

Computer Science Advisory Board Committee Minutes

November 3, 2017

Present: President Terry Gaalswyk, Provost Jeff Williamson, Jessica Janssen, Larry Janssen, Julie Gerber, Elaina Nichols, Elias Gomez-Marroquin, Justin Heckenlaible, Kathy Janssen

Kathy Janssen called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM.

Opening welcome comments encouraged guests to enjoy lunch during this working meeting.

Introduction of the members of the committee and guests

Motion by Larry Janssen to approve the Nov 6, 2015 meeting minutes, 2nd by Jessica Janssen. Motion approved.

President Gaalswyk opened with college news of a housing solution on the Worthington Campus, with the Bluejay Villas <http://www.bluejayvillas.com/> dorm ground breaking November 16, at 1:00 PM. College wide enrollment is up with budget looking sound. Many campus resources are available to the students affected by recent fires, floods and hurricanes.

Dr. Williamson was excited to announce that many high schools are looking to Minnesota West to provide Career Pathways and Career Academy training options for their students. Talks are continuing but include pathways for welding, nursing and carpentry. There is a need to address additional training for the 'behind the scenes workers'; IT, HR, soft skills, customer service and helpdesk.

Justin Heckenlaible presented the Social Media Certificate, a program intended for working professionals or to stack with a student's current or existing degree. The purpose is to provide the knowledge for the student to develop, maintain and improve an individual or business's social media profile, campaigns and analytics.

Elaina Nichols, Program Director and Faculty, presented the Healthcare Informatics Diploma. It is a proposed combination of the Health Core (HC), Health Information Technology (HIMC), Administrative Assistant (ADSA) and Computer Science (CSCI) curriculums. As healthcare becomes more dependent on digital data, technology staff need training in computer science coding and soft skills more specific to the healthcare industry. This may be a healthcare field of study attracting more males in what is currently a predominantly female arena.

Barb Staples has been working with Go Army to make application for the Computer Science AS program to qualify for the Associate Degree, Cyber Security transferrable online path encouraging existing course work earned while in the military. A lengthy and involved process; Barb has documented that all Go Army criteria has been met and the application has been submitted. It would be an honor for the CSCI Department and the college to achieve this academic partnership. Minnesota West is the #3 Best Online Community College in the Nation!

Kathy Janssen introduced the Virtual Assistant (VA) Certificate as discussion at this point. The program designed for the professional who works, typically alone, from their home or office rather than from an employer's location, typically providing services for multiple business companies. This proactive curriculum includes tech stacking courses that encourage students to morph into new rolls as former posts may wane due to business reorganizing/restructuring or encourages the student to stay abreast of current technology and become more self-marketable should the need arise.

Elias Gomez-Marroquin addressed the definite need to upgrade the teacher workstation equipment in the computer lab on the Worthington Campus. The proposed new equipment will allow for multiple input devices including an

instructor's laptop, audio and video presented on a large projection screen with sophisticated control and readability from a distance significantly improved. With many different venues utilizing the computer lab, all members agreed this would be a good investment.

Kathy Janssen has facilitated the sponsorship of Minnesota West as a partner and site for CoderDojo and Girls Who Code. CoderDojo meets monthly and Girls Who Code meets weekly in the computer lab. CoderDojo invites kids from 7 to 17 to enjoy coding a fun game-like environment. Girls Who Code invites girls, 6th – 12th grade, to use computer science to impact their community through a structured curriculum and a personal impact project. "Teach a girl to code and she will change the world!" Kathy also serve as a volunteer programmer mentor. Both activities invite young students and often their parents to trek the halls of Minnesota West – otherwise an unlikely scenario. The energy level is exciting and I encourage anyone to visit one of the sessions.

September 25, 2017, the White House announced a \$200 million per year commitment to computer science education in America's schools, expanding access to computer science in schools that previously did not teach it. The funds promise to increase participation by women and underrepresented minorities. We will be watching to see if Minnesota West and the Computer Science department can participate in any way.

Again, the Career Expo was a successful event held at Southwest State University and Minnesota West. Combined statistics reveal that high school students received valuable exposure to careers and education – assisting them when making critical decisions about their future.

Here are some statistic facts:

- 33 high schools represented
- 1, 832 high school student attended
- 121 exhibitors
- 300+ volunteers
- 70 campus tours

Open discussion encouraged the direction of reaching across disciplines to design programs that address business related tech stacking of courses and combine soft skills of communication and customer service. Flexible work-at-home schedules and reductions in drive time and gas consumption were added bonuses.

One board member had attended the Career Expo and noted that vendors seemed pleased with the feedback and student interest.

Another member noted that the faculty were motivated and passionate about their work and this overflows into the community.

The meeting adjourned at 1:12 PM.