

MIS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES – April 7, 2009

11:30-12:30 Optional Pre Board Meeting Lunch at DePalmas

- Thirty people attended

1:00 Board Meeting

- **Hugh Watson- Welcome and Introductions**
 - Agenda
 - Opening Remarks
 - State of the Terry College
 - State of the Department of MIS
 - State of SMIS
 - Student MIS Advisory Board Projects
 - Restarting the MIS Alumni Program
 - Preparing Students for Careers in Tough Times
 - Update on Green IS Project
 - MIT Project Presentation
 - Hugh J. Watson Scholarship Fund

1:15 Robert Sumichrast, Dean – State of Terry College of Business

- With the current economy, the state of the college is both good and bad
 - Good
 - Aspire to National Prominence
 - Rankings of programs
 - MIS in Top Ten
 - CPA pass ranking in Top Ten
 - Overall rankings out of 2000+ business schools in Top Fifty
 - Faculty research
 - Outreach program to help Georgia residents
 - Student Outlook
 - Students want to be more qualified for the workforce
 - Bad
 - Budget
 - Down 6 % in Terry, 10% at UGA
 - Income from Foundation has disappeared
 - Need to find ways to expand operating budget without state funds
 - Have already changed donor recognition, employee travel processes
 - Professors and staff are working extra
 - Jobs for Students
 - Students are being better promoted and prepared despite the availability of jobs

1:30 Rick Watson – State of Department of MIS

- Dale Goodhue will take over as new department head in August. Rick has completed his three year term
- New class of MIS majors has between 70 and 80 students
 - A couple of years ago the new enrollment was 27
 - Fifty of the incoming MIS students chose MIS as their first choice
 - The MIS major has ability to accommodate 100 incoming students
- Campaign for major on bus routes to increase awareness of MIS is continuing
 - Funded by PricewaterhouseCoopers
 - Need to continue marketing for MIS
- Currently increasing enrichment of major through additional educational opportunities
 - IS Leadership Program
 - Four semesters
 - Work with IT departments within the University System
 - EITS, OIT in Terry
 - Leads to certificate
 - Reasons for program
 - UGA short of skilled people due to budget constraints
 - Students are able to gain work experience
 - Exchange Programs
 - Hong Kong
 - Norway
 - Study Abroad in China
 - 14 students for program this year
 - May 11th – June 5th 2009
 - Destinations in Shanghai, Beijing, Dailan
 - This study abroad program takes students to multiple cities in China. Students experience the unique cultures and business perspectives of each distinct location. This program will begin with preparatory classes on the UGA campus followed by three weeks of travel abroad with the professor. Classroom time will be scheduled in each destination so that students can discuss and synthesize course concepts with firsthand experience.
- New Curriculum
 - Business Process Management and Project Management added to core
 - New sequence of classes
 - Project Management leads to PMP Certification

1:40 Chris Sanders (SMIS President) – State of SMIS

- Advisor Mark Huber has been with the organization for 10 years

- Organization holds weekly meetings where companies give presentations. These meetings are an excellent way for students to interact with companies' representatives to learn more about career opportunities.
- Student Conference for Association for Information Systems
 - Representatives: Mark Huber, Chris Sanders
 - SMIS will be a model for student MIS chapters across the country
- Membership in SMIS is over 100
 - Majority of MIS students are members
- Website demonstration (www.ugasmis.org)
 - New feature allows companies to post internships and permanent positions directly to the website for members to see
 - Ability to register for companies to register to present to SMIS

1:55 Student MIS Advisory Board Project

- Billy Graham – Student Representative Introductions
- Alan Sher and Jason Perkowski – RSS Feed
 - A system that will allow companies, students, and faculty to receive information of interest
- Michael Le – FaceBook
 - Companies can join the UGA MIS group and use it to communicate directly with MIS students
- Clay Roberts – Mentoring Program
 - The goal of the MIS Mentoring program is to provide guidance, support, and understanding by sharing experiences and knowledge gained from upper-classmen in an effort to help others.
 - There are four mentors in different stages of completing their education
 - Discussed the possibility of adding Board members and MIS alumni as mentors
 - Brochures describing mentors will be passed out during advising
 - Focus on incoming students

2:45 Derek Clark and Priscilla Clark – Restarting the MIS Alumni Program

- Why does the MIS department want to maintain good relationships with alumni?
 - We want to start incoming students out with the thinking that being a MIS major is a lifetime commitment. That the program will not only provide a great education but opportunities beyond their college years.
 - By maintaining relationships with alumni, the message to students will be reinforced and will increase visibility to undecided students.
 - Strong support emotionally and financially from alumni will help to increase the MIS department in national rankings and also increase prestige on campus.
- How can we keep in touch with alumni and stimulate interest in events?
 - Alumni Ambassador Program

- Companies that are highly involved with the MIS department
 - SMIS or Advisory Board
- One or two ambassadors per company (depending on the number of UGA grads)
 - Face to face contact with someone in the company is stronger than electronic or hard copy information from the department
- Governance
 - Two Ideas
 - The ambassadors will have a subcommittee within themselves designated to be the “executives”
 - An outside source (student representative, SMIS, faculty member) will keep in touch with all ambassador and facilitate continuous involvement
- After the representatives are determined, the process will proceed with event planning for an event in the fall.
- How can the MIS Advisory Board take ACTION to help on this plan?
 - FaceBook and LinkedIn groups
 - SMIS Website (www.ugasmis.org)
 - Alumni Database

3:00-3:30 Break – Mary Virginia Terry Courtyard

3:30 Panel: Preparing Students for Careers in Tough Times

- Panel Participants
 - Facilitator: Dale Goodhue (UGA)
 - Todd Porter (H.T. Prof Executive Search)
 - Lauren Bolland (UGA Careers Office)
 - John Rossiter (Castleberry Consulting)
 - Palmer Mayer (KPMG)
- Panel members brought their personal experiences and accumulated insights on finding jobs, making career choices, and moving through career stages. Perhaps the overall message was, when life throws curve balls at you, your best response is to get back to basics! In this case, career basics seem to be: networking, get experience to strengthen yourself and make yourself stand out, and excel at whatever your do. The following information was shared with MIS students after the Board meeting.
- Networking:
 - Most of your career opportunities throughout your life will come directly or indirectly from your networking. Often it is not the person that you are personally in connect with that provides the opening, but someone that person is connected to. Never underestimate the importance of a strong and active network. As a part of that network, Linked In was suggested as a far better alternative than Facebook, because it has a more professional focus. SMIS is an excellent place to begin to build your

network. Don't be shy about pursuing links and leads through Terry Alums and Young Alums. But you don't have to stop there – your church, your community, and previous jobs. Remember that you will have something to give back – you could be an important part of other people's network in the future!

- Get Experience:
 - Both because you increase your knowledge and because you stand out from the crowd, seek out interesting growth experiences. Internships are great – even unpaid internships if that is what is available. Anything that gives you relevant job experience will be a plus. Study abroad is also a major plus – a very large proportion of these companies will be doing business overseas, and letting them know you are comfortable in offshore situations can be an important plus.
- Excel at what you do:
 - Whatever you take on, excel at it. You learn more, you develop the habit of excelling, and you become recognized as someone who does excellent work. Even if you ultimately make some other choice, you want the people you interact with to look at you and say, “I want that person to work for me!”
- Once you are on the job, repeat the three steps above:
 - Your career will have many stages, some you would never have predicted. Develop the habit of doing all three of the above, continuously. It will strengthen you in many ways.
- It is never too soon to start:
 - The right time to start doing these things is now. While it may seem early, actually sophomores should begin the process. Start building your networking skills and your network now. That way when you begin your job search, you will be ready. Also recognize that it takes time to find a job or an internship. In the past it used to often take students 3 to 4 months to find a job. In this environment, it may take 7 to 8 months. When you go to your interview, make sure you have done your research and know the company and its business well. Also recognize that many firms do their most intensive recruiting during the fall. Be active then!
- In tough times, be more flexible:
 - With fewer opportunities available, now is not the right time to be rigid in your requirements for a job. Don't get too locked in as to the type of company, location, and or even the type of position. Wherever you land in your initial job, by following the first three steps above, you will be in the strongest position later to have interesting and attractive options.

4:10 Maric Boudreau and Rick Watson – Update on the Green IS Project

- Basic concept
 - Energy plus information equals less energy
 - Field is called energy informatics
- The use of sensors in consumer appliances will be able to check the status of the system
 - Examples include washer/dryers and refrigerators

- Sensors will give out metrics on information using dashboards
 - Every consumer will be able to know how much NRG they are using
- Will be experimenting in dorms to determine statistics about specific energy wastes

4:20 Craig Piercy – MIT Project Presentation

- MIT Student Project – Nuci’s Space
 - Nuci’s Space is a organization in Athens, GA that provides musicians with studio time and instrument rentals
 - Web Reservation System is being developed as a MITproject
 - Current System
 - Excel and Sticky Notes
 - Nuci ‘s wants to be able to:
 - Make, change, and cancel reservations
 - Maintain customer information
 - Track usage charges and overdue charges
 - Use Rapid Application Development and Open Source Software
 - Products Selected
 - Ruby on Rails 1.8.7
 - MySQL 5.1
 - Apache
 - Wi-Fi was free because they did not know how to secure their network
 - Products Selected
 - Cisco (Linksys)
 - Dell
 - Microsoft
 - Due to problems with implementation, Ruby on Rails was replaced with PHP 5.2.8
 - Board member companies can request a project done for them

4:35 Rick Watson and Sanjay Singh (Computer Technology Solutions) – The Hugh J. Watson Scholarship Fund

- The objective is to raise \$100,000 for an endowment in Hugh Watson’s name to fund MIS scholarships
- The target audience for raising the money is MIS Advisory Board members and companies, former MIS PhD students, and former SMIS officers
- Dr. Sanjay Singh (CTS) has made the lead gift and is leading the fund raising efforts

4:45 Maric Boudreau and Craig Piercy – Awarding of MIS Scholarships

- Thank you to all the donors who made the MIS scholarships possible
- The list of scholarship recipients will be posted on the MIS Advisory Board website (www.terry.uga.edu/misadvisoryboard)

5:15-6:00 Board and Faculty Social Hour – Front of Brooks Hall

6:00-9:00 Evening Event with Faculty, Board, and MIS Students – Front of Brooks Hall

- Over 120 Board members, faculty, and students attended
- Singer Tommy Talton performed

Meeting minutes prepared by Priscilla Clark and Hugh Watson