



Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Computer Information Technology and Decision Sciences

Meeting Held: Thursday April 27, 2017 in BE 127

Members Present

- Brian Baker, FCC
- Robert Devoe-Peterson, FCC
- Marc Forestiere, FCC
- Todd McLeod, FCC
- Dan Owens, FCC
- Jim Sause, FCC
- Bonnie Smith, FCC
- Rio Waller, FCC
- Simon Sultana, Fresno Pacific
- Stephen Woods, Fresno Pacific
- Cornell Archie, Fresno County IT
- Robert McIntyre, Fresno Metro Flood Control
- Ojong Kwon, Fresno State
- Robert Bash, County of Fresno
- Mario Soberal, Bitwise Industries
- Paul Nerland, County of Fresno
- Todd Wilson, Fresno State CSCI

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1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM

Purpose of Committee

2. Mr. Baker discussed the purpose of the committee with regards to Perkins goals. He mentioned the need for a skilled labor force in our valley and the community college's role to fulfill that need. He discussed the desire for feedback from the community and our downstream partners in industry and universities so that we can help students be successful in their next stage.

Industry Needs

3. The question of what needs were being felt in industry in our valley was brought up. These are some of the responses.
 - a. Security professionals have a seat at the table for all decisions in Fresno County.
 - b. Security skills and understanding is an important qualification when hiring at Fresno County.
 - c. All IT professionals need to know how security fits into their main function or specialty.
 - d. Even low level employees, like office workers, need to know the security risks of basic tasks to avoid ransomware and other attacks.
 - e. All members agreed that critical thought needs to be taught. That students should be exposed to philosophy, psychology, or art classes that teach them how to think and solve problems.
 - f. Most members and especially Mr. Soberal from Bitwise believe that it is critically important to engage in project based instruction and group work so that students learn to work in teams.
 - g. Most members lamented the lack of analytical skills in students/employees.
 - h. Human "soft skills" need to be taught.
 - i. Professional skills especially regarding communication with clients/team members/managers needs to be taught.
 - j. Students need to know how to communicate and coordinate efforts to accomplish a task. All students should be taught how to "turn a double play".

Higher Education Needs

4. The question of what needs were being felt in our transfer institutions was brought up. These are some of the responses.

- a. Fresno Pacific University is interested in an Memorandum of Understanding to ease transfer between FCC and Fresno Pacific for students in the CIS and Software Engineering disciplines.
 - b. Fresno State expressed concern about the speed of institutional change at their university and the fact that Fresno State still does not have a dedicated major for Networking/Security students.
 - c. Fresno State Computer Science expressed interest and concern with getting all faculty to adopt project based and group oriented instruction.
 - d. Most members agreed that instruction should be more human oriented and that students capable of more should be challenged more.
 - e. Some members suggested that partnerships with Philosophy or Psychology could be created to teach courses specifically in analytical and critical thinking for technical students
 - f. Most members felt that those analytical and critical thinking skills need to be reinforced in every class.
 - g. Concern was expressed by some members that these skills are the hardest to teach and often need to start long before High School Graduation.
 - h. Concern was expressed that the need for critical thinking, analytical skills and soft skills have been brought up at multiple Advisory Committee Meetings without any plan in place to ensure these skills are being taught.
5. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.