

# UGA MIS Advisory Board Meeting Minutes- October 27, 2008

**5:00 Reception/Social Hour**

**6:00 Dinner**

**6:45 Board Meeting**

- **Hugh Watson- Welcome and Introductions**
  - Agenda
    - Opening Remarks
    - MIS Department Update
    - MIT Program Update
    - Student Panel: Career Aspirations
    - Recruiters Panel: Recruiting Experiences
    - IS Professionals Panel: Career Paths
  - Theme of tonight: "Informing the Faculty"
  - Something new this year, we will be having a discussion panel where questions pertaining to employment, desired qualities of companies/students, and other pertinent information to hiring and the interests of students are discussed.

**6:50 Rick Watson- MIS Department Update**

- **Enrollment**
  - Over 80 students entered in the major this fall.
  - Enrollment has stabilized over the major.
  - 200 students applied for Finance as their first preference, 50 students applied for MIS as their first preference for the major selection.
    - Rick Watson thanked PricewaterhouseCoopers for their financial support of the bus ads.
- **Ranking**
  - *U.S. News & Report Ranking- Undergraduate Ranking- 9<sup>th</sup>*
- **SIM (Society for Information Management)**
  - Dave Chatterjee was recently elected President of SIM Atlanta
- **Program started: IS Leadership Certificate**
  - 8 applicants thus far.
  - Students spend four semesters on campus participating in the IS Leadership program doing various projects.
- **Recognition**
  - Dr. Goodhue and Dr. Karahanna are senior editors of two of the top journals in the field.
- **Program started on Green IS.**
  - Featured in an IBM newsletter.
- **Global Text Project**
  - 20 students working on this project currently.
  - Five to six books are published now.
  - The Global Text Society was created from this project.
- **Donations (a negative of the MIS program)**

- Poor job on creating mechanisms for MIS alumni to donate money to the MIS department.
  - Hugh Watson Scholarship- idea of a prestigious scholarship for a student in MIS at UGA.

### **7:00 Questions from audience**

- What is the job placement percentage for students?
  - It looks to be 100%.
- Is there a formalized internship program?
  - The student organization, SMIS, is devoted to cultivating relationships among students, faculty, and industry representatives in the field of computing and information systems.
    - Career/Internship opportunities can be posted directly to the SMIS website by completing and submitting the form that is posted under the “Companies” tab on the SMIS website at [www.ugasmis.org](http://www.ugasmis.org).

### **7:05 Craig Piercy- MIT Program Update**

- The MIT program is a master’s program that runs for five semesters. Students learn network applications and develop projects.
  - Four projects are currently under way for a diverse set of sponsors.
- MIT is in its recruiting season for Fall 2009.
  - Contact Craig Piercy for those interested in pursuing a Master’s degree in MIT.
  - 30-35 students are preferred for the upcoming recruiting class.
  - This is an evening program; runs two nights (Tuesday/Thursday or Monday/Wednesday) a week in Gwinnett.

### **7:10 Student Panel: Career Aspirations**

- **Panelists: Clay Roberts, Alan Sher, and Bianca Rush**
  - **Questions asked:**
    1. Where they are in the program?
    2. Where they are in their job search?
    3. What type(s) of positions they are interested in?
    4. What factors are important to their employment decision?
    5. What are the most impressive things they have seen from companies in the interview process?
    6. What are their expectations about career progression?
    7. What should companies know about the millennium generation?
      - The students on the panel are currently interviewing for jobs and many of them are looking at positions with consulting firms. A favorable organizational culture was commonly cited as an important factor in their employer selection criteria. They also stressed the importance of employers being candid about all aspects of the job and employment.

### **7:45 Recruiters Panel**

- **Panelists: Keyla Cabret (Aflac), Palmer Meyer (KPMG), and Whitney Ragan (CGI)**

- **Questions asked:**

1. What positions do you recruit for?
2. What schools do you recruit at?
3. What characteristics do you seek in recruits?
4. What's the recruiting process that you use at UGA?
5. What do you like best/least about UGA MIS students?
6. What do you like best/least about recruiting at UGA?
7. How can UGA MIS improve your recruiting experience?
8. What do other universities do that UGA's MIS program should adopt?
9. What impact is the economy having on your recruiting plans?
  - The recruiters are very pleased with UGA MIS graduates, several saying UGA is at the top of the schools they recruit. They also find UGA to be a very easy school to recruit at. One idea for improvement is to include projects with actual companies as part of the educational program.

#### **8:20 IS Professional Panel: Career Paths**

- **Panelists: Mindy Harbeson (PwC), Paul Miller (Turner Technology Services), Tim Siegler (KPMG), and Sanjay Singh (CTS)**

- **Questions asked:**

1. How many UGA MIS graduates do you have in your organization?
2. What are the career paths for these graduates?
3. Are today's MIS graduates prepared for these career paths?
4. If they fail to progress along these career paths, what most often occurs?
5. What should UGA's MIS program be doing to better prepare graduates for these paths?
6. What are the advantages/disadvantages of having the millennium generation in the workforce?
  - The consulting firms in particular have many UGA MIS graduates. Employers seem pleased with the professionalism of our graduates. They are easy to put before clients.

#### **Miscellaneous**

- UGA MIS Alumni Networking Group is being created. The first meeting will be November 20<sup>th</sup> at the Atlanta Terry Executive building.
  - Goal- to provide alumni networking.
- A link to the SMIS website ([www.ugasmis.org](http://www.ugasmis.org)) will be sent out to board members.
- A list of topics to speak in spring semester will be sent soon. Please respond back to any topics you would like to speak to UGA MIS students about.
- An announcement of the Advisory Board meeting date for the Spring will be e-mailed to board members.

- The spring Board meeting will be in April in Athens.
  - An idea this year is to have it in the mystery theater.
- Dr. Hugh Watson would like for board members to give feedback on ideas of what you would like to see at future Advisory Board meetings. These should be ideas that can bring a fresh outlook on the Advisory board meeting (such as the panels .

**8:50 Adjourn**

**Minutes prepared by MS. Bianca Rush, Student Representative, MIS Advisory Board**