

UGA MIS Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – April 1, 2008

1:00 Hugh Watson – Welcome and Introductions

1:30 Robert Sumichrast, Dean – The State of the Terry College of Business

- Background on why he came to UGA
- What the Terry College of Business should strive to do
 - Leverage faculty strength and the quality of students
 - We need to improve the four F's (Faculty, Facilities, Focus, and Funding)
 - Faculty stretched thin – can't admit all students who want to be in Terry
 - Facilities – do not have the size or kind of space we need – no offices for additional faculty, no space for guest speakers, and no space for breakout sessions. He has three new buildings in mind.
 - Focus – the major focus should be on the MBA program since it is the most visible degree program.
 - Funding – required to complete the other three F's. Can raise funding through gifts and executive programs.
- Questions from Audience
 - How is UGA different from LSU (where the Dean was previously)?
 - Both have strong alumni support
 - UGA has better reputation
 - The state of Georgia has a better economy

1:45 Hugh Watson – The State of the MIS Department

- Mature department
- Excellent national rankings
- Enrollment
 - We have been promoting the MIS program through bus posters and other marketing initiatives
 - 79 new MIS majors entered the program this semester
 - 60 new MIS majors have signed up for fall 08 but there is a good chance this number will grow

1:50 Hugh Watson – Possible Changes to the MIS Scholarship Program

- 27 given out today
- Last year, we gave scholarships only to students already in the major – including graduating seniors
- This year, students who are joining the major in the fall are eligible
- What if we use the scholarships as an incentive to enter the MIS program? For instance, any student who puts MIS as their first choice and meets the minimum GPA requirement receives a \$100 scholarship. Then, after completing 4 classes in MIS, if the student still meets the GPA requirement, then (s)he receives a \$200 scholarship.
- Problem: would require more scholarship funding than we currently have.
- Company Reactions:

- 2-tiered: would attract more students to the program and would also be easier to get companies to give scholarship money knowing the students receiving the money are younger
- How many students can the MIS major take?
 - Want at least 80 each year. The max is currently about 100.
- What is the drop out rate?
 - Not very high
 - Mostly people who drop out decide that MIS is not for them
 - Mostly people who have MIS as their first choice do not drop out
- What do the student Board representatives think?
 - Would help students on the fence decide
 - Would at least get students to look into and be aware of what the MIS major is about
- Issue – would students get the scholarship money upfront or after their first term?
- Why are students choosing MIS now?
 - Competitive pay
 - Interest in technology
- What about international students?
 - 1) problem is that companies don't want to hire non-US citizens. 2) Students already pick their major before they even learn what MIS is.
- Board member reaction -- lots of people are going to leave the MIS work force in the next 10 years. Skills change. \$100 is only one or two textbooks. We need to think of a HOPE scholarship kind of program in the IS arena that parents can see – students battle for the scholarship. We need to fight to get kids in the program, keep them in the program, and get them in the workforce.

2:10 Greg Topp -- Partnering with EITS (UGA's internal computing organization)

- Many people in EITS will be retiring soon
- University knows they can't compete based on salary
 - University can create a good work environment
 - University can develop a workforce strategy
 - Pay/compensation
 - Location
 - Outsource
- Three part model
 - 1) Return the Master of Internet Technology (MIT) program to the UGA campus
 - EITS can leverage it for employee development and attracting and retaining staff
 - A proposal has been submitted to the Chancellor's Office for funding

- 2) Encourage and support the EITS staff (without undergraduate degrees) to obtain an undergraduate degree in MIS
 - Have MIS students work for EITS (and across campus) while earning a degree
- Create a IT Certificate Program
 - Leverage qualified MIS students to support IT work across campus IT (4 semesters)
 - Expose students to IT production environments
 - Build relationship between IT staff and IT students
 - Expect some will graduate and stay

3:30 Tian Ross – SMIS

- Purpose of SMIS: to create relationships between companies and SMIS members/MIS students
- Website: www.ugasmis.org
- Company presentations on Thursdays 7-8 pm
- Company socials/dinners to get companies more involved with students
- Fall Recruiting Dinner
- Internship Discussion Panel
- Resume Workshops
- Special projects such as free IT services for the Athens community
- Post job opportunities and company news
- Make student resumes available to companies
- Companies that want to recruit MIS students should work with SMIS

2:45 Dale Goodhue – Undergraduate Curriculum

- Reviewed data collected at the fall Board meeting that influenced our thinking about the curriculum
- Proposed Curriculum (for fall 2009)
 - 6 required classes:
 - 1st semester: Business Process Management and Database
 - 2nd Semester: Project Management and 1st Programming Course (and electives offered: Business Intelligence and Globalization & IT)
 - 3rd semester: 2nd Programming Course and Systems Analysis & Design (and electives offered: IS Leadership)
- Issues: reactions? Right electives? Python to replace Java?
 - ? - What is Python?
 - Object-oriented language
 - Simpler, easier to learn
 - Faster to get up on the web
 - Python is mostly for internal applications, not enterprise based
 - We want to teach programming concepts
 - Strong interest in Java from companies
 - Companies know what 2 semesters of Java means, but have no idea where Python fits in a skill set
 - . Net could be a compromise

- Quirks in Java are a benefit to students because they happen in real life and you need to be able to maneuver around them
 - Need fundamentals
 - Java is more applicable
- Java, C++ and C# are strong object-oriented programming languages
- Students also getting a Certificate in Computing have to take two Java courses – one counts for both the Certificate and the MIS major...if you switch to Python, you make those students take an extra class?
- How can MIS students contribute from Day 1?
 - could offer advanced Microsoft Office class
 - be able to better use VB macros
- Maybe we should make 2 tracks – 1) consulting and 2) industry
 - students in the industry track would take Java
 - business analysts, quality analysts, etc. all need to understand databases
- Certificate in Computing
 - Java 2, C++, Discrete Math
 - Alternative for a more technical route
- Many Board members want the department to offer a rich set of electives, such as Internal Controls

3:15 Break

3:40 Introduction of Student Board Members

3:45 Craig Piercy – MIT Program and Projects

- MIT program used to be on the Georgia campus, now it is in Gwinett
- Program is more technical than the MIS undergraduate program
- Currently: 25 students – 5 from EITS; will graduate in May 2009; 2 year program; sponsored projects will begin in August 2008
- There is strong interest in the program but because of limited resources, a new class is started only every other year
- Program is moving to a new location in Gwinett
- We have a new faculty who teaches in the program – Jeff Howells
- Projects – Application deadline 05/31/08
 - Potential projects should include:
 - Data modeling and database
 - Database enabled application
 - Secure application
 - Web or mobile interface
 - www.terry.uga.edu/mit provides more information about the projects
 - We would like for our Board member companies to be involved in the projects
 - The projects are free and involve 1000 to 1500 hours of work on the students' part

- 4:00 Dale Goodhue – Survey of the Curriculum --** to assess the importance of various MIS courses
- 4:05 Bob Bostrom – Business Process Management Course**
- Bob has been developing the course for three years and it is receiving excellent reviews from students
 - It is an elective now – should it become a requirement?
 - Provides both a business and a technology view of business processes
 - Student Board member feedback –
 - Gives valuable skills
 - The class is project based, which is useful
- 4:25 Marie Claude Boudreau – Green IT**
- Green IT – contribute to sustainable business practices – reduce companies overall environmental footprint
 - Emissions – 2% of total GH Gas
 - E-waste – 2% of trash in landfills, 70% of US toxic garbage, 73% of PCs are not recycled
- 4:35 Marie Claude Boudreau -- Graduate Student Research Award**
- Given to Greta Polites
- 4:35 Chris Hanks – IT Entrepreneurship Competition**
- Goal:
 - Make UGA known for MIS entrepreneurship
 - Go on entrepreneurship competition tour
 - See students launch their own businesses
 - Scholarship - \$1000 award
 - Fall – 3 hour class
 - 10 students competing now
 - How to get involved:
 - Need business plan evaluators
 - Need mentors/coaches
 - If interested, contact hanks@terry.uga.edu
- 4:35 Mark Huber and Craig Piercy -- Awarding of MIS Scholarships**
- 27 scholarships were awarded
 - Pictures of the scholarship recipients are on the UGA MIS group on Facebook
 - A listing of scholarship recipients will also be placed on the MIS Advisory Board website: www.terry.uga.edu/misadvisoryboard
- 5:00 Meeting was Adjourned for the Evening Events**
- A tailgate was held in front of Brooks Hall
 - We saw the Georgia baseball team beat Clemson 11-4 at Foley Field and our group was welcomed on the scoreboard