

IT ALLIANCE FALL 2019 MEETING MINUTES
Romain College of Business at USI
Wednesday, December 4, 2019, 7:30 a.m.
Business and Engineering Center, Lippert Hall, 0035

Members Present: James Derk, Abram Devonshire, Alan Letterman, Andrew Melchiors, Drew Peyronnin, Dave Smith

Members Absent: Brian Beard, Terry Clements, Susan Everett, Pat Fleck, Scott Franzel, Jeff Gorman, Patrick Heck, Lisa Hobgood, Bob Humphrey, John Knight, Kevin Kolley, Doug Petitt, Kim Poynter, Kelly Reisinger, Nic Sagez, Joab Schultheis, Anthony Spitz, Richard Toeniskoetter, Mark Uhrin

Ex-officio Members Present: Cathy Carey, Abbey Foroughi

Faculty Present: Scott Anderson, Xue Han, Kenneth Shemroske, Gongjun Yan, Jennifer Riester

Students Present: 13 Senior Project students attended.

Guests Present: Sam Stevens

Administrative Assistant Present: Michelle Simmons

WELCOME: Alan Letterman welcomed everyone to the fall meeting.

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS: Letterman requested self-introductions.

MINUTES: Letterman asked for a motion to approve the Spring 2019 minutes as distributed. The minutes were APPROVED.

CS/CIS SENIOR PROJECTS: Gongjun Yan managed the senior projects. Last year he requested ideas from IT Alliance members. Three teams presented at the meeting.

Team one presented a fleet management system created for client MetroNet with James Derk.

Team two presented a plastic classifier created for client Tri State Resource Recovery.

Team three presented a recruiting application created for client OneMain with Dave Smith.

Yan requested alliance members consider research projects for the CIS/CS faculty.

ACM CLUB REPORT: Scott Anderson reported that Srishti Srivastava received the Sydney and Sadelle Berger Faculty Community Service Award for her efforts with the ACM club.

CS UPDATE: Anderson stated that a survey was sent out to alliance members and students about a Master of Science in Computer Science. Twelve employers responded that about 70 employees would be interested. Thirteen students responded with five interested. The survey included employee incentive possibilities and what software development tools were used.

CIS UPDATE: Kenneth Shemroske noted that the Information Systems program is focusing on Cyber Security and Data Analytics. The new certificates are now available. They are currently working to add these into the undergraduate program to be bundled with other majors.

There are four positions open in the CIS/CS faculty to be filled.

The second annual Cyber Security Conference will be an all-day event this year on March 19, 2020. The keynote speaker will be from Microsoft Cloud Security. There will also be participation from the state and an executive panel that will include regional business leaders in cyber security.

DEPARTMENT CHAIR'S REMARKS: Abbas Foroughi thanked everyone. He also discussed the recruitment to fill the open CIS and CS faculty positions. He reiterated that the new certificate programs have been implemented and are available to non-degree seeking students.

Foroughi also discussed disruptive technologies and trends in education and organizational development. (See attached Department Chair Report)

DEAN'S REMARKS: Cathy Carey welcomed and thanked everyone for coming and helping to improve our CIS/CS programs. She thanked Yan for leading the student projects and emphasized the value of experiential learning. It is valuable to both the students and the faculty.

Carey expressed gratefulness for the faculty and is excited for the opportunities with the new faculty hires. She noted that the college is finding alternative uses for the user perspective lab. She also noted that she had the opportunity to sit in with the Girls Who Code.

Carey stated the college is working on the strategic plan and wants to include "produce distinct graduates" in the vision and mission statement.

Carey asked for feedback from the ITA members regarding what they are looking for in a graduate such as soft skills, core values, etc. James Derk suggested time management, project management, and communication skills. Foroughi noted that project management is a concentration in the management discipline.

NEXT STEPS: Letterman reminded members about the IT Alliance scholarship. He noted that the senior projects were well received. He noted that Joab Schultheis created an ad hoc committee on the projects. He noted that failure in projects is an option, but something must be learned from the failure. Letterman noted that the faculty is a good resource and that there should be engagement between faculty and local businesses.

Drew Peyronnin invited members and faculty to participate in the Innovation Point Maker Station workplace for people to learn skills outside of regular educational systems. It is open for learning more or teaching opportunities.

Letterman noted that the next meeting will need to be discussed as the university has changed the schedule removing study day in the future. It will be difficult to include the student presentations in future. The date, time, and location of the next alliance meeting will be determined in future.

ADJOURNED