics is a person with a major with addition computing skills. Informatics is becoming a popular term in the medical field, utilizing this country definition.

James asked about an Ethics class and Tim said it can be an elective

Deb asked if Informatics can be counted as a Gen Ed and a technical elective. Informatics is a general education class. Informatics is not on the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC). Receiving colleges may accept Informatics as a general education class.

Tim asked for some discussion on some of current classes or what subjects or classes we should possibly explore

James asked how many students in COBOL and Deb said her class was full last spring

Deb stated that COBOL was not taught anywhere in the state of Minnesota and there remains a good demand for COBOL programmers

Dave also stated that RPG is only taught at a few schools in Minnesota and there continues to be a significant demand for RPG programmers, especially locally

Bruce asked about covering encryption and having students have a basic understanding of how encryption works

Dan said nowadays in the health and legal field's encryption is being required in a lot of areas

Tim said that the Informatics class will cover some encryption like encrypting some data files

Don said companies that deal with credit cards have an obligation to encrypt the card numbers to protect their clients

There was a group discussion concerning encryption and the group consensus was students need to know encryption

Tim mentioned we added an Intro to Scripting class which uses Python and Deb said the class is used to get students started in programming

There was group discussion on students having some electronics knowledge

James asked about whether we cover virtualization, Tim said he covers some in his Linux class

The group consensus was that virtualization is important to cover. As noted, the group consensus supports students understanding virtualization. Currently server virtualization is important to the group. Bruce Curtis learned from a conference about virtualization on cell phone systems. The group did request more work be done with virtual machine backup and restore.

Tim asked about operating systems and James mentioned that he tested Windows 8 at West Fargo schools and showed the department heads and they said they weren't ready for it yet.

Randy and Tim talked about building automation and how everything is controlled, there was discussion on should there be a class on this issue.

Randy asked about business video and Skype and whether it is used

Sandy said they use Smart board and video at Discovery Benefits and says that they will use it more and more in the future

Deb said that some of these subjects such as building automation and video could be covered in our Topics class

Dan mentioned that another subject for the Topics class could be Disaster Recovery

Tim said he should cover more on licensing and the issues related to it

James wanted to know if we cover what happens if you find something on your network that shouldn't be there, how it is covered in class

There was more group discussion on the benefits of an Ethics class

Tim asked the group if databases should be covered more and the consensus was definitely, Deb mentioned the new Database Integration class

Tim explained the new 60 credit AAS and that we have till 2014 to implement in Computer Programming unless we get a waiver

The advisory board looked at the technical classes in the Computer Programming AAS and they couldn't find one class that they wouldn't want their students to take. In fact they reminded us that they were the driving force in getting some of the new classes added such as Mobile Applications, Database Integration, Web Integration

The group's thoughts were that the more programming languages a student can learn the better they will be prepared for the job market

Tim asked for any more comments and there was none so meeting was adjourned at 8:30.