

CIS (IT) Advisory Committee Meeting
1:30-2:30pm, SMN 137
Wednesday, January 24, 2018

MINUTES

Present: Douglas Spindler, Tara Arenas, Nancy Willet, Kurt Jackson, Manjit Kang, Richard Grotegut, Mike Grant, Elizabeth Pratt, Matt Howard, Vivian Olsen, Jeremy Rector, Patrick Ekoue-Totou, Jochen van der Muehlen.

Douglas Spindler called the meeting to order at 1:35pm

Douglas Spindler explained the purpose of the advisory committee meeting. Representatives from College of Marin present their curriculum to representatives from industry for review and approval, and industry representatives report on job market conditions and provide suggestions for revising, updating, and/or adding curriculum. The focus of the meeting today is to identify which skills are needed from industry when they are looking for hiring.

Douglas Spindler showed a list of certifications via PowerPoint. Douglas Spindler put out the question to all how valuable is entry level certification to industry? A discussion took place regarding this question. Some of the certifications mentioned by industry were Cisco-CompTIA security, CISSP, Amazon (AWS), Wireshark, ITIL, Colbalt, MCSE, MCSA. Individuals were asked by Douglas if their industry cares about certification. Patrick Ekoue-Totou said yes to certification being valuable particularly MCSE and CCNP. Kurt Jackson responded that for networking Palo Alto Networks and Amazon (AWS) certification would be valuable to getting in the door. Jeremy Rector mentioned MS skills as being valuable –MCSE and MCSA, Wireshark, Amazon (AWS) and Office 365 for industries he works with. Mike Grant said he works with high school students to create pathways toward earning certificates. Jochen van der Muehlen mentioned MCSE and MCSA as well as Office 365. Manjit Kang added Google apps to the discussion. Elizabeth Pratt stated that COM needs to learn from industry what in general are the best skill sets to offer students.

Cisco certification was talked about. Jeremy thought he would like to see more general skills than just one vendor. Cisco was thought to be good for fundamental based skills by most of industry.

Soft skills with good customer service were also discussed which industry indicated is needed as much as job related skills and certifications when looking to hire.

Douglas Spindler shared about a student he knew that took a college course which prepares for COMPTIA's A+ certification then went to take CompTIA exam but was unable to pass. Douglas brought this up as a data point which shows the challenges that we have.

Douglas Spindler asked Jeremy and Jochen if they care about A+ certification. Jeremy responded that it would be useful but they still need foundational skills such as ability to troubleshoot problems. The certification will be useful to get looked and but they still have to prove the skills and show how to do what they are certified to do. Jochen mentioned that he looks at certification but it is not mandatory.

Richard Grotegut had handouts regarding Bay Area Community Colleges Cyber camps that he is involved with for middle and high school students. Elizabeth Pratt said College of Marin has similar camps in the

summer at College of Marin. Also handed out was a Model Curriculum Worksheet based on Department of Labor and IT Technician Pathway –Cybersecurity with Phases 1-4 showing what job could be obtained.

Douglas Spindler showed an excel sheet via PowerPoint and asked the members to rank what skills we should be looking at. Elizabeth Pratt suggested a Survey Monkey for this to send out to members to get feedback.

Douglas Spindler then posed the question to industry on what skills we should be teaching in the classroom. Soft skills important, critical thinking important to solve problems, summer camps academy, internships to get on the job experience also important.

What skills are advisable to have the next couple of years was asked by Douglas. Some of the important listed applications from industry were Google Docs, Amazon (AWS), PowerShell, Python, Cisco-A+, and Firewalls security.

Adjournment

2:35pm