

CIS BOA Meeting November 11, 2006
Potsdam, NY

Jim Cottrell started the meeting at 9:30am. Board members attending included: James Jones, Jim Cottrell, Ronda Curtis, Rob Gray, Justin Sipher, Adam Myatt, Alethea Pratt, and Dana Harris.

Jim introduced Brian Ladd as a new faculty member and participant on the Board of Advisors. The rest of the members made their introduction.

Student James Snow presented the ACM report.

- Become more known and grow membership of ACM.
- Attended 2 programming contests over the last year and won one of them.
- Had a movie night.
- Had a guest speaker from IBM.
- Planning a LAN party with the gaming club.
- ACM is considering joining the SGA again.
- E-board has access to the ACM office and gaming lab.
- Average meeting is 5 students.
- Meetings are in the UNIX lab, homework assistance.
- Dana Harris offered to bring up a Sun server to donate to the ACM. The offer was accepted.
- Plans:
 - o CCSCNE 2007 @ RIT
 - o LAN Party with the Gaming Club
 - o Study Break during finals week with food.
 - o Jim Cottrell brought up the idea of bringing an Ibo outside to attract
 - o James Snow reported that the ACM received an anonymous donation recently.
 - o Brian Ladd announced that he is working to get an open house for gaming next semester in conjunction with other colleges.

Dana Harris offered to donate a UNIX workstation to the ACM. The ACM accepted the server and the department will find a place to house the equipment.

Tim Fossum began the Chair's Report by distributing the Annual Report (The first report that Galen Pletcher has received from the department). Activities:

- Jim Vaughn '69 was on campus for law enforcement oriented presentations and to highlight opportunities in this area
- The Arts & Technology Building has moved towards being mostly arts oriented. It will be a performing arts theater with just a little tech. Tim was disappointed that CIS is not going to have much of a role in this.
- Susan Haller attended FLIRES in Florida.
- Tim visited alumni in Boston at Progress Corp.
- Inaugural offering of CIS 105 in the Distance Learning format.
- Susan Haller participated in a pre-planning SIGCSE meeting in Cincinnati.

- Tim and Susan participated on an NSF panel in Washington DC.
- Robotics summer project.
- Cody Zink (student) had an internship at Northeast Analytical and is continuing to work with them remotely.
- CCSC-NE preplanning meeting
- A northeast programming contest was held. The contest questions were distributed to the board.
- Bruce Potter colloquium (IBM speaker). IBM also provided a new blade cluster for the department. Brian and Tim are working on a project to use this cluster to promote the department and the college to external users.
- Tim presented an overview of CIS faculty participation on various boards and organizations both on and off campus.
- There are now 44 CIS majors vs. 39 a year ago.
- Faculty recruitment review: 145 applicants, 3 on site interviews, Dr. Brian Ladd hired.
- An overview of the current and next semester course offerings was given.
- James Snow (student) attended the AAAI Robotics Workshop in Palo Alto CA over the summer. James and Tim wrote a paper on using Pyro as a programming interface for low cost robots.
- The faculty here is interested in using robots to attract students into the program. For example students here were able to program a Roomba recently.
- The North Country Programming Contest will be held here in the spring.
- Self-study due in 2008. Board participation welcome.
- Brian Ladd just got a book contract to write a textbook on using games to teach CS 1.
- Changes to the BA (CS and IS concentrations) have been approved.
- The proposed BS is coming – more info in the spring. Tim sees a BS AND BA option in CS – not just a migration to BS.
- The department wishes to increase the internship program and re-establish a mentorship program that works.

Andy (Computer Services) talked about the upcoming Internet 2 day to show what's possible in teaching on this new network. Maggie discussed some possibilities for distance learning in several different disciplines.

Maggie Madden welcomed the board back to campus with a brief statement of appreciation.

Nancy Griffin and Danielle Brining made a presentation regarding scholarships.

Highlights:

- \$1.8 M awarded last year campus wide to 380 students.
- Named Scholarships: provider can name it if its large enough
- General Scholarships: funded from the general donation pool.
- Two types of Names Scholarships
 - o Annual: funded directly from the donor on an annual basis (businesses tend to do this).

- Endowed: funded from the interest proceeds of a permanent fund.
- Minimum to endow: \$20,000.
- 6% is the standard foundation policy.
- Costs: tuition: \$4350; room & board: \$10,000; fees: \$1000
- Criteria for award: Major, gender, geographic area, financial need, is the scholarship renewable, freshman vs. transfer

Lunch with President Schwaller

Breakout Sessions: The group divided into 3 groups to come up with new ideas for improving the department. The results are as follows:

Group 1 Suggestions

- Larger windows in UNIX lab
- Promote ACM by fewer meetings and more content and speakers
- Improve student life – use communication vehicles such as list servers for students to contact alumni
- Build more info presentation skills into the CS courses
- Connect with local/national ACM who could present at ACM meetings
- Promote inter-campus ACM meetings with nearby chapters

Group 2 Suggestions

- Real-world career speeches from guest speakers – lessons learned
- Special-topic seminars run by CS alumni associated with a specific class
- Expand internship opportunities
- Mock interviews between students and alumni with resumes and functional jobs
- Collaborative portal for CIS alums, BOA members, faculty, and students
- Mentorship program to raise student level of awareness, improve organizational skills, etc.

Group 3 Suggestions

- Main theme: interdisciplinary work: students and faculty
- Capstone video: incoming students, high school visits/counselors, resume builder, capstone website
- Video profiles of Board members: stories, projects
- Selling beyond campus: what *is* computer science
- Selling on campus: fun, practicality, skill sets

Scholarship Discussion

The pluses and minuses of offering the scholarship to incoming vs. existing promising CS II student was discussed. The point was made that the CS website needs to be updated and made current before marketing the scholarship marketing begins. Danielle Brining went over some details about how the endowment account would work. A special mailing to CS grads would go out as well as advertising in Potsdam People.

A discussion was held in that resulted in the board voting to create 2 new committees – scholarship and portal. The board members agreed to move forward on projects to fund at least one endowed scholarship and to create an online portal to pool communications between board members, students, faculty, and alumni. A demo of a potential new portal template was given by James Jones. The portal committee volunteers are James Jones Haller, and Brian Ladd. The scholarship committee volunteers are Tim Fossum, Dana Harris, and Ronda Harris.

The next board meeting will be on either April 13/14 or April 27/28.