***UAA Computer Science & Engineering Advisory Board***

***Meeting Minutes***

Date: Friday, December 5, 2014

Time: 12 noon to 1:30 pm

Place: ENGR 315 (reminder - free parking on Friday)

1. Call to order (Frank Moore)
2. Roll call
   1. Frank Moore
   2. Kenrick Mock
   3. Lance Ahern
   4. Jazon Burnell
   5. Brian Walch
   6. Jim Weller
   7. Rob Barnett
   8. DJ (Denrie Enrique)
3. Regular meeting approvals

* Approval of Agenda – Approved without changes.
* Approval of October 3, 2014 meeting minutes – This was tabled. Lance will be posting the minutes from last meeting in the near future.
* Introduction / Approval of new Board members – no new members

1. Ethical concerns / considerations
   1. Brian he is doing project management work for Lance at the Muni.
   2. Jazon *may* teach a UAA class on game design. Tentative at this time.
2. Reports

* Frank Moore: Departmental Updates
  + Split BSE into three majors
    - The plan has passed through the assessment committee and the curriculum has also passed through committee as well. The Dean from UAF is also on board. The feeling is that this is likely to be close to final approval, which might be done as soon as February 2015. In this case, there would only be two board of regents meetings prior to the Fall semester.
      * The Advisory Board unanimously supports this.
    - The details have yet to be worked out as to whether existing students with a focus would be automatically moved into one of the BSE major programs, or if that would involve some sort of paper trail.
    - Frank acknowledged what was said in a previous meeting: that fracturing the program into three distinct majors does increase the likelihood of budgets cuts after the split.
    - Frank mentioned difficulties attracting and retaining long-term staff for training in these programs and potentially in focus areas.
  + Focus areas
    - When this was brought to the faculty, there was a large amount of push back (specifically involving a GCI “networking” focus area). Concerns of who would teach if GCI pulled out arose.
    - As a result, Frank has proposed adding a special topic “Comp Network 2” class. If that gets good participation, that may reinvigorate the focus area discussion.
  + Report on CoE Advisory Boards meeting (12/5)
  + Update on Graduate Program progress
    - This progress has stalled for the time being.
* Brian Walch: How to get/recruit more CS students – Nothing to update.
* Lance Ahern: Increasing research and entrepreneurship – 10 computers will be going out to title 1 middle school students to help foster computer science at a younger age. Lance is looking for volunteers to help.
* Jim Weller: Improving/updating CS curriculum – No additional update.
* Frank Moore: Barriers/issues with time to graduation
  + Students are not adequately prepared for Physics 211. They’re considering eliminations of the “hidden prerequisite” of Physics 123/130 and just making Calc I the requirement. Presently students are not electing to take the test, and some students are having difficulty passing the class.
  + Students are not adequately prepared for CSE 201 (Java). They have added a Lab to the class, and that has helped to some degree, but they are considering some more options:
    - Adding additional 100 level electives such as Python.
    - Beef up the Intro to Computer course
    - Add a general Computer Skills/Comp Literacy elective

Presently there isn’t a lot of wiggle room within the electives because the CS program requires 16 credit hours of science, whereas the CSE program only requires 8. The additional 8 hours are generally filled with classes like Biology, Chemistry, Astronomy & Geology.

* + Lack of upper-division electives. Due to staff shortage and problems stated above, there seem to be insufficient upper-division electives for students to take. Some suggestions to improve:
    - Use of distance learning
    - Share curriculum/faculty w/ UAF - already in limited use
    - Allowing students to take some MIS electives
  + Time constraints for self-supporting students. Many CS&E students work FT and can’t necessarily meet the time/money constraints of the existing curriculum.
* Jazon Burnell: Newsletter – Currently working on integrating the banner into the WordPress system, and coming up with a layout for news/stories/upcoming events. Lance suggested working with the local WordPress group for ideas/support.

1. New business

* Lance: What specific departmental activities supporting the goal of increasing CS&E students can the Board get involved in? - No answer at this time.
* Lance: As a follow-on to the Anchorage CIO Council meeting, several people within education and industry will be meeting on the 12th of this month at UAA to discuss how we can help develop & cultivate IT talent locally.
* Lance: The Loussac library is encouraging people to utilize their Innovation Lab on the 4th floor. More information can be found here: <http://www.alaskapublic.org/2014/05/21/innovation-lab-at-loussac-public-library/>
* Frank: UAA is looking for a Network Security tenure / Full-time employee. Additionally, the openings for the Dean & Provost that are still outstanding.
* Kenrick: Update on College of Engineering Advisory Board Meeting:
  + Members of departmental boards will start being invited to this meeting in the future
  + UAA is likely going to implement a hiring freeze in the near future. It’s unknown how this will affect existing outstanding positions (such as the Dean).
  + ABET accreditation is due to be renewed in approximately 1 year.
  + The strategic plan is coming up in January.
  + The new Engineering building is due to be completed by the end of the spring semester. Classes will be moving to the new facilities during the summer, after which a renovation is scheduled on the old building.
  + The bridge over Providence drive is scheduled to be erected sometime over the Christmas holiday.
* “Cultivating IT Talent.” – December2
  + Define key IT roles/positions (to help ASD / UAA understand these roles from local company perspective) – Not address due to time concerns.
  + Define key gaps in the local labor pool – Not address due to time concerns.
  + Briefly review/comment on IT-related career pathways by ASD (e.g. IT, Network Systems, Web/Digital Comms, Programming) – Not address due to time concerns.
  + Briefly review/comment on UAA IT-related degree programs – Not address due to time concerns.

1. Adjournment (Jim)
2. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be TBD