

Northland Pioneer College Department of Computer Information Systems
Minutes for the Advisory Board Meeting on
April 16, 2021
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

Attending Advisory Board Members: Peggy Belknap, CTE Dean; Henry Estes, NPC CIO; Curtis Stevens, NPC TAS; Ben Sandoval, NPC Career Services; Ken Dewitt, IT Director Navajo County; Paul Wade, Summit Healthcare

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

Note taker: Pamela Dominguez

Welcome, Introduction:

Eric welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

Peggy retiring was announced.

Advisory Board Purpose: The college offers Computer Information Systems (CIS) courses for career preparation, university transfer, and personal enrichment. The advisory board's purpose is to provide industry and local insights, networking opportunities, internships and job placement for students. CIS has some university transfer courses, but not a degree. COVID is going to be known as the accelerator for technology, knowledge, and usage.

CIS Department Updates:

Marketing/Recruitment-CIS is aggressively marketing; we have three full-time faculty to handle the demand. Eric would like you to share CIS's Facebook page to help gain some exposure. CIS will be having a virtual open house on Zoom. CIS is offering more class selection than before.

Tech Club Proposal in Progress- The executive team has approved our Tech Club, which will launch in FA21. The Tech Club might be able to meet on campus in the fall. If not, the Tech Club will be held virtually. Ken mentioned that the high schools might be interested in joining the Tech Club. Eric is working through some issues before they ask the high schools such as age and parental permission.

Pandemic- The institution is offering most classes online in FA21. If the institution opens up, CIS would move to a Hyflex model. Hyflex allows students to attend face to face or on Zoom synchronously. The college is looking for their next president, since Mark Vest resigned last fall. The college has three candidates that have been interviewed. Dr. Swarthout is our interim president. Dr. Mike Solomonson is our interim VPLSS, since our VPLSS Dr. Clark resigned.

Curriculum Review- The department would like to get input and collaboration from the advisory board before they go for approval from Instruction Council in FA21 to take effect FA22. An IP address <http://bit.ly/cis-changes> will take you to a google doc. The first update is AAS in CIS to be focused as a transfer degree. Current program outcomes for CIS degrees were reviewed. Eric welcomed any comments to be added to the program outcomes in google doc. The department created a university transfer degree that has more general education courses was reviewed. Community colleges do not focus on human interface or artificial intelligence, universities offer those subjects in upper level courses. Ken stated that he took a lot of programming courses; he did have difficulty transferring those to the university. The Current degrees in Cybersecurity with the possible course changes were reviewed. PowerShell is discussed in three courses. Ken mentioned Navajo County uses ATRA. The current degrees in Software & Web Development Specialization with the possible course changes were reviewed. Peggy mentioned the CIS105 course is not as helpful to the direct to work degree as CIS107. The department is looking at a standalone CP for direct to work certifications which could be marketed for direct to work for industry; the courses could be taken in 8-week long courses. Client-Side Web development and Full-Stack Web Development CPs were reviewed. Pearson Vu and bootcamps were discussed. Eric welcomed industry to participate in CIS's department meeting to discuss curriculum changes.

Advisory Board Member Updates:

Navajo County is working on getting better broadband width; currently, they are working with Magellan to put together a plan. Magellan is in the process of gathering information. Navajo County is looking at hiring two positions: a data analyst and a dedicated cyber person. Ken has been working with a company to test broadband over electrical lines in

Snowflake. Due to COVID, the county hired 15-20 employees which were mostly nurses to perform contact tracing. COVID has pushed innovation. Navajo County has employees that will continue to work from home even when we get back to "normal". Ken has struggled keeping tech positions; so they have increased their pay scale to be more competitive. Apache County was hit with ransomware. The college has struggled keeping tech positions due to the pay scale and candidates wanting to work remotely. Eric stated it's hard for cybersecurity graduates to get an entry level cybersecurity position. The college will have some graduates in cybersecurity if the county is interested in offering internships. Ken stated when the dedicated cybersecurity position is filled they would be interested in offering internships to NPC students. Ben is conducting virtual career fairs for industry. The college has a job board that industry can place job postings. Ben also uses social media for job postings.

Next meeting:

October 15, 2021