



**Computer Science and Engineering-MINUTES**  
**November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 2:00 PM**  
**Zoom**

**Members Present:** Katie Gonzalez (Committee Chair), Sr. Staff Software Engineer, Ping Identity; Victoria Mithoug (Vice-Chair), Cloud Product and Program Manager, HP INC; Patrick Tsai, Software Engineer II, Ping Identity; Jake Marugg; Johnathan Brunn, Software Engineer, ICS; Vargha Hokmran Diznab, Cloud Support Engineer II, Amazon Web Services

**Guests:**

**Members Absent:**

**Clark College:** Izad Khormae, Computer Science and Engineering Department Chair, Clark College; Theo Koupelis, Dean of WPTE & STEM, Clark College; Elizabeth Flores, Advisory Coordinator, Clark College; Nicholas Macias, Computer Science and Engineering Professor, Clark College

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The meeting began at 2:02 PM, and a quorum was met.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The committee will meet next on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes from the previous meeting on May 5, 2025, were approved.

**Review Agenda for Additions / Subtractions / Prioritization**

Izad reviewed the purpose of the agenda and invited members to suggest additions or modifications. Kathryn outlined the key agenda items, including updates on the first BSCS cohort, faculty recruiting, industry speaker series, and specialization areas.  
No additions or changes to the agenda were proposed.

**Update on the First BSCS Cohort**

Izad shared that the program has launched its first cohort of junior-level students. Izad reported that 22 students applied, with 14 students meeting all requirements and beginning the program.

Izad described student learning activities, including projects comparing programming languages such as Rust and Python, with emphasis on concurrency and performance.

Kathrynn asked clarifying questions regarding prerequisite coursework.

Izad explained that prerequisites include Calculus I & II, statistics, linear algebra, and sophomore-level computer science courses such as data structures and programming tools.

### **Faculty Recruiting Update**

Izad shared that approval has been granted to hire a tenure-track faculty member.

Izad explained that a previous search was unsuccessful; however, a recent search produced three strong candidates who have been forwarded to college leadership for final consideration.

Izad noted that the final hiring decision will be made by the college president and vice president.

Izad emphasized the importance of hiring faculty with strong teaching focus and the ability to support emerging areas such as artificial intelligence.

Jake expressed support for prioritizing candidates with strong teaching ability over research focus.

### **Industry Speaker Series**

Izad discussed the importance of the industry speaker series in connecting students with real-world experiences.

Jake recommended incorporating hands-on learning opportunities such as hackathons or debugging challenges involving AI-generated code.

Johnathan supported this recommendation, noting that troubleshooting poorly developed applications is a valuable real-world skill.

Kathrynn added that AI tools can also support debugging and should be incorporated into student learning.

### **Specialization Area for the First Cohort**

Izad presented the proposed specialization areas:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Cloud Computing
- Mobile Application Development
- Application Security

Izad explained that these areas align with current faculty expertise and program capacity.

Kathrynn invited feedback from the committee regarding additional specialization areas or emerging industry needs.

Jake suggested incorporating competitive, team-based problem-solving activities to strengthen student skills.

Izad encouraged members to continue sharing industry insights to inform curriculum development.

### **Action Items Summary**

- **Committee Members:** Share ideas for real-world student projects aligned with industry needs.

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- **Committee Members:** Provide information on local events, networking opportunities, and industry engagement for students.
- **Committee Members:** Share relevant opportunities via LinkedIn or directly with faculty.
- **Program (Izad):** Continue development of the industry speaker series with applied learning components.

### **Adjournment**

Kathrynn thanked all members for their participation and adjourned the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM

Prepared by Elizabeth Flores