

IT ALLIANCE FALL 2020 MEETING MINUTES
Romain College of Business at USI
Friday, December 4, 2019, 8:00 a.m.
Zoom

Members Present: Terry Clements, James Derk, Abram Devonshire, Scott Franzel, Patrick Heck, Paul Kilroy, John Knight, Kevin Kolley, Alan Letterman, Andrew Melchiors, Kim Poynter, Kelly Reisinger, Nic Sagez, Dave Smith, Richard Toeniskoetter

Members Absent: Jeff Gorman, Lisa Hobgood, Bob Humphrey, Doug Petitt, Drew Peyronnin, Anthony Spitz, Mark Uhrin, Paige Vinall

Ex-officio Members Present: Cathy Carey, Abbey Foroughi, Brian McGuire

Faculty Present: Scott Anderson, Xue Han, Josh McWilliams, Srishti Srivastava, Wendy Wooldridge, Gongjun Yan, Jennifer Riester

Students Present: 14 Senior Project students attended.

Guests Present: Lorie Van Hook, Chad Tew

Administrative Assistant Present: Michelle Simmons

WELCOME: Alan Letterman welcomed everyone to the fall meeting. He welcomed Dave Smith as the new Chair Elect.

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS: Letterman requested self-introductions. Due to the meeting format, Michelle Simmons called the roll and had those in attendance confirm.

MINUTES: Letterman asked for a motion to approve the Fall 2019 minutes as distributed, noting that there was no meeting in Spring 2020 due to the virus. The minutes were APPROVED.

IT ALLIANCE CHAIR'S REMARKS: Letterman stated there was a need for senior projects provided by the community to help foster community participation. He noted there were many challenges in 2020 do to COVID 19.

CS FACULTY SUMMER CAMPS: Scott Anderson discussed the CS summer camps that were to be held for middle and high school students. Due to the pandemic, the camps were hosted online instead of on campus. Anderson had requested financial help for the summer camps but returned the donations since the overhead was low in the online format. The registration costs were also reduced. (See attached documentation.)

Anderson is unsure at this time if the 2021 camps will be online again. Srishti Srivastava stated that the number of participants could be a factor. David Smith asked about a hybrid option with Anderson noting that as an option.

Brian McGuire asked if the faculty learned anything from working with such young students. Anderson stated that the program ran smoothly and was surprised to have no real issues with the younger participants.

Patrick Heck noted that since the faculty made it fun for the students, they were willing to keep playing and focus.

DEPARTMENT CHAIR'S REMARKS: Abbas Foroughi thanked the IT Alliance members for their support, especially Letterman and Smith. He thanked Gongjun Yan for the senior projects and Dr. Cathy Carey for her support of the IT Alliance. (See attached Department Chair Report)

Smith asked what contributed to the growth of the MBA program? Foroughi praised Academic Partnerships for their help and the MBA director Jack Smothers for his leadership. Smith asked what portion of the MBA students were regional. Carey stated about half. Smith asked about capacity concerns. Foroughi was unsure how far the program could grow. There are currently over 200 students in each class. Carey noted some professors are utilizing coaches with the larger classes. She noted that the program is a big venture and that the growth was above expectations.

CS/CIS SENIOR PROJECTS: Gongjun Yan managed the senior projects. Three teams presented at the meeting.

1. Evansville Trails Coalition

Goal: Provide a web service/mobile device map of Evansville and Vanderburgh County displaying current trails (terrestrial and aquatic), bike paths, and bike lanes (shared with streets/roadways) that is intuitive and interactive to all users (8 to 80).

Students: Bishop, Mitchell B.; Huntington, Adam R.; Jenson, Kyle N.; Thomas, Matthew S.; McCoy, Matthew R.

2. Student-media hub for USI

Goal: a web service of student media hub for USI. It will be linked to the main web pages of USI official pages.

Students: Bodayla, Jacob E.; Eckstein, Emily L.; Miller, Riley D.; Noyes, Ayden M.

3. E-Commerce Site with Artificial Intelligence Customer Service Robot

Goal: offer an e-commerce site with artificial intelligence customer service. It can be deployed for any small businesses or startups

Students: Bowers, Jayson A.; Mitchell, Keith D.; Deel, Jeremy B.; Russell, Tyler E.; Simpson, Amon R.

DEAN'S REMARKS: Carey stated it was good to see the presentations and what the students can do and that it is a testament to the faculty. She noted that each presentation started with why, then noted that the students are the why for the College. She noted that the educational experience changed this semester to more hybrid and online learning and that is especially tough for CS as those courses are more hands on.

Carey discussed the future changes with the addition of online certificate in BUAD which was not thought possible in the past. She noted it was a good year despite the COVID difficulties. She noted many of the students are choosing majors in growing fields to meet employer demands. She stated that CS was 3rd in the University in growth with CIS high in growth also. She mentioned that Yan was working on a Masters in CS which will take time.

Carey thanked the IT Alliance for its support and time. She hopes the members will continue to bring projects to continue to work and engage with the community. She agreed that coding is fun and that if you get into a field you love, it feels less like work.

NEXT STEPS: Letterman thanked everyone for participating. He noted the need for more senior project ideas. He stated that dealing with real time stumbling blocks adds to continued excellence and the best way to learn.

He will send more communications next week.

ADJOURNED