

IT ALLIANCE SPRING 2018 MEETING MINUTES  
Romain College of Business at USI  
Wednesday, April 25, 2018, 7:30 a.m.  
Business and Engineering Center, Lippert Hall, 0035

Members Present: Susan Everett, Patrick Heck, Kelly Reisinger, Joab Schultheis, Anthony Spitz, Richard Toeniskoetter, Mark Uhrin

Members Absent: Brian Beard, David Bottomley, Terry Clements, John Cobb, James Derk, Pat Fleck, Scott Franzel, Jeff Gorman, Lisa Hobgood, Bob Humphrey, John Knight, Kevin Kolley, Alan Letterman, Doug Petitt, Kim Angermeier Poynter, Amy Romain-Barron, Dave Smith,

Ex-officio Members Present: Abbey Foroughi, Mohammed Khayum

Faculty Present: Scott Anderson, Dinko Bacic, Sharlett Gillard, Bruce Mabis, Sherif Rashad, Kenneth Shemroske, Srishti Srivastava, Jennifer Williams, Gongjun Yan

Students Present: 12 Senior Project students attended.

Guests Present: Andrew Melchiors

Administrative Assistant Present: Michelle Simmons

WELCOME: Joab Schultheis welcomed everyone to the spring meeting.

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS: Schultheis requested self-introductions.

MINUTES: Schultheis asked for a motion to approve the Fall 2017 minutes as distributed. The minutes were APPROVED.

CS/CIS SENIOR PROJECTS: Dinko Bacic and Gongjun Yan introduced the two student presentations. The two projects presented were for a Web Platform Assessment and Re-launch of the Evansville Museum website and Webmapreduce for Parallel Computing at USI.

Schultheis praised the biometric technology challenge and how it had real world benefits including to the public. He congratulated the students.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Schultheis brought the updated scholarship card to the attention of the Alliance members and encouraged them to consider donating.

MENTORING: Kenneth Shemroske mentioned the program encountered challenges this year and are working to make the mentoring program work better between the students and companies.

AIS and ACM CLUB REPORTS: Jennifer Williams said the AIS had an end of year banquet. They elected new officers. Jim Dirk visited the club for a resume workshop. Members of the club visited One Main Financial and toured the data center. Remarks were made regarding the interactions of the different

positions within the data center. Williams thanked Dave Smith, Thomas Kissel, and Thomas Peak for their assistance in the tour.

Srishti Srivastava stated the ACM club has increased to 74 members. They are continuing activities such as website creation lessons and preparation for competitions. They hosted a game night and elected new officers. They are working toward new curriculum for Girls Who Code which was established at USI to teach middle school girls. There were 20 participants this year. One project mentioned was programming robots. Future semesters are planned to include two sessions, one for girls and one for boys.

CS CURRICULUM: Scott Anderson discussed the updated course offerings to include special topics courses for Sophomores and Juniors. It was noted that Engineering is developing Electrical and Computer Engineering degrees that will include two CS courses making it easier for engineering students to obtain a CS minor.

CENTER FOR CYBER SECURITY: Kenneth Shemroske stated that the Cyber Security lab has been created and gives students real world experience. Four courses to obtain a certificate in Cyber Security are to begin Fall of 2018. This is a stand-alone certificate the will not require any pre-requisites or full time student status.

Bacic noted that the program has received good support, been moved to a new location, and has biometrics capabilities. The lab has obtained special glasses for non-lab testing. There will be more information coming soon.

DEPARTMENT CHAIR'S REMARKS: Dr. Foroughi began by expressing gratitude to IT Alliance Members, ITA Chair Doug Petitt, ITA Chair-Elect Joab Schultheis, IT Alliance members who ran the CS&CIS Student Mentoring Program and panel discussions, Jim Derk, for running a Resume Workshop for AIS Student Chapter members, CIS and CS student project presenters, CIS and CS faculty members, and Dean Khayum.

MGNT and IS Department news:

- Dr. Sherif Rashad joined the department as an Associate Professor of CS, from Florida Polytechnic University.
- A proposal for a Cyber Security Certificate was approved by the department and the RCOB and is now under review by the USI Curriculum Committee.
- Work is in progress toward the development of a Data Science Certificate, "Data Science for the Rest of Us."
- Other certificates in CIS and CS are being considered.
- A proposal has been approved and submitted to revive CS101 for CS students who need remedial training before beginning CS.
- More online CIS and CS courses are being developed and offered at the undergraduate level and in the MBA Program.
- Preliminary discussion is underway for the development of a Master's Degree in CS Program.
- CIS and CS student chapters are expanding. Students recently participated in the 7th Annual Ball State University CIS Project and Case Competition, winning second place among 12 teams.

Foroughi then remarked that a bright future awaits our CS and CIS students and displayed several graphics with data related to ever-expanding digital connectivity and job opportunities. He continued by pointing out steps which our CIS/CS faculty are taking to address ever-expanding evolving job opportunities in IT software, platforms, and infrastructure:  
Updates and revisions to CIS and CS curricula.

- Developing new courses, while staying within the limit of 120 hours.
- Creating more certificates and minors.
- Developing labs/centers for hands-on student training (such as the new Cyber Security and HCI Labs)
- Engaging in ongoing faculty development—conferences and workshops.
- Supporting student chapters of IT organizations.
- Collaborating with IT professionals such as IT Alliance members.

DEAN'S REMARKS: Mohammed Khayum was excited to see how everyone was working together and how utilizing the current resources is a challenge. He stated that the Board of Trustees approved a new program fee which will bring in revenue enough to hire more faculty and update technology.

Khayum discussed how data science, analytics and cyber security are high needs. Security is an ongoing issues. With the security lab up and running, he requested input from the community. The implementation of a Masters in CS is an area of focus. It would include a traditional and non-traditional approach to Data Science to incorporate a larger audience. He calls the program "Data Science for the Rest of Us." This would draw non-CS bachelors into the program. He noted that the first class would be "Data and Me" teaching the value of data, cognitive shortcuts, and biases.

Khayum stated two weaknesses within the CS program: measurement/metrics which involves the tools and techniques of obtaining data and creativity in using the data obtained. He asked how the results are used strategically and how there is struggle with deep questions due to lack of data. A regional conference in Data Science was proposed to include these topics.

Members of the Alliance discussed the senior projects urging individual based projects to more accurately assess student abilities. The trend of increasing CS students and decreasing CIS students was noted with students being more interested in technology than business.

NEXT STEPS: Schultheis stated the discussion about Data Sciences was timely. Collaborative sub-committees were suggested. He thanked everyone for coming.

ADJOURNED