**COMPUTER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

**LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES -- DRAFT**

April 30, 2014

PRESENT

Members:

Curt Abbott, Oregon Coast Technology; John Barnum, Next Step Recycling; Brian Bray, consultant; Janelle Christensen, student rep.; Chuck Dinsfriend, International Society for Technology in Education; Craig Gray, Pinnacle Healthcare; Otto Radke, Jwaala; Micah Sardell, Information Services, UO; Jeff Seldon, Ally Financial; Damon Slye, Mad Otter Games.

Faculty/Staff: Brian Bird, Gary Bricher, Ron Little, Gerry Meenaghan, Dave Oatman, Kathy Walters, Paul Wilkins.

ABSENT

Members: Eimar Boesjes, Dennis Chong, Mark Davis, Michael Finch, Shane Johnson, Dan Keith, Les Moore, Jerry-Jo Payne, Phillip Robles, Dale Smith.

1. WELCOME AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

John Barnum as chair called the meeting to order at 3:35pm in Bldg 19, Room 225, and welcomed all. The Winter 2014 minutes were reviewed and approved without change.

1. CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Dave Oatman thanked members whose terms are expiring with this meeting (Dennis Chong, Les Moore, Dale Smith, Janelle Christensen) none of whom were currently present. The certificates will be sent to them later.

1. COLLEGE/DIVISION UPDATE

Dave Oatman said there is on-going interest in the community around computer science and improving the workforce pipeline to address the shortage of tech workers. There was an event at the downtown campus in February bringing K through 20 together to address the shortage issue. Also, there is a regional effort organized at the state level to address the shortage, bringing together industry and education resources to support the growth of a qualified tech workforce. This group is considering forming potential incubators for startups. In addition, there is interest at the state level in developing an Associate of Science Oregon Transfer in Computer Science degree championed by the Engineering Technology and Industry Council. This would allow students to transfer to four-year institutions with junior standing. At Lane in the CIT department for Spring term, enrollment is equal to last year’s whereas for the rest of the college enrollment went down from 15 to 20%. This demonstrates the continuing draw of our programs. Also, the potential program cuts that were discussed at the recent board meeting and published in the Register Guard won’t impact our division, except for a teaching-only position which was a two-year appointment and is now ending.

1. RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS

Paul Wilkins said the advisory committee is larger this year than it has been and this has helped foster good discussions, and we would like to continue with that by bringing in new people to replace those whose terms have expired. He asked the committee for suggestions of people members may know who would be good candidates for this committee, or fields in IT that should be more thoroughly represented here. It was suggested to invite Joe Maruschak who used to work at Garage Games and runs the Fertilab Thinkubator group who Dave Oatman mentioned was an organizer of the state effort to address the tech workforce shortage. John Barnum suggested Life Technologies and DataLogic which are companies in town that would use students from Lane. Another suggestion was the current director of technology at 4J school district since we are losing Les Moore from the school district. It was suggested that Bill Ellis of the economic development office at the City of Eugene may be a resource for us who attended the department’s last retreat. Also, it was suggested that Lane Council of Governments, which interconnects regional resources, may provide good input for us. In addition, bringing health informatics representation was suggested in order to provide input for this newly formed degree. Gerry Meenaghan mentioned that Curt Barnes, a current networking student from CIT, is a systems admin at Palo Alto Software and may be a good addition to the committee providing the perspective of a current student and employee in the local tech industry.

1. COMMUNITY SHARING

Brian Bray mentioned that compliance with newly installed tech systems varies from industry to industry and gave an example at 4J, which has a new student information system, where teacher contracts may be at variance with task requirements of the new technology. Otto Radke said Microsoft is making a big shift in their technology stack becoming more open, and wonders how Lane curriculum will adjust to that. Craig Gray said the delay in the release of a new revision for their health system has freed them to do other things. They have finished the roll out of Wi-Fi and touch screen monitors to all their buildings. Now they are implementing medication at bedside using computers on carts and leveraging the Wi-Fi that they have installed. Jeff Seldon mentioned that Ally Financial just went public and is in the midst of a two-year project to replace systems that manage their contact centers. They are moving to a private cloud based phone system being hosted in their own data centers. They are insourcing, ending a contract with EDS, stimulated by cost issues and the desire to centralize, but software development is outsourced. Curt Abbott said they are hiring. They are now doing support for Oregon Coast Community College. Damon Slye said Mad Otter recently launched a new game on Steam, a digital game distribution platform. They are not currently hiring, but may need to in the near future depending on the success of the new game. At the height they were getting 2,000 players per hour from Steam. It’s a massive multiplayer online (MMO) game. They have found that the Steam environment is a different group of players than they had formerly who were friendly and hung out at the game site. The players at Steam are very hard core, and the two groups coming together is a culture clash. Gerry Meenaghn, co-op coordinator said he has about 40 CIT students in the field, about half are networking students. He said IT job positions are picking put in the region, and that co-op needs tend to be directly proportional to the economy whereas enrollment is inversely proportional. Micah Sardell said their biggest current focus is on filling positions. They have sixteen vacant positions, ten are posted. They range from senior technical workers to entry level. John Barnum said NextStep is not in a hiring mode. The recent ending of support for Windows XP, has caused their sales to sky rocket. They are selling a basic W7 system with Office 2010 for $149, and are averaging over fifty computer sales per week. Also, they are receiving a large number of donations, for example, from Peace Health, as organizations install new systems.

1. INDUSTRY PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Paul Wilkins said that at the last CIT retreat we had a representative of Lane’s continuing education department, Jenette Kane, speak. Turns out that the bureaucratic barriers around offering some of our credit courses on a non-credit basis have disappeared. There are options to offer the same section of some of our courses in a credit and non-credit mode, the latter could be attractive for the IT professional community where employees are not seeking a degree but want to increase their skills in selected areas. We are considering offering workshops for IT professionals as well. Brian Bird said that the Android app development course is planned to be offered this Fall as a beta test of this idea. It will be offered with both a credit and non-credit option. The non-credit option lessens the number of hoops one needs to go through to register. John Barnum suggested creating an online survey so the advisory members could indicate the kinds of classes that would benefit them. Ron Little indicated that courses we would likely target for this kind of delivery would be the specialty courses, like our Project Management course. Ron said feedback from the committee regarding expanding our Project Management course would be of benefit. Micah Sardell said that project management is an area they plan to expand considerably in the near future within their organization.

Paul also spoke about the Epic Oregon Game Jam event the recently occurred. He said Game Jams are happening all around the country and they bring together programmers, artists, designers, sound folks, etc. for a weekend with the goal of going from an idea for a game to a rough draft of it. For our students, it was a fantastic experience. Paul said that currently, one of the main ways our students interact with the community is through the co-op program, but this tends to be on a longer term basis. Other ways for students to interact with the community on a short term basis would be beneficial. He feels that the more ways students have to interact with the community the better prepared they will be. Kathy Walters mentioned with health informatics when a system goes live there may be an opportunity for students to be involved, these are short-term events. For example, students could be involved in training or get an overview of the whole process. Craig Gray mentioned the SmartUp workshops at the UO as a possibility of another forum for students to network and socialize. Gerry Meenaghan mentioned that the co-op program can provide credits for shorter work experiences than eleven weeks.

1. FUND RAISING

Kathy Walters passed around a handout (Pints-for-a-Cause, Ninkasi Fund Raiser for Lane’s ESL program) and discussed the need for finding alternate funding for departmental needs. This event also provided community awareness and networking opportunities. She said that the process for these kind of fund raising events is to make it an agenda item for the advisory committee, involve a Lane foundation board member, apply to the organization involved (for example, Ninkasi). She said an idea for the Fall meeting is to discuss exploring outside the walls with regard to fund raising. Kathy also passed out a couple other handouts related to health informatics.

 VIII. PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: HEALTH INFORMATICS DEGREE

Ron Little passed around the Health Informatics program sheet which describes that program. Ron focused on two areas. The first year gives students background in the basics of IT and the courses are very similar to what our other programs requires; in the second-year students specialize and there are several threads: systems analysis, database, health informatics, with several other topics like project management at the end of the program. There are three directed electives in the program to allow students to select areas they may want to specialize in, for example, networking. There are a couple Pathway certificates: database specialist and health informatics technology specialist that Ron discussed.

All members were thanked for their attendance by John Barnum and the meeting adjourned at 5:10pm.

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