

Spring 2005 CIS Board of Advisors Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2005

Members in attendance:

John Dalphin, CIS Department Chair
Jim Cottrell, CIS Advisory Board Chair
Gary Wager, CIS Advisory Board Secretary
Justin Sipher
Haden Land
Adam Myatt
Geoff Lambert
Jeff Crump
Robert Gray
Jeff McGrath

Students in attendance:

Tim Mann, President of ACM
Fred Maneiro
Paul Lienhard
Roy Jacob
Bishal Thapa
Joe Laskowski
Tony Tambasco (recent CIS grad.)

Faculty in attendance:

Barbara Norstrand
Tim Fossum
Susan Haller

Administration and staff in attendance:

John Fallon, President
Galen Pletcher, Dean of Arts and Sciences
Nancy Griffin
Margaret (Maggie) Madden, Provost
Andy Harradine, Director of Computing & Technology Services
(Justin Sipher's replacement)

Jim Cottrell opened the meeting by bidding farewell to Dr. Fallon.

Dr. Fallon Opening Remarks

Appointment of SUNY Chancellor, Robert King to interim president of SUNY Potsdam was a surprise to everyone on campus. He may bring opportunities by having contacts in Albany. Dr. Fallon welcomed Dr. Tim Fossum as the new CIS Chair and Dr. Susan Haller as new CIS professor both starting in the Summer, 2005.

Dr. Fallon, Maggie Madden and Vicki Templeton-Cornell visited New York Senators Hillary Clinton and Chuck Schumer in Washington, D.C. to seek funding to create a New York math and science education center at Potsdam. Both senators were eager to help with seeking funding.

SUNY Potsdam will receive 3.9 million dollars in state funding over the next three years to replace the pianos in Crane.

An 8 million dollar cogeneration project was approved by the NY senate and assembly. SUNY Potsdam will save $\frac{3}{4}$ -1.3 million dollars per year by generating its own electricity. The project is awaiting approval by the Governor.

Four Potsdam students were recognized by the Chancellor as Students of Excellence. Mary Bailey is a triple major. She volunteers, leads student organizations and is a member of honor society. Megan Lizenfelder is a double major, member of the diving team, volunteers, and interned with the US Supreme Court. Christian Turner is going to medical school, plays on the basketball team, performs community service, and is involved in student activities. Bishal Thapa is a CIS/Math major, working on his Masters degree in Math, a mentor, a tutor, a member of honor societies and is presenting research.

Maggie Madden

Maggie is hopeful that new interim president, Robert King will be good with negotiating budgets on Potsdam's behalf although he has never worked on a campus. Maggie gave thanks to the Board members for coming to Potsdam.

Galen Pletcher

Dean Pletcher described how Dr. Fallon was instrumental in resurrecting CIS major when others had doubts about its place on an Arts & Sciences campus.

Dr. Pletcher introduced Dr. Tim Fossum, Phd, Mathematics. He has many publications and has received many grants. He is interested in cyber security. He has served as a grant evaluator. He will start as CIS Department Chair this summer.

Dr. Pletcher introduced Dr. Susan Haller, MBA, Phd Computer Science. She taught high school and junior high. She taught at a community college and the University of Wisconsin. She has many publications and grants.

Tim Fossum

Dr. Fossum is eager to pursue collaborative opportunities with other departments and the community. He wants to continue research program. Computing Research Association predicts downward trend in Computer Science enrollments.

Susan Haller

Dr. Haller has a research interest in Natural Language Processing especially as it applies to security.

Justin Sipher

Justin introduced Andy Harradine (CIS/Math 88) as his replacement as Director of Computing & Technology Services. Justin has taken a similar position at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY. Andy was instrumental in installing Student Banner (student database) system.

Self introductions were made by all members and students in attendance.

Jim Cottrell Farewells

Jim bids farewell to Dr. Dalphin and hails his work on the Informatics program. Dr Dalphin will retire at the end of the Fall, 2005.

Jim bids farewell to Dr. Norstand and hails her work on the programming contests and NSF grants.

Justin Sipher is bid farewell for leaving campus employment but is officially welcomed as a Board member.

Andy Harradine

Computing and Technology Services web site has been enhanced. It lists 48 smart classrooms. A requests for three more smart classrooms has been made.

A VPN has been setup for campus and includes student access.

Potsdam contracted with IBM to run CAT6 cable throughout campus. The work is mostly done and should be completed by this summer. The cable is replacing 10Base2 thinnet.

Administrators have access to Internet2. It is completely transparent to the user. Access is done at the router.

Time Warner has taken over management of campus Internet and TV access. They provide 24/7 support. There has been a big increase in performance. Other colleges are starting to do it. Justin received about 30 reference calls from other colleges for Time Warner.

The Banner system (Oracle based student database) is running on an eight year old VAX.

The system will be ported to Linux over the next year.

The Email server has been upgraded. Storage Area Network systems will be installed.

Potsdam is buying WebEvent software which facilitates putting a calendar on the website.

Volunteers removed 380 lbs of old wire from the Stillman Computer Center. Centralized UPSs for servers have been installed.

Mike Galane will be donating 30 HP workstations this summer.

Nancy Griffin

Haden Land is providing an endowed fund to support an internship starting next year. The fund will be self supporting in five years. The internship has to be in the aerospace industry. The fund can be used to help student interns with housing.

Tim Mann – ACM Presentation

Working on recruiting members.

Encouraging CIS students to come to meetings.

3-5 students typically show up at meetings.

Topics of discussion are about incoming faculty, video cards and processors. A hot topic is video games.

ACM elections are coming up.

ACM holds a biannual Linux installation fest for incoming CIS 103 students or anyone interested.

ACM focus as academic resource rather than social gathering to help ensure students success in the major.

Goal to have 2 strong teams for next year programming contest.

Goal – Grow - like to get all students involved. Targeting math students.

Next programming contest is April 22, 2005 in Providence RI.. At least one team is going. A second team is a possibility.

Roy Jacob

John Dalphin mentioned Roy is receiving the Stillman Service Award. Stillman was the founding chair of the Computer Science department in late 60s.

Roy is working on a Machinima project. It is a combination of machine and animation. He used an existing game engine to customize a video. He demonstrated an animated commercial he did for a business class.

Barbara Norstrand - NSF Grants Update

The original grant is winding down. (NSF/DUE CSEMS – Computer Science Engineering and Mathematics Scholarships). There is not enough money to run summer program this year.

Jump Start Program – Help incoming freshman make transition to college. Students participate in two day orientation before start of semester.

John von Neumann Scholarship Fall 2004 – 20 awards (about \$30,000 out of \$90,000 available) 20 students approved for Fall 2005 so far.

Several Students gave presentations on their capstone course projects:

Joe Laskowski

Student Joe Laskowski worked with Andy Harradine's staff using Oracle HTML DB to allow users to create their own databases and forms. Administrative staff currently have their own home grown Filemaker databases. The Oracle databases will be stored on SAN.

Bishal Thapa

Bishal is the recipient of the Ben Bradley award. It is given to the highest CIS achieving student. He is a CIS/Math major. He is working on a wireless network project. He is working with Dr. Marshall on a project using elliptic curves in cryptography to develop algorithms.

Paul Lienhard

Paul is working on a project to make a wireless GPS transmitter. It currently works at distances under three feet. There appears to be a hardware problem with the transmitter and/or receiver. New hardware has been ordered. He is using MySQL database to store the data.

DVDs of the students' capstone projects will be made available.

Gary Wager Internship/Recruiting Committee Report

The Internship/Recruiting committee would like to hold a company night in the fall. A company may present a topic of interest, a programming problem, or discuss recruitment. The format is fairly open and is designed to increase student interest in the industry. Any interested presenters should contact Pat Caffrey or Gary Wager.

The committee will be working toward implementing the mentor program this fall. Any interested mentors should contact Pat Caffrey.

Robert Gray Marketing Committee Report

Rob reported that the committee would like to advertise scholarships on the CIS website. The committee's goal is to get more students but it will focus on retaining existing students. A discussion ensued about articulation agreements with community colleges.

Jeff Crump Curriculum Committee Report

Jeff reported no recent activity. He recapped the committee's early work. Cryptography is a regular course on the books due to the recommendation by the Board. A discussion began on the perception of a BA vs. BS by students. Students question the value of BA over BS.

Chair Report by John Dalphin

Dr Dalphin presented the Spring 2005 courses. Peter Brouwer is teaching CIS 100 Knowledgeware (It is co-listed with Informatics 101) course this semester.

A high level of students drop out of CIS 103 Problem Solving. The students in attendance mentioned that a lab would be helpful. CIS 290 Linux is a 1 credit lab course taught in first 5 weeks of semester that CIS 103 students are encouraged to take. Andy will provide data on registration and dropouts for each CIS class.

Eight students enrolled in CIS 490 Internship this semester.

Campus course schedule will become web-based access only possibly by the Spring 2006. The website will show how many seats are available in courses.

No Summer 2005 classes planned.

Fall 2005 Courses. Tim, Susan and John will soon decide on text book selection. John will get prior text book titles for courses to Tim.

Items in Progress- Continue development of INFM 101. May get rid of CIS 100 label all together. The Informatics Major is still in draft. Dr. Dalphin is hoping to have it approved before he leaves in the Fall.

The Center for Informatics proposal is stalled.

SUNY Oswego is starting a Masters program in Human-Computer Interface. It is similar to Informatics.

New Chair Tim Fossum will take over for Fall 2005. New professor Susan Haller starts in Fall. Dr. Dalphin retires at the end of the fall.
Part-time lab tech still not yet hired.

SCAP (Student Computer Access Program)funding for Laboratory and Classroom Enhancement. 3 proposals submitted, 2 approved near 100% funding. Replace Ultraminos (Computer lab server). Will include a backup system. Create data communications lab to support data comm. classes. Funding comes from SUNY. (3rd proposal was not approved.)

Dr. Dalphin would like an external review of the CIS department.

Initiatives – Arts & Technology Building Planning is still in the works. Campus is going through revisioning process – available on Web. Title III (with Service Learning) was not funded.

Jim Cottrell discusses position of Board Member Emeritus

This is a way for former members or faculty to stay involved with Board activities. Position was voted on and unanimously accepted.

Fall 2005 Board Meeting will be held on October 22, 2005 (provided there will be adequate housing.)