

Industrial Advisory Board Meeting
October 27th, 2015

Participants: Mr. Adrian Vogeltanz (Digium), Mr. David Freeman (Limestone County), Mr. Mr. Chad Easterling (Dynetics), Mr. Russ Johnson (SAIC), Dr. Adam Wade Lewis, Dr. Brady Rimes, Dr. Ronnie Merritt, Prof. Katia Mayfield, Mr. Daniel Caywood (student), Ms. Liza Cominotto (student)

The meeting for the Fall semester we started off by introducing some new members to the Board. Mr. Russ Johnson from SAIC has joined us.

Based on some feedback from the ABET site visit that we had, one of the things that our department needed to improve on was keeping track of meetings that we hold and also to be sure that all the changes that we are making are being reviewed by the faculty, our board, and our student constituents. Therefore, one of the best solutions that the faculty was able to come up with was to invite two students to represent their peers on the board. The two student representatives are Mr. Daniel Caywood and Ms. Liza Cominotto.

The projects that the capstone students worked on over the summer were mentioned, along with the projects from this semester and the ones that we are expecting to have in the Spring semester. Those projects were:

Summer 2015

- Enhancements to the Backstage Operations Management System for the Tennessee Valley Old-Time Fiddlers Convention.
- Implementation of Molecular Biology themed Serious Educational Game for the iPad
- Re-design and enhancements to the Athens Learn to Read web presence

Fall 2015

- Enhancements to the Backstage Operations Management System for the Tennessee Valley Old-Time Fiddlers Convention -- Continued
- Implementation of Molecular Biology themed Serious Educational Game for the iPad – Continued
- Enhancement to the Athens Limestone United Way web presence and security audit
- Digital Humanities Research Project

Upcoming Spring 2016

- Re-design and enhancements to the Limestone County Sheriff's Rodeo web presence
- Re-design and enhancements to the Athens Limestone County 911 Dispatch web presence

- Re-design and enhancements to the Athens Limestone United Way web presence
- Implementation of Molecular Biology themed Serious Educational Game for the iPad -- Continued

Dr. Lewis walked everyone through the ABET findings that we were “informally” made aware of and the changes that we have started to make to be sure to be able to start addressing the shortcomings that we will see when we receive the ABET report in January.

In short, all of the plans of studies that we have for our different options are being updated. The department is also putting forth the request to split our program into a Bachelor’s of Science in Computer Science which will hold the options for Computer Science and Information Security, and into a Bachelor’s of Science in Information Technology which will hold the options of Computer Information Systems and Computer Networking.

A main topic of discussion that we had during this meeting was based off of the objectives that the department has set up. Based on the ABET site visit our current objectives are targeted at the time of graduation and the requirements for acceptable objectives by ABET are 2-3 years after graduation.

At time of graduation

1. Develop knowledge of fundamental core concepts of Computer Science and their applications.
2. Develop analytical and problem solving skills.
3. Learn large-scale project development in team development environment.
4. Demonstrate oral and written communication skills.

[comment made here that #4 should state the order of logic and a logical thinking process]

The proposed goals that the department had for the 2-3 year objectives are below, in red are the concerns with these objectives that we need your assistance to finalize before we have to report back to ABET. The objectives are:

2-3 years after graduation

1. Can assume leadership roles or positions including team and project leader, within their organization or have made significant progress toward a graduate degree in computing. **This statement is too vague and there are a lot of different considerations that have to be taken into place with the first portion of the objectives. Mainly the facts that there are different types of team and project leaders and the type is not specified in this statement. The other concern is over the fact that there are many different considerations when selecting a team and project leader from a person’s personality to whether or not they would want to accept such a role.**

2. Use the background they have acquired in a wide range of areas in computer science during their undergraduate study as a basis for continued growth of their professional knowledge and skills.

Be able to accomplish these independently and be self-motivated. A company does not always have the funds to send employees to trainings and that needs to be clarified in this statement.

3. Display continued high ethical standards within the community and profession.
4. Use teamwork skills effectively in the development of computer software systems.

During the meetings we were not able to come up with the re-wording that was needed however, some of the possibilities that are currently on the table are:

To solve the issue with the first, break down the objectives into two.

- a. Are academically prepared to continue their graduation program.
- b. Are skilled, competent, and contribute to the workforce in their specialty.

To include self-motivation in the second we have:

Use the background they have acquired in a wide range of areas in computer science during their undergraduate study as a basis for continued self-motivated growth of their professional knowledge and skills.

****It would be greatly appreciated to receive feedback from the board on the split of the first objectives and the inclusion of “self-motivated” in the second.****

When reviewing the student outcomes that we currently assess for our program it was commented that for “Communication and organizational skills” we should also add in time management skills. The student outcomes are ones where we have to be able to measure the outcomes to provide an analysis on it. The CS faculty along with Dr. Merritt will be meeting about outcomes to determine how we will measure “Time Management”.

While reviewing the two newly developed courses, CS 310 Ethics, and CIS 441 Systems Integration and Architecture it was discussed that in CIS 441 professors should be sure to cover logical thinking when it comes to integration. In the area of Ethics it was discussed the importance of understanding in user license agreements.

Some of our wrap up items and announcements:

1. Alabama Commission of Higher Education will be meeting in late June and that is when we will find out about the approval of the program split.

2. The ABET Commissions meeting will be in July and by August we will find out about accreditation.
3. The Board will hold our next meeting in late February or early March, after the department has been able to respond to the official ABET report so that we are able to discuss this during our next meeting.
4. The capstone presentations will take place at 6:00pm on December 3rd. Location is still to be determined but we will send out an additional announcement about this.
5. I asked Board members to consider coming in and having “open conversations” with our senior students (Software Engineering students and capstone students). In the upcoming Spring semester dates that I will have available for my classes are:

January 28th

February 25th

April 7th

All of the above would take place at 6:00pm. When the semester begins, we will have additional dates that will be associated to the Math and Computer Science club, and some of the other professors may have some open dates that can also be suggested.

If dates that we have do not correlate well with your schedule but you would like to come in and speak with our students please let me know and we can always announce it as a special guest speaker and open the discussion to all students.