Computer Studies/IT Advisory Committee Meeting
3:00-5:00 p.m.
Monday, February 24, 2025
Remote Via Zoom

MINUTES of February 24th Meeting

Members in Attendance: Margo Brown, Brian Kreck, Robert Lee, Andrea Luoma, Jack Wanke
Members Absent: none
Staff in Attendance: Carrie Brady, Vanessa Luna, Michael McKeever, Megan Rhodes, Rachel Smith, Kevin Snyder, Ethan Wilde
Invited Guests: Marty Lees, SRJC Oak Leaf Reporter, Suzanne Rivoire, SSU Professor and Computer Studies Department Chair, Andrew Sniderman, Tech Tales
Was there a quorum __X__ Yes _____No

1. **Call to Order**
   Brian Kreck called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

2. **Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting, 1/22/2024**
   Margo Brown moved that the minutes from the January 22, 2024 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. Michael McKeever confirmed there was a quorum and thanked everyone for attending. Attendees introduced themselves, their industry affiliation and current happenings in their organization.

4. **Public/Industry Comments** – None

5. **SRJC Computer Studies Department Report**
   a. Michael is unsure about how much of an impact the budget reductions at SSU will have on enrollment in the CS Department. Suzanne Rivoire shared that the Computer Science Department at SSU is not cutting, they are actually growing. They will be merging with the Electrical Engineering Department and are identified as a growth area for the college to increase enrollments. They are also going to develop a data science degree program.
   b. The college's demographics have changed and enrollment has decreased over the past five years. Currently, the college is at 14,000 students and needs to reach 17,500 students in the next few years. The current focus of the college right now is the Strategic Enrollment Plan, aimed at increasing enrollments by effectively using FTEF (Full Time Equivalent Faculty) without reducing the number of classes offered. The college is working closely with high schools in offering classes on high school bell schedules and redesigning classes to attract high school students.

6. **Curriculum Update**
   a. Michael shared and reviewed the Bay Area Community College Consortium's (BACCC) series of AI courses that are in the process of development. They are being developed

by industry members from various areas and faculty from various community colleges. Michael is currently in the process of reviewing the courses. He sees online AI courses as a growth area for the CS Department. He is hoping to potentially incorporate the AI courses into the department's curriculum, although he doesn't know yet how it will fit. He expressed interest in creating a two-year certificate program in AI, but is unsure if the college could support it.

b. Michael asked for thoughts about development of AI curriculum from an industry perspective.
- Andrew Sniderman – Content looks amazing and necessary.
- Brian Kreck - Concerned about the rapid pace of technology and the time it takes to approve new curriculum. He feels courses might need to be updated quickly to keep up with industry changes. The course list may look very different in a year or two. The course list looks great currently and incorporating AI concepts is vital to what industry is experiencing right now.
- Jack Wanke – Sonic is cautiously optimistic about AI. Definitely encourages the use of it in a lot of different areas. There is a need for understanding how to interact with AI. Teach basic AI; teach how to talk to AI; prompt engineering.
- Robert Lee - Growth areas in his organization are focused on anything to do with AI data, governance and cybersecurity. They are taking a couple of different approaches to AI: open AI Copilot, cloud foundations, prompt engineering, etc. Need people who are versed in not only how to structure and how to have guardrails for AI Copilot, but also how to initiate prompt engineering. Feels it would be helpful to have the AI courses, but also shares Brain's concern about the timeframe to get courses approved and scheduled. Feels that offering a bridge/interim course to start teaching AI content would be beneficial.
- Suzanna Rivoire - SSU is considering making AI a required upper division course for mathematical foundations.

c. Michael is collaborating with the Math Department on creating a data science major.

d. New CS faculty hire, Kendra Morning, is working with Michael on revitalizing the Adobe Suite courses and social media courses. A new course, Introduction to AI Tools, will be offered in the fall.

e. Michael asked if there is an industry need for Mongo databases or non-SQL databases.
- Brian Kreck - Suggested a brief introduction to non-relational databases could be beneficial; maybe just a survey of explaining some of the major concepts. Doesn't feel it needs to be a dedicated class.
- Margo Brown – Her organization's current infrastructure doesn't require non-SQL database.

f. Michael is making some changes to the cybersecurity program. He shared and reviewed the cybersecurity major/certificate list of course requirements, which are all running smoothly and have good enrollment. The changes will remove three elective classes due to there not being enough bandwidth to offer them, they are not guaranteed to fill to the requirement of 20 students and they are not able to offered due to budget restraints. The following three elective courses will be removed: a) Server Administration; b) Firewalls and Network Security; c) Programming for Cybersecurity (Python class will take its place). The courses will be replaced with an independent study option allowing students to learn specific topics online. He feels students can customize

their area of interest in what they want to learn and need to do, either for a job or where their interest in cybersecurity is. They will receive credit via the independent study class. This will provide an opportunity for those students who want to do something unique and specific. Committee members made the following comments:

- Margo Brown – Agrees with all of the above changes

7. **Industry Update Discussion**

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

- Robert Lee – From the county government side: Increasing focus on AI, data governance and cybersecurity. His organization does offer student internships year round.
- Megan Rhodes –Shared student concerns about entering the workforce and how to secure entry level positions that often require 3-5 years of experience. Would internships help bridge this gap for students?
- Jack Wanke – Sonic hires for network operations like CCNA, so certifications like CCNA could be beneficial for network operations jobs. Good to have this background as a lot of time is spent working on networks and with the people who use those networks.
- Brian Kreck – Depending on the job, portfolios can showcase work done, even if it is not for a specific client. For his company, he feels that internships have not been productive for both the company and the students.
- Andrea Luoma – Basing a lot of entry level positions not necessarily on the certifications an individual has, but more on what they've done in their classes by including those learned skills on resumes. Teach resources on how to translate coursework into work experience for those individuals just entering the workforce to include on their resumes.
- Jack Wanke – Agrees with Andrea's comment about translating coursework into relevant work experience for resumes.
- Margo Brown – Agrees with Andrea and Jack.
- Jack Wanke – Seeing more usage of certain networking tools for teaching: Code Spaces and Container Lab. Sonic uses these tools with positive results.

Michael discussed the development of digital portfolios for students to showcase their work and emphasized the importance of demonstrating their skills. The intent of his project management class is for students to be able to complete the class and show the network that they built, the configuration file, the drawings, diagrams, etc. This is also the intent of the adobe classes. Teaching students how to demonstrate that they completed a class, not just say that they completed a class.

8. **Adjournment**
   a. The date of the next CS/IT Advisory Committee meeting will be determined at a later date. If any curriculum changes/approvals come up prior to the next meeting, Michael will send an email to committee members.
   b. The meeting adjourned at 4:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Brady, Administrative Assistant
Computer Studies Department