

**COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2010, 3:00 P.M., ROOM 801

**MINUTES**

ATTENDING:

**Industry Representatives:**

Maribel Garcia, Supervisor Energy Applications Support, IT Department, IID  
Susan Moler, Information and Technical Services Manager, County of Imperial  
Aaron Popejoy, Creative Director/Operations Manager, Conveyor Group  
Omar Ramos, Webmaster, Imperial Valley College  
Cristobal Rodriguez, Applications Development Manager/Web Development, ICOE  
Michael Carr, Information Systems Manager, City of El Centro

**Student Representatives:**

Matthew Thale

**Counselor:**

Janeen Kalin, Counselor, Imperial Valley College

**CIS Faculty/Staff**

Andres Martinez, Instructional Media Designer  
Tom Paine, Professor of CIS  
Walid Ghanim, Professor of CIS  
Val Rodgers, Business Department Chair  
Efrain Silva, Dean of Economic and Workforce Development  
Maria Sell, Recording Secretary

**1. Welcome and introductions**

Val Rodgers welcomed the committee members on behalf of the CIS department and thanked them for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend the meeting. She indicated that it is important that faculty hear from representatives of the industry to ensure that the training we do here in the classroom matches what is needed to get a job and to keep a job in our community. She also gave an overview of the CIS discipline and described where CIS Department fits within the organizational structure of the college. She told the committee that out of nine full time instructors in our Business Department, there are two full time CIS instructors, two full time instructors who teach a portion of their load in CIS, and five adjunct faculty members.

### **Election of Committee Chair**

Mrs. Rodgers gave the group an overview of committee chair responsibilities. She indicated that the person would be responsible for chairing at least two meetings a year of the CIS Advisory Committee. The meetings would include a review of CIS programs, the review and approval of performance data for CIS students, and a review/approval of the Perkins CIS funding plan for 2011-2012. The chair of the CIS advisory committee would also be agreeing to attend one additional meeting – the Local Planning Team Meeting -- which will include chairs of other advisory committees, such as nursing, law enforcement, child development, and industrial tech. At that meeting, a recommendation will be made for distribution of funding to applied science programs who have submitted a Perkins funding plan.

Mrs. Rodgers indicated that the advisory committee chair would have the help of the Business Department support staff in planning and organizing any meetings. It was agreed later in the meeting that Michael Carr would become the chair of the committee.

### **2. Review of CIS programs**

Tom Paine and Walid Ghanim gave an overview of the CIS major and certificate programs. Mr. Paine discussed the student population the program targets. He also reiterated the importance of advisory committee meetings in determining if our efforts are working to make students employable. He asked for feedback to see if our students are being employed since our tracking methods are informal.

Mrs. Rodgers asked the committee if they noticed if our students are applying for positions at their locations. Susan Moler and Maribel Garcia reported that to their knowledge there were some who have applied. Aaron Popejoy reported that due to their stringent requirements, most IVC students do not qualify due to not having enough experience with Linux/Unix. Mrs. Rodgers indicated that if Linux/Unix training would be helpful to the CIS Program, department staff will confer with the Computer Science department to see about the possibility of adding a Linux/Unix course as an elective.

Walid Ghanim stated that the recent addition of WE 201/220 to the CIS Program has aided students in finding jobs through internships. Ms. Garcia added that it is difficult to hire programmers with no prior experience outside the classroom setting so having internships is beneficial. Mr. Popejoy added that his company is willing to take at least two interns per year while students are in the process of learning Linux/Unix. Cristobal Rodriguez replied that ICOE hires technicians that are knowledgeable in both Linux and Microsoft.

Mr. Popejoy asked why classes such as Photoshop, PowerPoint, Word, and Excel are electives for the CIS major and certificate. Mrs. Garcia offered that application courses are important for employees who do not have much experience with computers. Mr. Martinez added that students will be better rounded if they take such classes. There was general discussion that Excel is an important course for students who are transferring. Mr. Popejoy indicated that students should not be given the choice of picking a class such as Photoshop over Linux or even Excel. He further stated that Photoshop better fits in a multimedia major.

Andres Martinez and Omar Ramos gave an overview of the Multimedia and Web Development major and certificate program. Mr. Martinez stated that the Multimedia Program is in its fourth semester and added that a required class such as ART 112 Design teaches creativity so students can use as a basis for the rest of the courses.

Omar Ramos stated that XHTML, CSS, and JavaScript (CIS 212) were approved in fall of 2009. He also stated that PHP and MySQL (CIS 214) are more server related courses. There was discussion regarding the feasibility of separating PHP and MySQL into two separate courses.

Mr. Popejoy explained that his company normally hires someone with either design expertise or technical expertise. He also thought that the CIS 137 Dreamweaver course should be expanded to other website development tools currently used. Mr. Rodriguez, Mr. Martinez, and Mr. Ramos agreed that students should be exposed to other applications.

Ms. Garcia indicated that there seemed to be a need for a critical thinking course for students. She discussed difficulties employees at IID have analyzing end user needs and then writing the appropriate programming code. Mr. Ghanim suggested the possibility of adding discreet math as an option for critical thinking. Ms. Kalin informed the committee that a discreet math requires prerequisites that could add up to four additional math courses to a student's load. Mr. Paine suggested that a better alternative would be to use job specific assignments and problems within each CIS programming course that would help the student develop the skill. Ms. Kalin indicated that a one-unit capstone practicum course might be beneficial in developing critical thinking skills. She told the committee that CSU San Marcos requires that type of course in which groups of students are given a specific work-related problem to solve.

### **3. Approval/Endorsement of CIS programs/Certification that curriculum and programs meet industry needs**

The committee approved/endorsed/certified that the CIS Major and Certificate programs and courses meet industry needs with the following revisions:

- Add a Linux/Unix course as elective
- Remove the Photoshop course from the list of electives
- Review/revise the list of electives for the CIS major and certificate programs
- Develop critical thinking problems/assignments within courses and consider adding a practicum courses to develop the critical thinking skill

The committee approved/endorsed/certified that the Multimedia and Web Development Major and Certificate programs and courses meet industry needs with the following considerations:

- Separating the PHP and MySQL course into two separate courses
- Expanding the Dreamweaver course to include other website development tools.

Mr. Rodriguez asked when the revisions would take effect to which Mrs. Rodgers responded the earliest would be fall of 2011.

#### **4. Cisco Academy**

Tom Paine and Val Rodgers discussed plans to implement a Cisco Academy at IVC. Mrs. Rodgers discussed with the group the progress made to implement a Cisco Academy at IVC during the last two semesters and asked for opinions regarding the need for Cisco training.

Ms. Garcia indicated that currently all IID technicians are Cisco certified; but when training is needed they have to send employees Los Angeles. She indicated that having the training nearby would be beneficial for future employees. Ms. Moler reiterated the fact that her employees also have to travel out of the county to get Cisco certified.

Mr. Carr added that most local companies have to contract out to install networking systems. However, when problems occur such as a virus, it is up to local employees to deal with. It would be more cost effective to have someone in-house who is able to respond in a timely manner. He also stated that once employees have the knowledge base for Cisco, they can work on all other networks.

In response to questions, Mrs. Rodgers indicated the Cisco Academy courses should begin in 2011-12.

Mr. Rodriguez asked what the price would be for the Cisco Academy. Mrs. Rodgers stated that students pay a per unit fee, which is currently \$26. Mr. Carr said that would be quite a savings since it costs \$1,800 currently to send employees to a five-day Cisco Academy, which doesn't include travel expenses and lost production.

There was general agreement that a Cisco Academy would benefit the community.

#### **5. Other**

Mr. Thale stated that as an IVC employee and as a student he would like to see more classes relating to database administration.

#### **6. Adjourn**

Mrs. Rodgers thanked everyone for their time and recommendations. Meeting was adjourned at 4:03 pm.