

**COLLEGE OF COMPUTER AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
DATE: February 25th, 2015 8:00 – 9:30 am**

Members in attendance:

Susan Biszewski-Eber, Christy Boucher, Dan Brown, Bill Cross, Joseph Cuenco, Tony Francisco, Muslim Gadiwalla, Mike Gordon, Shane Hamilton, Mayra Harley, John Long, Therezita Ortiz, Chris Paul, Chrissy Risberg, Nancy Russell, Harold Schomaker, Sharon Setterlind, Alex Sharpe, Adrian Tillman, Darlene Westberg, Lisa Yacso.

Capstone:

The Capstone is based on three case studies. One is the Enterprise Experience, where a team of students is sent out to a local business and ask the business to give them a problem. The teams work on the problems and come back with recommendations for the business and they are evaluated on that process.

Student feedback on the Enterprise Experience and Capstone Project was generally positive-some students expressed that the experience gave value to the final course. Feedback from sponsors of the Enterprise Experience students was positive as well. Some comments were: "I would like to keep them all"; "May I forward their information to ____, he is looking for good people"; "I don't need anybody right now, but I talked to someone last week who needs five people-can you send me the contact information for these students". In one case, the student team did a study; the business sponsor took that case study to their board of directors, and said they thought it should be implemented. Their board agreed, and the students' suggestion is being implemented at the sponsor company.

Members of the Advisory Committee who had sponsored students for the Enterprise Experience shared their experiences. Joseph Cuenco's company hired one of the students they sponsored. Sharon asked if, in his opinion he felt the CCIT students were well prepared. He replied that, for the entry level positions they would be applying for, our students were well prepared. Tony Francisco also had a positive experience, and his company is actually implementing the student's recommendation. Some of the difficulties encountered were lack of communication between students and sponsors, and trying to find time in the schedules of both students and sponsors for a when they could meet for a presentation of the recommended solution. On average the time for an Enterprise Experience project is dependent entirely on the students.

Chris Paul suggested that Capstone sponsors should have a common basis for evaluating things, so that evaluators can give the feedback the instructors need. He also expressed that the value of the course would be greatly enhanced if it is mandatory that there is a follow up. Dr. Cross responded that he is making a follow up presentation a mandatory part of the Enterprise Experience, but that student's should still have the option of saying "we can't" due to time constraints.

Dr. Cross thanked the Advisory Committee, and attributed the success of the Capstone Program in large part to their participation, citing their input as invaluable in the development of the Capstone Program.

The Capstone Orientation for Spring Semester will be March 16th, and the Capstone Presentations will be May 4th and 5th. Dr. Cross invited all Advisory Committee members to attend.

Lisa Yacso asked if we could document our success stories from Capstone.

Enrollment Increase:

Sharon informed the group that CCIT's programs have increased by 53% since last spring. She attributed this growth to the addition of the Software Development and Data Analytics tracks. A question was asked requesting an explanation of the Data Analytics track. Dr. Cross explained that this program teaches the basics of data analytics and data mining, preparing the student for an entry level position in these fields. Data mining tools CCIT students are using in this track are SAS and Wakeup, and statistics has been added as a required course for students entering this program.

Advisory Committee Survey:

Sharon presented the results of the Advisory Committee Survey. Out of 8 respondents to the survey, 7 agreed with meeting 3 times a year, and one respondent suggested that active engagement as needed throughout the year would provide more value. All respondents agreed to the meeting times suggested in the survey. 7 of 8 respondents agreed with holding meetings at the EpiCenter campus. One respondent would like to meet in the classrooms of different campuses and get a sample of what technology is being used. 5 out of 8 respondents were interested in working with internships in their company. Of those that answered "No," one respondent was a one person consulting company and could not offer an internship, and one respondent was the student representative. 6 out of 8 respondents said they would be interested in actively working with the Enterprise Experience and Capstone Project. Of the 2 that responded "No", one had not found anything that would work for their clients, and the other was the student representative on the Committee. Respondents were allowed multiple answers to the question: What is the most beneficial aspect of being a member? 2 respondents listed professional recognition, 1 listed personal recognition, 3 listed education, 7 listed student career success. Engaging with local professionals in industry, community support, and networking opportunity were written in under the "Other" category. 7 out of 8 respondents agreed with the new sub-committee structure and responsibilities. 8 out of 8 respondents would be willing to speak in the classroom or at career events, and 8 out of 8 respondents would be willing to give industry updates at meetings.

Smart Choice Program:

There has been difficulty getting the student's interested in the program. Another attempt to generate interest will be made this summer. There will be two technology summer camps set up. A different variety of courses will be offered this summer, including a course for Introduction to C# taught by Shane Hamilton. There are two different courses. Only 12 students can be allowed into the class under dual enrollment. Then the course is opened up for any other student that wants to take it. Students will be encouraged to take both courses over the 5 weeks that they are set up. Students will meet Monday-Wednesday or Tuesday-Thursday, depending on the class, and Fridays will be an open lab. There will be two faculty members, one for North County and one for South County, who will go and sit with the students on open lab day. We received a 30,000 dollar grant from FITCA for the Smart Choice Program. They have paid for advertising for our Info Session, where we had over 50 students in attendance.

Academic Chair Position:

New Academic Chair Position. CCIT is hiring a new Academic Chair for the Downtown/Midtown Campus to help ease the shortage of faculty. A new PC repair program is being instituted at the Downtown Campus, and this Chair will be in charge of that.

There is a Major Fair Program from 5 to 7 tomorrow on the Seminole Campus. Speakers have been lined up that will speak about what their college major was and what they are doing today. The event is for SPC students, and later some high school students will also be brought in.

BLOG:

Changes have been made to the CCIT blog. It has been taken over by the college. Whenever we add something to the blog, it will be pushed out to all the social media. They will also keep an eye out for anything we put on the blog that they may want to spotlight. Sharon would like to highlight some of the Committee members' companies in the blog to communicate what we are about to local industries.

Internships:

Susan had a record breaking Spring semester for the internship program. She placed 35 interns. She has 31 interns enrolled for Summer semester. The deadline for enrollment is April first, so more students may want to enroll.

Sharon would like the opinion of the Committee members regarding Cyber-Security. CCIT is working with Public Safety with the possibility of developing a Bachelor's Program in Cyber-Security Forensics. We will have the preventive side-building and

securing networks and data. Now we are going to have the forensics side-what happens when somebody gets through.

Industry Updates:

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Sharon and Chris Paul have been discussing getting a group of Committee members together in between formal meetings to discuss new technologies and/or what Committee member's companies are doing. Myra Harley asked how Sharon would like feedback about industry updates to be submitted. Sharon said that Committee members could send her an email.

Mayra Harley suggested Committee members could record themselves talking about technology and what their companies are doing. These could be played at meetings and incorporated in classroom curriculum. Myra Harley suggested that as she also co-owns a media company in Oldsmar, and could arrange for shoots to be done there, and podcasts could also be recorded. She also suggested a template of questions could be devised to give uniformity to the recordings. Bill Cross suggested that such recordings could be even more valuable outside the classroom, for events such as Career Explorations.

Events:

On March 23rd, students will be working together in an exploratory lab that gives them a sample of what it is like to work at Tech Data and Valpak. Students from USF Tampa, USF St. Petersburg, University of Tampa, Eckerd College and St. Petersburg College will be participating. A big sponsor of this program is TBTF.

Career Exploration Event at SP/Gibbs Campus on April 14th. All Advisory Committee members are welcome to attend.

The Advisory Committee Breakfast will be September 24th at the Seminole Campus. The Advisory Committee will meet from 7

Advisory Meeting - Wednesday, the 20th of May.

Adjourned at 9:30 am