

CIT Advisory Subcommittee Working Luncheon  
Friday, November 16, 2007  
Facilitator: Karl Dietrich  
Note taker: Laura Braun

Those present for LCC were:  
Jonathan Pulling  
Cameron Dean  
Joe Werner  
Virginia Werner  
Curlada Eure-Harris

Craig Allen, Norlight Telecommunications, was present from the advisory committee.

Karl Dietrich welcomed those in attendance and reviewed work the team has done with industry on new Networking and Security Management Academy curriculum.

Joe Werner reviewed requirements of curriculum. Joe specifically pointed out that the expectation of the department is that the students coming in will be at a higher level than high school level. This is a more advanced degree. Seven classes have been identified as foundation, these were reviewed. Enrollment will be selective, but not restricted. Students will all begin at the same baseline and will provide improved enrollment in program. The methods of bypassing the requirements were also reviewed.

The question was raised whether additional courses would be required to progress into different areas. These requirements are found in many of the CIT curricula as well as college core requirements. Courses within the curriculum were chosen for appropriateness and ability to transfer to four year institutions.

Student then chooses a specialty track: Enterprise/Infrastructure, Networking Systems Management, or Information Security Management. Joe reviewed each track and the courses within each track including what they will provide students.

Local job market, input from advisory council, industry trends were used to build curriculum.

Craig – Currently, LCC graduates come out able to get a job immediately and move up to IT directorships in small businesses within a couple of years. Craig stated that he likes the choice/tracks within curriculum.

Craig provided some thoughts;

- 1) How will courses be updated on the fly as industry changes?
- 2) Is it part of the curriculum to subscribe to industry periodicals? Suggested that students sign up for free publications as they sign in to the curriculum. Craig will send link.

- 3) An idea would be to provide a links on program web site to help students keep up with industry trends.

Cameron and Joe explained how new trends in industry are presented to students within the constraints of our one-year course update structure. They stressed that the new curriculum wants to introduce students to broader experience of what is available in technology.

Craig suggested that we establish student-driven Wiki giving credit for a focus articles; SMC – Subject Matter Champion. This might motivate students to do research and share with others. Industry will ask students to do similar work when they become employed. Articles could be kept and added to as new student groups come in to the program. Care must be taken with institutional liability.

The ability to write and otherwise communicate is desired by industry in new employees.

Craig asked whether the department has considered inviting consulting groups to join the advisory committee, for example, Plante – Moran.

Craig expressed a great deal of interest in moving from security to recovery and continuity. What is the cost per minute for businesses to be down for whatever reason? He pointed out that a niche that LCC grads could pick up is in risk assessment.

Cameron explained where some security and recovery topics are covered in different networking courses.

Overall, Craig stated that he likes the reorganization of this curriculum. Disaster recovery, continuity, and VOIP are topics that are high priority and new graduates will be expected to know. Craig asked how do students compete and thrive once they are employed. He pointed out that awareness of and willingness to embrace emerging technologies and concepts will give graduates the ability to shine in the workplace. Knowledge orientation and knowledge of where to find necessary information in up and coming areas are key.

Craig suggested creating “mini certificates” that are unique to LCC in specialized areas such as computer forensics, security, recovery, and continuity. LCC is ideal for students to learn these specialties because of the hands-on experiences that they gain. These mini certificates could be earned by students in other programs and/or to individuals already in the industry for professional development. They would be quick to learn; made up of possibly only three courses each. Also, mini certificates could be a deliverable, tangible component that students could bring to businesses when they come in as interns.

Finally, Craig asked about a capstone project within the curriculum.

Karl expressed that we could be looking for additional instructors for the curriculum. Craig expressed interest in doing this.