ITEM 1. Welcome & Introductions

Discussion: Jose Ortiz, opened the meeting, welcomed members and began with the introductions of all attendees.

Associate Dean Kimberly Allen explained the roles of the Computer Science Faculty Chair and Cluster Chair to those members attending the BPC meeting for the first time. In addition, Associate Dean Kim Allen emphasized the importance that President Parker is giving to the Computer Science programs and the progress in regards of the innovation lab and a Grand Opening will held during the fall semester.

Data source consulted: None.

Action: None.

ITEM 2. Approval of January 26th BPC meeting Minutes

Data source consulted: None.

Discussion: Item tabled.

Action: Item tabled. Members will e-vote on minute’s approval.

ITEM 3. Curriculum Update: Computer Science/IT Program

Data source consulted: Department of Education – Curriculum Frameworks.

Discussion: Curriculum Actions:

Prof. Scott Hammond explained that we took the BPC members input and suggestions, in conjunction with the Department of Education guidelines and make a significant realignment to our A.S. Degrees:

- Phasing out Internet Services Technology (A.S.) due to market obsolesce.
- Looking forward at the virtualization framework of the Department of Education framework to bring AWS, Azure, and other related services. In addition, we are considering Digital Forensics but the BPC input on that regards. Is there demand there?
- In a couple of months, The Department of Education will roll out their new frameworks, which includes a new College Credit Certificate on IoT (Internet of Things); that is something in consideration.
- The focus in the last 9 months has been to look for the easiest, most effective way to align our program with the current DoE framework.
- Phase Two: will include taking the A.S. Degree and divide it in three separate specializations:
  - Network Administrator – i.e. client server
  - Infrastructure – i.e. routing & switching
  - Cybersecurity
We need BPC feedback on Internet of Things, blockchain (cryptocurrencies), Database programming, data management and computer information technology (pure IT, help desk, customer support). Is there local demand for these programs?

John Howard mentioned that there are certain groups of people that are part of his team that are not involved with coding or networking but there are definitely opportunities there. Many people that are not coders or network administrator do other things like QA, sale engineers, and other tasks. Sometimes there these careers have no curriculums attached to them; therefore, many students do not consider computer science as an option.

Prof. Scott Hammond mentioned the Project Management Degree and the Project Management course developed for our A.S. degrees, and Prof. Brent Ferns added: “is it necessary to build an Information Technology PM Degree and is it even worth having the type of degree?”

Christina Escalante added: “would you hire a person who have not managed anybody but has that degree?” A certificate will be nice, but not a whole A.S. program.

Joe Russo added: one of the top gaps that we have found is lack of education on project management.

Prof. Scott Hammond mentioned that looking at the minutes of the previous meeting. It was clear that all members unanimously agree that soft skills are needed.

Ryan Shaw mentioned that a Project Management class is valuable and it makes a big difference. Those students that understand the project management methodology will definitively have an advantage because having the foundation is important.

Fabio Rincon: “I definitely benefited from the project management course I took at the college a three years ago. Over the years I have used some of the skills learned in the course.”

Associate Dean Kimberly Allen explained that the state tells colleges what it must be included in an A.S. degree college credit certificates must be embedded into the A.S. degree. Associate Dean Kim Allen added that we have included professional certifications into the curriculum so students not only get prepared for jobs upon graduation, they can also sit for professional certification exams. Associate Dean Kimberly Allen explained the intricacies of the “new” performance based funding, and how it affects the how curriculum changes are done.

Joe Russo brought the importance of certifications in the IT field and how some areas these certifications are more relevant than others (i.e. networking vs. programming).

Prof. Scott Hammond talked about the importance for students to work on a portfolio of projects that can make students more marketable.

Prof. Brent Ferns mentioned “machine learning” and what should be done at the college level. Should the college be looking into this?

Christina Escalante added that linear algebra and statistics are essential to better understand the concepts and of “machine learning”. It would be a disservice not to teach linear algebra and some physics (vectors) is we go into this.

Joe Russo opened up the discussion about his point of view of the gaps that exist between educational partner and industry partners. Mr. Russo expressed that seems to be missing from college students in general. He added: soft kills (starting from the interviewing skills), critical thinking which includes math & statistics, cybersecurity, user experience design, programming languages (C+, java,) and internship requirements.

The BSC members talked about Wyncote and how they can be beneficial their partnership is with Lynn University. The design/user interface components is of utmost importance for the industry and they would like to see Palm Beach State College adding a more robust curriculum in that area.

John Howard opened the discussion about doing or adding more topics about QA in our Computer Science programs. John Howard added that they had success recruiting people from Florida Atlantic University.

Christina Escalante added that it would be a great addition if you add testers and developers in some of your programming classes.

Prof. Brent Fern mentioned added that he was worked with Prof. Scott Hammond in order to bring additional online courses that can help our students access newer technologies faster than in a traditional classroom setting. He asked all BPC members their thoughts about online classes vs. in-person. What should we avoid doing online?

Joe Russo, Associate Dean Kim Allen, Ryan Shaw and Christina Escalante agreed that adding more online classes has is not only beneficial but also trustworthy.
Jose Ortiz opened the discussion about the Phase two of curriculum changes.

- Prof. Scott Hammond mentioned that there are specializations being contemplated for phase two: Network Administrator, Cybersecurity and Networking Infrastructure (Routing & Switching). Prof. Scott added that there are two other specializations: virtualization and digital forensics.
- Ryan Shaw liked the idea of digital forensics since the popularity of such program is on the rise.
- Jose Ortiz added that the digital forensics program will not only be beneficial to our department but also to PBSC’s criminal justice department.
- Fabio Rincon added that Cybersecurity programs are very diverse in content and there are several approaches to consider for networking and programming.

Action: The BPC council provided the feedback requested and the additional feedback will be collected via email.

ITEM 4. Computer Science Internship Program

Discussion:

Jose Ortiz started the discussion by explaining that the Business & Computer Science Internship Program is a 3-credit course (GEB2942C). Jose Ortiz added that the Internship Manual is still currently being reviewed by our legal counsel. Jose Ortiz then proceeded to explain how students will be selected:

- Letter of recommendation from faculty member
- 12 credits of core courses
- 2.5 GPA or higher
- 240 hours (224 fieldwork/16 hours lecture)

Joe Russo added that he would like to have all students doing internships before graduating.

Data source consulted: None

Action: Jose Ortiz to send the fliers of the internship program to all members.

ITEM 5. Community Impact Strategy Event

Discussion:

Associate Dean Kimberly Allen explained that the community impact events requested by the Governor. She added that the Governor wanted proof that Palm Beach State College is getting the community involved in our activities. Our President, Ava Parker, want us to engage community partners by having these community sector events. These events will be more focused on industry leaders; what the college can do for the business community and vice-versa. Help create and foster community networking the business community together along with educational leaders from PBSC and government officials. Our event is slotted for October 2018 with the possibility of having it at the Boca Raton campus.

Joe Russo added that he has been working with a few members of Palm Beach Tech to put together a Cybersecurity panel discussion somewhere in Palm Beach County, and this might be a good opportunity to do so.
ITEM 6.  Innovation Lab

Discussion:

- Associate Dean Kimberly Allen provided a brief update about the innovation lab.
  - Computers, desks and new carpet have been installed
  - Decals in the back wall have been installed
  - A possible Grand Opening for the lab is October 2018

Data source consulted: Program Director Updates

- Jose Ortiz provided an overview of some of the activities to promote the certifications (Get Certified Campaign) and the internship program:
  - Information tables – student’s discounts
  - Information sessions

Action: None.

Attendance:

Associate Dean Kimberly Allen, Mr. Jose Ortiz, Prof. Scott Hammond, Prof. Brent Ferns, Mr. John Howard, Mr. Fabio Rincon, Mr. Joe Russo, Mr. Bryan Shaw, Christina Escalante.

Adjourned at 10:12am.

Submitted by: Jose Ortiz
Scribe