

Computer Studies/IT Advisory Committee Meeting
12:00-2:00 p.m.
Monday, January 22, 2024
Remote Via Zoom

MINUTES of January 22nd Meeting

Members in Attendance: Margo Brown, Brian Kreck, Robert Lee

Members Attending as Proxy: Andrea Luoma, Help Desk Analyst, Exchange Bank
for Bren Hanson

Members Absent: Bren Hanson

Staff in Attendance: Mackenzie Galindo, Michael McKeever, Megan Rhodes, Rachel Smith, Kevin Snyder

Invited Guests: Stephanie Sheridan, IS Manager at Sonoma County Human Services (attending for Kishore Jayaswal), Jack Wanke, Network Operations Center Manager at Sonic

Was there a quorum X Yes No

1. Call to Order

Brian Kreck called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting, 3/31/2023

Margo Brown moved that the minutes from the March 31, 2023 meeting be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Robert Lee. The motion passed.

3. Welcome/Introductions

Brian Kreck welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting and thanked them for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves, their industry affiliation and current happenings in their organization.

4. Public/Industry Comments – None

5. SRJC Computer Studies Department Report

- a. Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) are part of the SRJC accreditation process. SLOs provide a method for instructors to assess how students are understanding the course work. SLOs are required to be included in Title V course outline of records and can be revised if students are not learning what is listed in the SLOs. Assessing and updating SLOs is an ongoing task for instructors.
- b. The department has two new full-time faculty hires. Stephanie Clark joined the department last year as an Adobe instructor and Pam Wong joined the department this year as a programming instructor. Every year, the department has the opportunity to request full-time faculty hires. Three requests were submitted this year, one for Petaluma's networking program and two for Santa Rosa, one to replace Donald Laird and a new computer science position to include experience in AI and data science. All three positions were not approved. Associate faculty hiring will take place next month. Focus will be on hiring in those areas listed above and those that will teach in-person.
- c. In an effort to increase enrollment, the college is looking at dual enrollment with high schools.

- d. Michael asked members for an update about their experiences with in-person vs. online work environments.
- Margo Brown- Continues to be hybrid. She is in the office 2 to 3 days per week. Amy's Kitchen is encouraging employees to come back in person because there is an office and they like the personal interaction, although it is not required.
 - Brian Kreck – Nothing has changed. His organization continues to be entirely remote and there are no plans to return to the office.
 - Andrea Luoma – Exchange Bank is encouraging employees to come back, although possibly could do the opposite and grant an additional day working remote, which may help offset the in-person days.
 - Robert Lee – His organization is nationwide and employees work remote for the most part. They do hold in-person meetings quarterly. They work online in teams and find it just as effective as in-person.

Michael spoke about challenges in the department related to scheduling/staffing, student success and teaching modality. Some students want to be in the classroom and others cannot or don't want to be in the classroom and others don't know that they should be in the classroom. What seems to be more of a challenge is with the CS Department in terms of having faculty who almost all want to be teaching remote and don't want to teach in-person. This is very difficult as some CS classes need to be in-person.

The District has recently created a new modality of instruction called HyFlex. When a class is offered as HyFlex, it creates the option for students to choose on a session by session basis, if they want to be in-person, watch live via remote or watch the recording. The instructor will always be in the classroom. The District cannot require any faculty member to teach in this modality because it is extra work, but if a faculty member wants to they will be supported. The District is encouraging and wants students to come back on campus.

Michael is going to ask the District for the next several years to offer some kind of an incentive to teachers to teach in the HyFlex modality, to make up for the additional work. This will benefit the District by increasing in-person enrollments and providing a better learning experience for students. Michael asked for feedback from the committee as to whether or not HyFlex modality is worthwhile. Not just accommodating the students, but encouraging them to come to campus and recognizing that they can't always be on campus.

- Brian Kreck – Embrace the current teaching environment as it is now and continue to make it a good experience for students.
- Robert Lee – Having HyFlex modality helps and agrees with providing an incentive to professors.
- Andrea Luoma – Agrees with the HyFlex modality; if the remote option is available to students and they are not forced to meet in-person, that may encourage them to slowly attend future classes in-person. Providing students choices in how to attend would be beneficial.
- Jack Wanke – Feels that if the program is being compromised due to the instructor not wanting to be on campus, then maybe an incentive should be

looked at to encourage the instructor to provide the HyFlex modality. This will provide a better learning experience and a stronger program by having the best instructor.

6. Curriculum Update

Michael spoke about the departmental discussions on curriculum planning over the next several years and asked the committee members for their thoughts, ideas and feedback.

- a. Michael updated the committee on the development of the foundations of data science class. It is hopeful that it will be effective for Fall 2024. In the process of developing the course, the Math Department put up a few stumbling blocks that the department has had to navigate around. Discussions have taken place between the CS Department and Math Department trying to work through various issues. Michael is meeting with the Curriculum Committee next week to hopefully resolve those issues. Michael will be encouraging the Math Department to co-teach or co-list the course with the CS Department. Michael will also be developing a transfer major to Berkeley, which this class will be part of.
 - Brian Kreck - Curriculum looks great and nice foundation for data science.
- b. Next year, Michael has plans to create an introduction to artificial intelligence with Python class. He sees data science and AI as areas to focus on and build into the curriculum. Michael is also thinking about adding Java to the transfer track for computer science majors, which currently uses C++. Python curriculum is currently taught to be used as a tool for a lot of different areas in the medical field, not as a transfer track for computer science. He asked members of the committee if this is on track with industry needs.
 - Jack Wanke - Feels that Java is a good foundation and having that background makes it easier to learn other languages.
 - Brian Kreck – Agrees anything AI related is definitely great and we need to go in that direction.
 - Andrea Luoma – AI is a big topic at Exchange Bank. Not necessarily focusing on how the bank will use it, but how it can affect the bank.
- c. A third curriculum area to focus on is the Adobe Suite of classes. The department is brainstorming ideas on how to rejuvenate the curriculum. Currently, Adobe classes are offered in an A, B, C series. One idea is to have a full-semester class covering advanced topics in Illustrator, Indesign and Photoshop. Also looking at revamping the user interface user experience curriculum. Michael asked members for their input into how to rejuvenate the curriculum.
 - Brian Kreck – In the design world, all the Adobe programs currently being taught are very solid and still being used and doesn't see it changing much at the moment.
- d. Microsoft Office classes are another area that needs review. Enrollment is good in these classes, but wondering if the department should stay with Microsoft Office or go with Google office docs or offer both?
 - Margo Brown – Amy's Kitchen used to use the Google suite, but switched to Microsoft Office. There was a big push for the switch as people prefer Microsoft Office. She feels Microsoft Office is still the dominant.
 - Stephanie Sheridan – The Sonoma County Human Services Department uses Microsoft Office products, Microsoft's Cloud environment in general. They are

- migrating everything into Azure and O365 is a big part of that. They struggle to find people who have these skill sets from a recruiting perspective.
- Andrea Luoma – Exchange Bank has moved most of their email and everything else to cloud based. Cloud based applications seem to be a different kind of learning curve for people as opposed to an asset application on their computer.
- e. Michael also has plans to review Google’s IT Support Certificate and research how the department can incorporate our existing program, not as a replacement, but as another opportunity.
- f. Is there a need for employees or industries to have a general education class in AI that does not include programming or is that too basic for industry needs? Is it enough to cover it in the existing computer literacy curriculum?
- Brian Kreck – A general education AI class would be beneficial.
 - Jack Wanke – Agrees that a general education AI class would be beneficial
 - Margo Brown – AI class would be beneficial

7. Industry Update Discussion

Discussion centered on where industry is headed and committee members made the following comments:

- Brian Kreck – Not sure how AI based changes will look in the next 3 years. He suspects there will be new web related tool sets in a year and a half.
- Jack Wanke – Exposure to the concept of databases that are designed to inventory networks. Employees have very little experience with this. Hands-on experience building inventories and how to tailor them to meet the organization’s needs would be beneficial.
- Andrea Luoma – Cloud based applications

What should we be doing to better prepare students?

- Jack Wanke – Understanding how to ask the right questions to narrow down the scope of the problem related to help desks. Be able to take knowledge to the next level. Many get stuck before they even use the skills that they’ve learned in class. More scenario based learning would be beneficial to students.
- Brian Kreck – Agrees with Jack and finds this happens with his staff. They go with the first thing that pops into their head instead of thinking about the 4 to 5 other things that could be the problem.
- Margo Brown – Agrees that scenario based learning is important.
- Andrea Luoma – At the help desk level, how to identify requests that can come in that would appear real, but are a vulnerability because of the use of AI. Training employees to recognize and guard the organization against AI vulnerabilities.

8. Adjournment

- a. The date of the next CS/IT Advisory Committee meeting will be determined at a later date.
- b. The meeting adjourned at 4:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Brady, Administrative Assistant
Computer Studies Department