

Northland Pioneer College Department of Computer Information Systems
Minutes for the Advisory Board Meeting on
October 16, 2020
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

Attending Advisory Board Members: Peggy Belknap, Interim CHRO & CTE Dean; Henry Estes, NPC CIO; Curtis Stevens, NPC TAS; Ben Sandoval, NPC Career Services; Ben Rushlo, Vice President of Dynatrace; Ken Dewitt, Navajo County; Anna Godfrey, Able Aerospace; Carrie Jordan, NAVIT; Matt Mancini, VMWare

Attending Faculty Members: Eric Bishop, CIS Chair & Faculty; Jonathon Schrader, CIS Faculty

Note taker: Pamela Dominguez

Welcome, Introduction:

Eric welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

The college is continuing normally with the resignation of President Vest. Peggy stated that Mark implemented half off tuition for students due to the pandemic. Enrollment is up, where other community colleges are down. The DGB will pick an interim President while the college goes through the search process.

Advisory Board Purpose: The college offers Computer Information Systems (CIS) courses for career preparation and direct to work programs. CIS has some courses that transfer to the university, but some courses will fit some of their requirements. We offer community members to take CIS courses for personal enrichment. The advisory board members provide industry and local insights so our students are prepared to work in industry. Networking opportunities for the advisory board members and college. Offerings of internships and job placement for students. The college, hospital, and county have a large IT staff. We are looking to enable students to stay locally.

CIS Department Updates: We have three full time faculty members. The CIS department has three full-time faculty members. There is still a need for adjunct faculty. We offer 40 CIS courses. The pandemic has hampered marketing and recruiting opportunities. A Tech Club proposal is almost ready to go to the Executive team. The Tech Club would be for students and community members to participate in. The club would meet up to twice a month. The age requirement for a community member needs to be decided by the Executive team. Eric stated that students would be able to lead after the first few Tech Club meetings. Matt mentioned what a great leadership role to add to a student's resume. We would want anyone in the club be able to present.

The department is working on curriculum review and getting all CIS courses to be capable of being taught online. There are two courses CIS141 and CIS142 that make that difficult. The department is partnering with the NPC's TAS department; the department will receive some of the laptops that are to be disposed of in the replacement cycle. The students can have the computer to disassemble and assemble for the hands-on portion of the two courses. In spring, CIS141 and CIS142 we will be able to be taught online.

Curriculum review ideas have been discussed and Eric invited the advisory members to be part of the process from the beginning. Eric invited the advisory board members to CIS's department meetings to analyze our current courses, programs, and what modifications can be made to allow students to be better prepared for direct to work opportunities. Eric stated that the process takes time. If we had new ideas in SP21, goes to Instructional Council in FA21; would not go into effect till FA22. The students that are currently enrolled will remain in their degree plan as long as they maintain enrollment. Anna wanted to know how new classes would transfer credits to the universities. Eric stated It is a little complicated with the AZ Transfer system. The college has a new curriculum coordinator and hopes that he can help with the process. Eric will give updates of any changes to the curriculum at the SP21 advisory board meeting.

Advisory Board Member Updates:

Ken stated the county is having issues of retaining employees due to salary. It would be great if we all offered comparable salary ranges so there wouldn't be so many lateral moves between businesses here. Ken also mentioned coordinating IT positions so we could help each other fill them. NPC students could fill some tech positions and possibly start growing our own. Cyber security is a hot topic with the election coming up. Ken will send Eric information on an organization that runs some cyber security ranges. Eric will share Ben Sandoval's information with Ken and Ben Rushlo.

Ben Sandoval mentioned the college has an ongoing virtual career fair. Eric mentioned offering internships would benefit students. The CIS department has its own dedicated computer lab on WMC that is not attached to the college's network. This could potentially be used for a cyber warfare range. Now, we just need to be able to get people back on campus. Anna was an intern for the TAS department. Anna stated the internship was valuable to her career and life changing. Scott mentioned that he would like to offer internships to students or temp employees. Matt mentioned students could benefit from a mentor/mentee program and possibly tie into the tech club. Eric would welcome guest speakers. Matt stated he has a lot of people that would enjoy being a guest speaker. Ben Rushlo would offer internships. Tech Club members could be potential employees or offered an internship. Scott would also offer internships as TAS. Matt sent a couple of links listed below. The first is a link to help nonprofits align with better resources. The second is a link for educators to use our VM Ware products into their courseware. Eric stated that a class might be needed for hypervisors, virtualization and things of that nature. Matt mentioned that adding containers and Kubernetes; there is an industry push. Eric mentioned that Google and Amazon Web Services (AWS) are offering to partner with colleges; students would receive certifications. The college has instructors and offer gen ed classes. The industry academies offer self-paced work, training on specific things, do not offer a broader view, and lack of interpersonal skills. The department is looking at English 101 vs Technical English and possibly adding an ethics class.

<https://octo.vmware.com/nonprofit-connect/>

<https://www.vmware.com/company/it-academy.html>

<https://grow.google/programs/it-support/>

Next meeting: Friday, April 16, 2021, 12p-2p, Zoom