Education Meeting
Department of Computer Science
Friday, March 2, 2012

The meeting was convened at 2:05pm by Prof. Larry Davis. Jeff Hollingsworth gave an overview of the topic, "Proposal for Establishment of Academic Benchmarks for the Computer Science Undergraduate Major" with specifics to be discussed by Brandi Adams. Jeff mentioned that there was not agreement between the college and UG Studies regarding the proposed changes in the last draft which was submitted to campus for approval. The draft was returned to the department and the intent of this discussion is to explain the changes and agree on a new set of benchmarks. It was pointed out that because CS is not a limited enrollment major, a different set of rules apply.

The CS UG advisors will monitor all students up to the 300 level courses. A student must fail (defined as below a C- grade) three courses before a student is moved out of the major. It was mentioned that the net effect to the program might be 25 – 30 students per year who leave the program with this occurring one to two semesters earlier than they do currently. This should be viewed as a positive for the students so that they are not languishing in a major that is not suited to their knowledge and skill levels. There was also mention that "Ws" withdrawals are not counted by campus so it is possible for some students to withdraw very late in a semester and never change their major until late in the degree process. Currently, there is nothing that can be done to force these students to designate a new major.

There was discussion that the proposal language needed to be clarified as some wording is ambiguous. It was felt that revised benchmarks should be put in place and the department might consider pursuing getting campus to designate CS as a limited major. There was also a discussion reference setting expectations for students and posting the information to a web site. Expectations would need to be written not only for incoming UG students but also for those who are already within the major. Although expectations cannot be enforced, it was felt that they would be helpful to some students.

Brandi will make changes to the proposal and there was agreement that the committee would be sent a new draft and asked to vote electronically on the revised proposal.

Mike Hicks introduced the second topic of the meeting. He proposed introducing cybersecurity aspects into the CS major curriculum. In fall 2012, there will be a course, Cybersecurity Lab. Mike asked the question, "What should students be learning ref. cybersecurity"? What is the minimum amount of topics that should be covered and for those who are interested in learning more, what information should be taught to those students? He pointed out that in some existing courses, it depends on who teaches the course as to what topics are covered. Perhaps this needs to be reviewed and standardized.

Mike proposed forming a committee to review injecting security topics into existing courses and defining the content of new courses to be taught. Evan volunteered to be on the committee and Larry Davis said he would solicit committee members.

Jan Plane reminded everyone that Casino Night which will be held this evening still requires a couple of faculty members to volunteer. The number of tables and games has been

expanded due to the anticipated large number of UG students who will be attending. The event is sponsored each year by the AWC (women in computing group). There will be prizes which have been donated by various companies and the event provides an opportunity for students and faculty members to interact in a social, non-classroom environment.

The last topic was addressed by Hanan Samet. Hanan feels that the current student evaluation system is not fair and it does not provide useful information. He sent a message to committee members asking for their opinions on the subject. Hanan would like to see the department develop its own evaluation system.

Larry adjourned the meeting at 3pm.