



CIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Facilitator:
Gary Heisler

Minutes

9/7/07
8:15 – 10:00 am
West Campus, Room M121

Attendees:

Agenda Topics:

Discussion

Welcome

John Lightner

In his welcome address, Dr. Lightner asked what LCC should do to improve internships. What works, what’s wrong with the current program?

Welcome

Dean Judith Berry

Dean Berry gave an update on student participation in the CIT program this semester. Dean Berry asked for discussion regarding whether LCC is fulfilling industry needs. Asked for action plan after brainstorming session.

Introductions

Each attendee introduced himself or herself.

Preview of Breakout Discussions

Faculty facilitators gave the group an outline of the topics of discussion for their respective breakout sessions.

Apprenticeship Initiative

Richard Scott gave the group an update on the LCC CIT Apprenticeship Initiative.

Get IT Growing

Larry Harb gave a brief announcement regarding the “Get IT Growing” seminars that will be offered this fall and sponsored by various organizations including LINC, Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce, LCC, and Lansing Regional SmartZone.

Breakout Sessions

The group split into breakout sessions at 9:00 am. A facilitator and note taker were assigned each to Networking/Hardware & Software Support, Programming/Database, Web Development, and Office Applications. Individual group breakout sessions continued until the conclusion of the Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.

CIT Advisory Committee, Programming Session

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2007

8:30 AM – 9:40 AM

LOCATION: LCC WEST CAMPUS

TYPE OF MEETING	Programming/Database Breakout Session
FACILITATOR	David Grebner
NOTE TAKER	Steven Smith
ATTENDEES	Jeanne Irwin and Nancy Presocki, State of Michigan DIT; Dean Hosfield, Jackson National Insurance Co.; Jeff Botkin, Delta Dental; Jeff Lawton, Ideal Solutions LLC; Michael Malinak, TechSmith Corp.; Jeff McWherter, AG Boggs & Co.; Gary Heisler, Virginia Werner, Dave Grebner and Steve Smith, LCC

Discussion Items

TOPIC	Programming Languages/Tools for Intro to Programming (CITP110) Course	
	<p>1. CIT proposed to use Python in the course as it teaches good programming concepts and is actually used in industry. The members of the Advisory committee in attendance concurred.</p> <p>2. Advisory committee also recommended that we use UML instead of Warnier Diagrams and flow charts as program design tools. Those tools were designed for 3rd generation languages; they are not suited as well to object-oriented programming.</p>	
CONCLUSIONS	See above	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
<p>1. Python will be incorporated into the CITP110 course for Fall 2008.</p> <p>2. The 3GL program design tools will PROBABLY be removed from the course and replaced with a more up-to-date tool. Committee will determine what that might be next Spring.</p>	Programming Curriculum Committee	April 2008

TOPIC	Course Proposals for Programming/Database Area
	Discussion of C#, VB.net and other programming languages that should be part of this

curriculum. This discussion included the notion that perhaps some courses might need to be dropped if others were added so that 1) we would still be able to meet minimum class section enrollments established by the college and 2) we would move closer to the target of students being able to attain their degree within 60-64 credit hours.

CONCLUSIONS	Group decided that C# definitely should be taught at LCC. They also concluded that if this meant dropping a course from the curriculum, that VB.net should be the one to go.
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ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
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Two new course proposals (for CITP180 and CITP280) are being developed to be offered in Fall 2008.	Virginia Werner	9/24/2007
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TOPIC	Internships	
Discussion centered upon whether the number of hours a typical LCC intern receives (usually about 150 over the course of the semester) is enough to be of value to area IT employers.		
CONCLUSIONS	Consensus seemed to be that 150 hours was not nearly enough; 300 hours is closer to what employers need.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Committee will explore the viability of increasing internship hours.	Programming Curriculum Committee	April 2008

TOPIC	Portfolio	
Discussion centered upon ways that Programming and Database students are able to provide evidence that they possess the necessary IT skills required by area employers.		
CONCLUSIONS	The group concluded that students who were able to produce a portfolio which would demonstrate their skills had a very definite advantage in finding an IT job over other students who did not possess such a portfolio.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Committee will explore the viability of developing a portfolio component within the affected curricula.	Programming Curriculum Committee	April 2008

TOPIC	DBMS	
Local IT employers were questioned about their preference for any particular DBMS to be taught in our programming and database courses.		
CONCLUSIONS	Employers expressed a preference for Sequel and MySQL, but there was no	

	support for a separate database curriculum.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Explore the viability of re-developing a MySQL concepts course*	Programming Curriculum Committee	April 2008
*this course had been developed originally in 2004 but had not been approved by the divisional office. Due to the passage of time, some re-development may be necessary.		

CIT Advisory Committee, Breakout Session Networking/Security/Hardware & Software Support

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2007

8:30 AM – 9:40 AM

LOCATION: LCC WEST CAMPUS

Attendees: Karl Dietrich, Jonathan Pulling, Joe Werner, Cameron Dean, Mary Speiser, Willie Taylor, Tom Field, Phil Burnet, Tom Shewchuk, Mark Bailen, Bob McGowan, Clarke Anderson, Jayson Cavendish, Bill Knapp, Tom Glomski

Karl opened with a discussion of his new 2nd year program, all high school seniors and how he was having trouble getting them to understand the need for soft skills. All at the table agreed these are important skills to have.

Bob McGowan asked if Karl differentiated the soft skills between those needed by internal IT people and the skills needed as an outside consultant coming into someone else's company. Karl said he did not. Bob went on to say that technical people must have the ability to explain technology to non-technical people. Communication skills are critical.

How are we addressing the differences between the 2 types of jobs and personalities of an internal IT employer and a consultant, such as an employee from A Boggs who goes into different businesses?

Mark Bailen added that IT people must also follow up with the client after the trouble ticket has been closed. Technicians not just show up for work everyday but ask the question how did I help someone today?

Bob McGowan: We don't teach personal organization skills. Many students and new employees are not well prepared and we must develop their people skills. Technicians need to write things down as they work, that way when the client asks what they have done, they will have a written record of what they have accomplished. Joe W. added we have added some of that to the A+ coursework.

Joe W. moved onto the topic of our development of new courses for the Convergence track of the revised Networking degree.

Karl asked the question regarding LCC becoming a Cisco Academy and whether or not we should be teaching Cisco or generic routing and switching. They said a resounding "yes" to Cisco.

Jayson Cavendish felt we should go Cisco.

Willie Taylor said that new employees need to hit the road running and having Cisco training would help them do that. Multi-skilled employees are more valuable than ones

who are specialized in only one area. Cisco needs to be part of a total training program, not just Cisco only.

Clarke Anderson added that an Associates Degree is not enough that employees need to have a BS degree to really add value to the organization. Continual learning is part of their company's culture. They are always looking for UNIX people. He felt that regardless of whether we went Cisco or not, the fundamentals of networking must be taught.

Bob McGowan: Cisco is a good product and everyone uses it, but it is not always the best solution. Students with experience are more valuable than Cisco training. Two emerging protocols: 1) SIP and MPLS; and 2) virtual environments.

Jayson: Cisco is prevalent in the market but agreed that students and new employees must have a solid foundation of networking.

Willie: LCC must teach the core foundation.

Mark Bailen: Telecom is still land line based which means employees must have a strong foundation of networking skills.

Bob McGowan agreed; a solid foundation is an absolute necessity.

Someone said: Students need to know how telephony works with computers. Branding, such as Cisco, adds credibility.

Clarke suggested that he would be willing to volunteer his time as a guest speaker for any of our classes and that he wants to be involved and build relationships with the instructors. However, the visibility of the courses is hard to find. Can't locate the times and dates. They asked many times to have access to classes, esp. Clark from AJ Boggs. Invite them. And they want to talk to us a lot more often. They want to be phoned. Suggested a flowchart for the curriculum guide and for skill sets - matches how these students already think and process.

Bob McGowan advised that LCC develop some type of metric in which we could measure the employment of graduates after they leave LCC. Whether they stay local, move away, or find a different field of work. Find out how many grads are employed and where - local, out of town? Where are they in career? Follow up with employers - what was good, what was empty.

Tom Shewchuk: As for convergence technology, when it is taught it needs to be broken down in to its components and how they work together. This will allow the student to be more valuable after leaving LCC. As for Cisco, it is mostly a marketing tool, but a necessity for students to gain employment in the field. He also agreed with Clarke that business is not as involved with the schools as they should be.

Karl: Everyone has said foundation, foundation, foundation. Is CCNA the foundation? Half the table said yes and the other half said no.

Jayson: CCNP should be the foundation and not CCNA. As for future technologies/skills that should be taught he recommended Storage Area Networks, and virtual environments.

Bill Knapp: Specialization is needed in complex networking environments. Business does not have to employ a specialist 2080 hours a year. They can call his organization and utilize the specialist for 40 hours or as needed.

Willie commented that in a small or medium business, the employees must be multi-skilled because if the specialist leaves the organization, you get hosed because no one else knows the systems.

Bill Knapp: Continuous learning must be business' responsibility because LCC can only do so much within a two year program.

Tom Shewchuk said we need to teach Business Process Engineering. How does IT add value to the organization, where does IT fit in to the business infrastructure?

Scott Wiseman from TekSystems spoke after the breakout session: He was telling me that not only do they use Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) practices in their workplace, but their customers have been asking for training in ITIL from their company. They have developed training in ITIL and will customize it for their customers.

He also said that they use Java and .NET in their business.

CIT Advisory Committee, Web Session

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2007

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM

LOCATION: LCC WEST CAMPUS

TYPE OF MEETING	Breakout Session
FACILITATOR	Rebecca Lawson
NOTE TAKER	Dennis Pippet
ATTENDEES	Ryan Doom, Brad Ross, Scott Wiseman, Catherine Villaire, Larry Harb, Ryan Vartoogian, Tony Lambert

Discussion Items

TOPIC		
	What skills are needed for students to gain employment? (part 1)	
CONCLUSIONS		
	Students need solid knowledge of XHTML and CSS; good understanding of JavaScript, AJAX, cross browser compatibility, would like to see use of CVS or versioning system, ability to work in team is very important. As a web development language, offer PHP as an Open Source alternative to ASP.NET. PHP works well with MySQL and is free	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Redesign CITW 160 to add in design/interface skills, XHTML/CSS	Rebecca	Fall 2008
Redesign 165 to incorporate more XML, AJAX, teamwork?	Dennis	Fall 2008
Propose PHP class for Fall 2008	Dennis	Fall 2007

TOPIC		
	Search Engine Optimization and Marketing as important skills	
CONCLUSIONS		
	There is a great need in the industry to understand who advertises, search marketing, social aspects of marketing, keyword placement	

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Add more SEO into CITW 175	Dennis	Spring 2008
Create SEO Specialty Topics	Dennis	Spring 2008

TOPIC		
The future of FrontPage, Expressions Web and Sharepoint Services Designer		
CONCLUSIONS		
Expression Web has not yet proved itself useful for web designer/developer. Expression Web is good choice for casual web design/development, as FrontPage is currently. Continue with FrontPage 2003 as businesses will continue to use it. Sharepoint is recommended for enterprise use. Wiki's are more useful for teams		
ACTION ITEMS		
	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Course proposal in process for Expression Web	Jean Welsh	Fall 2007

TOPIC		
Six areas of employable skills that students need. (relates to employee skills part 1)		
CONCLUSIONS		
Design Tools (PhotoShop, Dreamweaver), Take design layout to Programming (JavaScript/AJAX), Site testing (browser compatibility, security), Programming to database interactivity (PHP/MySQL), Marketing & Communications (Search Engine Optimization), Project Management skills		
ACTION ITEMS		
	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Research (and propose) degree which includes these areas of specialty	Dennis	Fall 2008

CIT Advisory Committee, Breakout Session Applications

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2007

8:30 AM – 9:40 AM

LOCATION: LCC WEST CAMPUS

Windows Vista is being used by TechSmith to develop their products while most others were experimenting with the product but had no immediate plans for adoption. Most agreed that Windows Vista training for new hires would be as good or better on a resume than Windows XP training.

All seemed to agree that Office 2007 training was preferable to Office 2003 even if they were still currently using the 2003 product. Some application training was being done in house while others left it up to individuals to seek the application training that they needed. This opened up the question of whether individuals from their companies interested in new applications would be degree seeking. It was felt that most employees would be seeking courses for professional development.