

Industrial Advisory Board Meeting
May 16, 2014

Participants: Mr. Donnie Brown (BP), Mrs. Susan Moon (Huntsville School District), Mr. Ronnie Knox, Dr. Adam Wade Lewis, Dr. Brady Rimes, Prof. Katia Mayfield, and Dr. Ronnie Merritt.

Professor Mayfield provided follow up information on action items that were assigned and answers to questions that were brought up during the February 21, 2014 meeting.

Dr. Lewis provided information on the development of a Robotics Minor.

Mr. Ronnie Knox provided an update on the Alabama Science and Technology Center.

Summary of discussion topics for review:

1. As of Spring 2014 enrollment, there were eight students in Computer Science, attending school on VA benefits. Five were CIS students with 1 student for each of the other options (CS, CN, IS). This count was taken to try to determine the demographics of our students as far as who is currently working and coming in for a degree, attending school for the first time, and those who may be coming back to school.
2. We were able to obtain survey results conducted by Institutional Research every two years among alumni of ASU. Those results were split to show us answers specifically from Computer Science students. There were 16 CS students and a total of 363 ASU students that responded to the last survey. Based on the 16 CS students answers compared with those of other alumni, our students seem to be doing well on the job market, at the same margin of the other students or better. All of our students are in positions paying \$30,000.00 or more, with the majority, 11 of them, earning \$50,000.00 or above. Thirteen students are employed in their major field and all of them are working full-time. The survey results were included in the packet that was available during the meeting. They are also attached to this summary.
3. We reviewed the drop rates for our feeder/service courses (309/L Digital Design, 317 Programming 1, and MA 308 Discrete Math) and concluded that our drop rates are comparable to other institutions. We also have to keep in mind that CS 317 and MA 308 courses are taken by students outside their major and we were not able to distinguish the drop rates based only on our majors.
4. Based on the conversation that took place during our first meeting, it was brought up that the department would like to change our CIS degree to make it more flexible to allow for the creation of new minors. Therefore, we discussed removing the business courses that were necessary for the “professional” portion of the degree requiring students to declare a minor.

- a. With the changes to the CIS option we would also like to create a System Analysis and Design course as a first class for students following the CIS option and to be offered as an elective to the other options. One of the topics suggested to be covered in this course is technical communication. Mr. Brown did comment that industry has adapted to the changes of how communication is handled and we (professors of this course) will need to conduct some research to be able to properly provide the knowledge to our students as to what is acceptable.

A copy of the plan of study changes and the SA&D syllabus is also included.

5. It was mentioned that Nucor has started working with the department by accepting resumes and conducting interviews to have an intern during the Summer 2014 and Fall 2014.
6. Mr. Brown commented that he has put together a group at BP and started researching the opportunities to become involved in the Capstone course and internship possibilities.
7. During the first meeting it was asked if employees from specific companies would be able to attend ASU and receive a tuition break. This is reported as an agreement often found with students enrolled in Master's degree programs. We have asked this question to the administration and it has been submitted to be discussed at a future Board of Trustees meeting.
8. Another discussion that took place was the FAME project between Calhoun and Toyota. Mrs. Moon voiced a concern that at the moment the program does not have a transition for students to be able to go on into a four year college degree in continuing their education. Mr. Brown did voice the possible resistance that might be faced if the students were to have that avenue, due to the fact that by completing a four year degree, technicians will not want to remain in their current positions and the industry is currently not set up for a rotation process, taking technicians into engineering positions as a "cycle". It was concluded in the long run that individuals (student/employees), industry, and education have a lot to address and try to implement changes.
9. Mrs. Moon mentioned the need for teachers with Computer Science backgrounds for many of the Cyber courses that are being taught in the Huntsville school district. Graduates can be hired on without a teachers certification but will have to be working to obtain one.
10. Lastly we have set up a tentative date for the next meeting as October 10th. At the moment we are planning for a 9 am to Noon meeting.

Action Items:

1. Professor Mayfield will continue to work on finalizing documents to send to the curriculum committee to make the changes to the CIS program.
2. Dr. Lewis and Professor Mayfield will be working to obtain projects for the capstone course for the Fall 2014 semester.
 - a. IAB members will be invited to attend summer capstone presentations.

3. Professor Mayfield will double check with Career Services to be sure that the organizations that are involved in our IAB are receiving information about Career Fairs that are held in the ASU campus.
4. The faculty of the department will work together to come up with more detailed questions to create a survey specifically geared towards CS graduates.
5. Professor Fitzsimmons will be reviewing his networking labs to determine how he can implement virtualization.
6. 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.
7. Professor Mayfield will start to explore and research the possibilities and process to develop a Computer Science teacher certification program at ASU.

Next Meeting:

October 10th, 2014 –

9:00 – Noon

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