

CIS BOARD OF ADVISORS MEETING
Friday-Saturday, October 3 - 4, 2008

• Round the room introduction – Alethea Pratt

• Hails and Farewells – Alethea Pratt

- Andy Hurd – new member
Assistant Professor at Hudson Valley Community College; 13000 students (Troy, NY)
Finishing PhD in Computer Forensics at SUNY Albany
Assisted in articulation agreement with Hudson Valley CC

• CIS BOA Scholarship Fund – Tim Fossum

- Letter from Nancy Griffin (Nancy was at other Foundations meetings happening over the weekend) dated Sept 23,2008. ; congratulations to Alethea, Jim and Tim. Mail campaign was successful ; fund also seeded with individual contribution and donor match.
- The fund was established at \$44000 pledged; \$38500 cash on hand.
- Meant for transfer students into the computer science program.
- We started this process 2 years ago in the spring. (spring 2007)
- Action item: Tim/Nancy to let us know how much of total scholarship came from mail campaign (Tim/Nancy)

• Alumni Scholarship recipient introductions – Tim Fossum

- Gregory Jones- transferred in from Mohawk Community College (Utica); from NYC went to Morrisville, xferred to MCC, then Potsdam. His mentor at MVCC is a Potsdam graduate and encouraged him to apply to Potsdam. Over the summer he worked at NYC TV in the networking environment. Looking forward to going to get a masters.
 - He is running a PC repair “business” out of his dorm room. The board advised him to capture this experience in his resume, as a hardware technician./ work experience
- Christopher Nieves – not present

• Introduction of officers – Alethea Pratt

Alethea Pratt
Rob Gray
Jen Mincar

• ACM Student Chapter Report – Eric Hutchins

- Current chapter situation
 - Smaller membership this year (2-3 each week participate; around 5 total)
 - Gaming project being worked on ; possible consideration of additional workshop on swing Java.
 - Meetings are currently once a week. Spotty attendance.
 - New projects and activities to work on; Toby White to speak, resume checking; etc. although there are resume writing services in other parts of the college. Having multiple projects going on will also bring in additional people; possibly a recycling project as suggested by James; students are saying that they don't have enough time to stay as active in some of these activities or ACM in general
 - Not enough time or interest for students now ; there doesn't seem to be a mass or interest in this organization right now.
 - (we have around 40 students in the Comp sci major now);
- Why join ACM? What role could it play? Meet other students in different class years. Networking opportunities. Membership in an organization is an important part of your resume building
- ACM not currently a part of the SGA. In past meetings the Board agreed that we would fund a trip if the ACM rejoin the SGA ; no movement toward this at this time.

- Is there faculty involvement? Dr. Ladd was helping along the way. Does there need to be another infusion or advisor help in this?
- Action Item: Post something out on the website? Info on ACM meeting / topic/ etc. . (Eric)
- Action Item : Contact and consider working together with the Clarkson ACM chapter (Eric and individual students to pursue)
 - Is ACM Clarkson receptive to attending their meetings?
- Action Item: Pursue Comp Sci fraternity membership – (Tim)

• CS Program self-study Review – Susan Haller and Tim Fossum

- Self-study submitted to Dean Pletcher last spring and shared with Board to review.
- Site review/visit happened in September. Three reviewers . Larry Brehm (Physics) ; David Hutchins () ; Doug Baldwin (SUNY- Geneseo)
- Presented preliminary findings to team verbally. Positive feedback. Favorable of plans.
 - Liked the move to change the program to a BS program
 - Next steps: will be discussed in the afternoon; Add information security program
- Formal review happens every 7 years, interim review every 3.5 year

• S-STEM Grant Proposal Update - Tim Fossum

- Applied for \$.5M to National Science Foundation for 4 years. The grant is to recruit students from 2 year schools to come to Potsdam to get their 4 year degree.
- 9 students each year over 4 years, so that would put 36 students through the program.
- Through research it shows associate degree holders have a lot of success/persistence in getting 4 year degrees. Scholarship is incentive to students, and targeted at need-based situations. Average need of transfer students is \$8200 over 2 years with max of \$10000.
- This grant just funds computer Science students.
- Articulation agreements in place and need to actively recruit through 9 more colleges and technical colleges. Requirements 2.5 overall 3.0 in major. Community building activities also required for grant recipients. this is a very active and aggressive recruitment plan. Recruitment and retention. Privates are very big on articulation and SUNY 4 year schools are just starting to now build these agreements.
- Difficult finding need-base students with good academic standings to promote scholarship/grant awards
- Expect to hear bac on grant award in Spring 2009
- Actionitem: is there a way the board can help with this new relationships with these new campuses?

• Capstone Project Reports

- **James Snow (JPL) – Jet Propulsion Laboratory**
 - SURF Research program co-hosted at CalTech
 - JPL: Pasadena California, 7000+ employees
 - Part of ESMD mission (Exploration Systems Mission Directorate) to return to the moon by 2020
 - Worked on ATHLETE robot.
 - Diagnose and develop a solution for the problem with operators diagnosing error messages received while operating the ATHLETE robot
 - Propose ENCORE as a solution (database for solutions vs. always having to go to experts for a description of solution)
 - Most other students there were under engineering programs; James was one of the only CompSci students.
 - Experience relative to other interns: intimidating, but don't be. Step up . Be proud that you can stand next to the private school interns!
- **Meagan Griffin (GE - Schenectady) Software development/Code Quality project**

Checkstyle & PMD Overview

- Open source code quality tools
 - Checkstyle Find issues in Java code
 - PMD finds potential bugs in code
- Built sql for oracle db and code quality dashboard
- Learned sdlc
- Presented to many ITMS leaders via teleconference ; liked working with Global companies and meeting other interns and employees that weren't only comp sci backgrounds.
- Goal in life still to build roller coasters, but still not sure what she wants to do. She does like programming and loved this experience.
- Experience relative to other interns: same. Most other interns weren't comp sci, but she was definitely skilled and able to keep up with other developers on the project. 1 of 4 or 5 undergrad interns
- Adam Myatt was mentor on this project and provided lots of feedback on the project.
- **Matt Molanare (IBM - Poughkeepsie)**
 - TPF (Transaction Processing Facility) development lab
 - Hi speed OS and heavy I/O operating system (customers like Visa/ American Airlines)
 - Designed and developed a simulator for TPF - Project description - CDC (continuous data collection) : create a simulator to collect the info off the server and display it on the client;
 - Also had the opportunity to see RoadRunner the fastest computer in the world.
 - Learned that the business world is ok and
 - Systems Architecture class would have been a good class to have in prep for this
 - Three other interns working in the same area (RPI, Ohio, Rutgers) . All in the same level.
- **Justin Wagschal (Fusedsolutions)**
 - **Call center-project use a process scripting application called the Tree reader editor to create a structure to hold answers for techs to answers calls.**
 - **Java script / webbased was chosen as the language to use.**
 - It is an on-line canvas visual tree structure that can then hold answers for their applications.
 - They have various clients that will use this tool

● President Fritz Schwaller

Stopped in to say thank you to board , faculty and students.

Also discussed current & possible future budget cuts & funding challenges.

- A great deal of expenses & revenue streams are fixed, and outside the college administration's control.
- Tuition policy - SUNY tuition raises have been infrequent (one in last 12 years)

● Board Discussion –

● **Role of the Board**

- As we approach the 10th anniversary of the CIS Board it is time to re-examine and reaffirm the value and role of the Board. (by-laws previously attached)
- Opening remarks -Alethea Pratt
 - Board has been together for 10 years.
 - What value does the Board have to the dept? Remarks from Tim and Susan:
 - Primary value to the students; the ability for them to present to us and interact and share what they have accomplished. External validation. Advice. Credibility. Extended sense of Reality. Need to work on getting more students at these meetings.
 - As evidence by them thinking about internships earlier
 - Self-study evidence highlighted that

- Feedback to the dept about the direction it's headed in.
 - Internships and job opportunities
 - Financial viability
 - Need more Interaction opportunity
 - Provides students with public speaking opportunities briefing their Capstone experience and ACM activities
- Group discussions
 - The board would like to have a to-do after each board meeting.
 - What are the needs?
 - Are we being represented at the right levels? What is our level of influence?
 - To-dos
 - Get students more involved in board meetings/activities
 - e.g. meet with students
 - Targeting Transfer students
 - Growing students in the CS program
 - Can the board do that ? Yes, community colleges would welcome opportunity to meet with them and discuss the articulation programs.
 - Career nights, other articulation activities
 - Have a very specific plan and structured way to make recruitment visits to CCs.
 - Interactive presentation on website that you can download or visit when you are working with a student/faculty
 - Action item: Create tri-fold for xfers hand-outs/literature etc. for alumni to use when going to the colleges (Faculty)
 - Put together a plan and have a discussion with the foundation board about our plans in this area (Alethea)
- Criteria and letter for board members
 - What is the criteria for an active board member?
 - We have had staggered attendance at recent meetings.
 - The following changes need to be made to the By-laws:
 - MEMBERSHIP
 - Active board member participant is defined as :
 - Attending board meetings
 - Assist with recruitment
 - Assist with Internships/Job placements
 - Assist with Financial support
 - Definition was proposed to amend the by-laws to change the definition of the board member; this was proposed and seconded in the meeting. Approved.
 - TERMS
 - Fourth paragraph will be removed. Voting members of the Board will serve for a period mutually agreed upon between the board and the faculty. Board members must be active during their term. Leave of absence will be granted for unusual circumstances.
 - This change was proposed and seconded. Voted and approved.
 - MEMBERSHIP – Student members
 - Change...two students (as selected by the Computer Science Department Chair in agreement with the Board Committee)
 - This change was proposed and seconded. Voted and approved.
 - GOALS
 - Enhance the student learning experience ; celebrate and support their pursuit of a Computer Science degree;

- Proposed and seconded. Voted and approved.
- What would these students present? Do they have to present?
Can we just have the spot and then not fill it if necessary.
- Tim and Alethea will work as draft
- Can we have the ability teleconferencing for remote members?

Report of the Chair(s) – Tim Fossum & Susan Haller

- Community College Articulation Agreements
- BS Degree in CS
- Information Assurance program

- The only way that we could get an additional faculty member (Informational Assurance position) is to create a Masters program
- Professional Science Masters (PSM) – pushed by the Sloan foundation
 - Nine SUNY campuses have stepped up as wanting to create this
 - The department would concentrate in Computational Science
 - However the The state education (SED) that oversees privates and SUNY right now does not recognize the PSM as a masters program.
- We could offer the Master of Arts program with a specialty in Information Assurance.
- MA brings in higher enrollment dollars and the masters programs need to be increased in the campus.
- Also, consider the BA/MA program similar to what the Math program currently successfully offers. Should we keep the IA concentration if we went the BA/MA route. We are not authorized to offer a Master of Science.
- There aren't any programs right now focusing in this area which could differentiate itself from other SUNY programs.
- This could also help grow the faculty member.
- How does this tie in to the Foundation boards wants and needs for the year? We should communicate to them our need. It may take us a year or two to get this MA program going, so getting this in front of them now may make sense.

- Update on graduate program

Wrap-up – Alethea Pratt

- Future Items

Brian Ladd – book review ‘ Simple Computer Games’

Date for Spring 2009 meeting

- April 3/4 , 2009

Fall 2008 Attendees

Board of Advisors

Jim Cottrell
 Jen Mincar
 Jeff McGrath
 Alethea Pratt
 Rob Gray
 Gary Wager
 Ronda Curtis
 Andy Hurd
 Pat Caffrey

Faculty

Timothy Fossum
 Susan Haller
 Brian Ladd

Charlie Marshall
Galen Pletcher

Students

James Snow
Matt Molanare
Meagan Griffin
Gregory Jones
Justin Wagschal
Eric Hutchins
Ammon Bartram
Steve