

**NETWORK TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**Wednesday, May 25th, 2016**

**6:00—8:00 p.m.**

**Penguin Union Building 258B**

**Members Present:** Gary Liberman, Committee Chair, Earthlink; Jeff Groff, Committee Vice Chair, Clark PUD; Eric Olmsted, On Line Support; Brian Page, Fortinet

**Members Absent:** Eric Hazen, ieSolutions; Brian MacKay, The Columbian Publishing Co.

**Clark College:** Dwight Hughes, NTEC Department Head; Bob Hughes, CTEC Professor, Jack Sande, Instructor; Nichola Farron – Secretary Senior, Advisory Committee

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Committee Chair Gary Liberman called the meeting to order at 6.06pm and introductions were made.

*The minutes of October 15, 2015 were presented for approval: Jeff made the motion to approve the minutes, this was seconded by Brian and approved unanimously.*

Office of Instruction Updates

Nichola shared that the planning for the 2017 Advisory Recognition event is underway; a survey has been sent out to committee members to help with the planning for next year’s event.

A demonstration of the Career Coach Portal was shown to the committee: an online tool for students to investigate job options and look at the programs available at Clark to help them secure those careers.

Director Report

Dwight reported to the committee that college-wide enrollment continues to fall, but the department is seeing a slowing in that reduction for their courses. Dwight reminded the committee that community colleges work in reverse to economic trends as a strong economy results in a decrease in enrollment.

Dwight reported on the online class progression: the Cisco course is the first 100% online course and he is hoping to have some data on that to report at fall meeting. The approach is based on WebEx and recorded lectures on YouTube with a participation quiz at the end.

Dwight continued that 3 online courses will be available by the summer, and this number will rise to 7 by the winter. Then there will be 6 months devoted to data analysis which will be shared with the committee at the fall meeting. So far there is a mixed consensus: some students enjoy format, some are struggling- this is to be expected.

Jeff asked how feedback will be collected – this will be voluntary, and likely through a Survey Monkey. Dwight outlined that he felt it was important this be done after the grading process so that students didn’t feel any unneeded concern about sharing opinions.

Eric asked whether an approach of either online or face to face learning was too binary: Dwight reported that a ‘half and half’ approach has been trialed previously and was unsuccessful.

Dwight then outlined that there is a 5 year plan looking towards an entirely online degree. If successful, this would be the first of its kind at Clark College. This will also help with serving the more remote and rural areas of the College’s service community. Dwight continued that there are limitations with the online format, for example, practical work on cable making etc. The online degree will be a development from the original vision of structuring a degree that was based on online classes with one day a week of physical attendance: attrition rate for that was 50%. It is envisioned that the online concept will facilitate more completion and success.

Work Plan – Brainstorming Discussion

Linux Certification proposal – (please see attached presentation) Dwight shared that the Cisco degree has discontinued CCNP due to low enrollment: the department is now looking at Linux to fill 24 credit hole in degree. In addition, NTEC is looking for curriculum that would lend itself to online teaching. Dwight indicated that he is looking to the Advisory Committee for their input in this area.

Dwight outlined his ideas for a course based on LPI (Linux Professional Institute) curriculum, an organization that supports vendor neutral training and who have developed a 3 course program that links with Cisco. The course would be based on 240 hours of training. There are 2 levels under consideration with a possible 3rd level for the future. Testing would need to occur at a testing center as industry standard exams.

The committee then discussed the Linux component in career paths and industry: it was agreed that Linux is an important component to most companies. Brian asked if any other Linux courses besides the LPI offerings have been considered: Dwight responded that he had investigated others, but the LPI made the most sense cost-wise. Dwight continued that there needed to be a focus on the constraints of the time frame for teaching, and also a recognition of the level of the students at a community college.

Brian then asked if other course options were being considered besides Linux. The committee discussed that Linux skills certainly underpin a number of industry requirements and there would be a benefit in teaching this area.

Brian continued that other options might include a focus on software defined networking (SDN), with explorations of how to virtualize networks. Gary continued that most SDN work is related to Cloud technologies. Companies are looking for experts in this area as a means to reduce cost and expand band width. Gary continued that the issue of thousands of open cyber security jobs in the US is also something to consider.

Dwight also shared with the committee how he had previously developed a 4 year degree that was not tenable at the time. However, negotiations and discussions are ongoing with Green River and Bellevue Colleges about linking up for a potential Bachelors program. Dwight continued that the reality of the job market for this sector is that employers are increasingly asking for degrees.

The committee then discussed the prevalence of cyber security and how to integrate that effectively at an appropriate level for students. In addition, the factor of costs is always a prevalent concern, especially in view of the fact that the industry changes so rapidly.

Brian continued that the industry splits the cyber and information sectors: industry is ‘grunt work’, while cyber security is professional – he emphasized that it is important to emphasize that to students so that they maintain realistic expectations.

Brian continued with discussing the split between cyber and information security as an industry trend. Information security is ‘grunt work’; cyber security, policy etc. links more to the role of industry security professional. Important not to blur levels as this will disappoint student expectations.

The committee discussion of instruction needs continued: it was outlined that employers prefer either Microsoft or Cisco skills, it is not necessary to always have both. In addition, skills in Exchange, SharePoint, SQL and potentially Azure are becoming increasingly more valued.

Dwight ventured that the Cloud based teaching is hard to keep running due to changes, and it is more effective to create a curriculum that can remain current – which is part of the impetus for looking at Linux as a course option as it is a stable area that should be easy to maintain.

An additional area discussed was Big Data, which could be connected to MySQL or Oracle teaching.

Dwight thanked the committee for their input and ideas; he indicated that the Linux course option will be formally presented for committee vote at the fall meeting.

New Business

Gary emphasized that recruitment to the committee should be an ongoing effort, and he was happy to welcome Eric and Brian to the group. Nichola highlighted that it would be beneficial if the committee could also work on improving gender and diversity balance in the group.

Eric also spoke about the importance of Clark students attending social and networking events, and volunteered to keep Dwight informed of any that he becomes aware of to pass on the information to students.

Follow Up Actions

A new Committee Chair and Vice Chair will need to be elected at the fall meeting.

Eric will pass on information to Dwight concerning any social/networking events that could be of benefit to students in the program

Jeff will investigate further into Big Data vendor types

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 28th September at 6.00pm

Gary adjourned the meeting at 7.50pm

Prepared/Submitted by Nichola Farron