

Industrial Advisory Board Meeting
February 21, 2014

Participants: Dr. Christian Tournes (Davidson Technologies), Mr. Donnie Brown (BP), Mr. Wesley Marsh (Nucor), Mr. Adrian Volgantenz (AJA Inc.), Dr. Adam Wade Lewis, Dr. Brady Rimes, Prof. Dave Fitzsimmons, Prof. Katia Mayfield, Dr. Ronnie Merritt, Dr. Ron Fritze.

Dr. Glenn welcomed and gave a history/introduction of Athens State University and our student population to the board members.

Dr. Lewis provided an overview of our current program, the courses that we offer, the challenges that we are currently facing, and how our program corresponds to the ACM/IEEE curriculum guidelines.

Mr. Ronnie Knox provided a lunch presentation to open up discussion about the Alabama Science and Technology Center.

Summary of discussion topics for review:

1. The computer science faculty wants to make sure that we are providing our students the knowledge that is needed for them to be competitive candidates for employment in the area.
2. We want to build a strong relationship with industry representatives so that there is a collaborative effort in being able to evolve our degree options to allow our students to become competitive candidates.
3. In building these relationships we can further discuss possibilities of partnering with companies for specific programs that they may also be looking for.
4. Course specific items:
 - a. Database driven applications and developers don't understand protection of SQL injections, NULL values, sanitization of data, being system agnostic, closing connects...all items that should be "foundation". These are topics that we need to be sure to emphasize in our Database course.
 - b. Need for the development of an embedded systems course.
 - c. Knowledge of scripting and functional languages – research further to consider development of an elective course.
 - i. Basic scripting for management (Perl and Ruby) – consider the design and implementation for a 2 hour half semester course to cover Perl, Ruby, and JavaScript.
 - d. Cloud computing is not something that large businesses are currently using, however virtualizations is a more important topic.
 - i. VM Ware

- ii. Shrinking footprint
 - iii. Increasing Availability
 - iv. Networking
 - v. Administration
 - vi. Configuration
- e. Student must have an understanding of business models
 - i. strongly emphasize in Software Engineering
 - ii. develop the systems analysis and design course for CIS
- 5. In the afternoon we held a more open discussion where some of the above was mentioned but some additional items are as follows:
 - a. Board members were asked for their opinions in the areas where they see “growth”
 - i. Information security
 - ii. Systems administration
 - iii. Software development
 - b. Software that employees are using that students should be/become familiar with are:
 - i. SharePoint
 - ii. Oracle
 - iii. SAP
 - c. Additional suggestions and comments
 - i. Provide students with knowledge of distributed computing
 - ii. When students reach Software Engineering
 - 1. implement job searching into the course.
 - 2. have students find out when contracts are awarded
 - iii. BP, Nucor, and Davidson-Technologies have co-ops and internships available; need to reach out to ASU placement office to start a relationship to give our students an opportunity.

Action Items:

1. Check to see how many students are coming through with VA benefits.
2. Contact alumni and gather information on:
 - a. Where are they currently?
 - b. If they were already in CS related position when started program, did they remain in that career with the possibility for advancement or did they change professions.
3. Find out the drop rates for the following courses:
 - a. Programming I
 - b. Discrete Math
 - c. Digital Logic

4. Professor Mayfield will work on further analysis of the CIS program
 - a. Be more specific as to courses that will be offered if students are to choose to follow a business minor with their degree.
 - b. Introduce a Systems Analysis and design course into the program
5. Find out if there is the opportunity to provide a “tuition break” for specific company employees that may choose to come to ASU to finish their degrees.
 - a. If so, what are the options that we are given?
6. Professor Fitzsimmons will be reviewing his networking labs to determine how he can implement virtualization.
7. Professor Mayfield will start to explore the idea of forming a new minor that will entail covering virtualization along with exposing our students to the different applications that are currently being used by industry.

Next Meeting:

May 16th, 2014 –

9:00 – Noon

Water’s Conference Room 200, followed by lunch off campus.