

Business Partnership Council Meeting Minutes

Computer Science

April 28, 2017

3:30 pm

ETA 101

ITEM 1. *Welcome*

Discussion: Introduction of current members and PBSC faculty and staff present.

Action: None.

ITEM 2. *BPC Membership / Term*

Discussion: Associate Dean Allen provided information as to the purpose or role of a member: provide input to any program changes and certifications offered, plan or propose events related to the Council for the College to host, discuss new technologies and/or programming languages that can impact the College's programs, help evolve existing courses, among other items.

Associate Dean Allen mentioned that the College's President, Ava Parker, is a big supporter of the Computer Science area. President Parker has asked for funding for a "Coding" program/school, but it can be applied to a "Runway" type program that is similar to FAU's program, or another avenue that will allow students hands-on opportunities (i.e., projects; internships, etc.) which would be directly related to increasing completions in the area of Computer Science. There may also be a need to explore "ramping up" the Microcomputer Applications course (CGS1100), as many students are already coming to PBSC with experience in Microsoft Office. Associate Dean Allen will invite President Parker to attend a future meeting to share her vision.

Data source consulted: Business Partnership / Program Advisory Councils Handout

Action: Associate Dean Allen will reach out to President Parker and invite her to attend a future meeting.

ITEM 3. *Nomination / Election*

Discussion: Associate Dean Allen referenced the BPC "Duties of Council Officers" handout explaining that the council should elect a Chair and Co-Chair to lead the Council. The role of a chair and co-chair was explained. The College's role in the council is one of support in the areas of doing the minutes, setting up the meeting/room, providing any resources needed, and recommending agenda topics.

Nominations for Chair: Olivia Witowski (self-nominated); Seconded by Shari Elessar

Nominations for Co-Chair: Robert Decker (self-nominated); Seconded by Shari Elessar

Vote: An e-vote will be sent for a vote by all members.

Data source consulted: Duties of Council Officers Handout

Action: Associate Dean Allen will send an email for an e-vote for Chair and Co-Chair.

E-vote Results – BPC approved nomination of Chair and Co-Chair.

ITEM 4. *Open Discussion*

Discussion:

- a. **BPC Goals 2017-2018** – An in-depth discussion took place among the BPC members as to the goals of the Council. Associate Dean Allen offered some suggestions as to what some of the goals could be:
1. Find ways to improve student engagement.
 2. Help students grow their portfolio/experience.
 3. Connect students with industry professionals – possibly through an event.
 4. Increase completion numbers (or maintain the numbers).
 5. Program Mapping – this will help students know the direction/outcome of their program of choice.

Dr. Elizabeth Horvath mentioned the Innovative Lab as a way to engage students. This is something that is already in the works (the lab was suggested by Dr. Ali Fazelpour, and the division has been working to have the lab become a reality). The lab would be a good way to engage students, and provide opportunities for students to work on projects that could be identified by the Council by using “real-world” technology and programming languages (i.e. SmartTV apps, 3D Printing, computer building, etc.). A goal was crafted as such:

1. Identify project opportunities for students to be used in the Innovative Lab. This will help with the idea of working on a team, expose students to new things and areas, and give students “real-world” experience.
2. Program Mapping: Industry comparison for curriculum alignment.

John Howard has offered to provide a list of questions he uses when he interviews potential candidates which could help identify the type of projects.

Olivia Witkowski suggested offering different “tracks” of projects that can pertain to different areas, i.e. government compliance type projects, using regulations and laws, etc.

Shari Elessar offered that a potential area to explore could be Computer Technical Services, for the many other areas in the industry that require computer science skill sets such as (1) Sales Engineering, (2) Support Specialists, (3) Software Implementation Management (4) (Mastering) Business and Commerce Technologies and (5) Coding for Customization/Integration. This would match industry needs and would also be the right niche for those seeking successful careers in the industry with Computer Science education and disciplines, beyond simply core development. (se)

Other suggestions include for sales engineering, QA, technical publishers/writers (write manuals), implementation (clouds installation), using ERP's, security automation, UI/US programming, full-set engineering, bug testing/quality control, etc.

Associate Dean Allen offered that maybe chat sessions with an industry professional could be something to be explored by the Council, as well.

- b. **Industry Certifications** – Tabled until the next meeting.
- c. **Internship** – The flyer was shared regarding the new program. If you are interested in being an internship site, please send an email to Associate Dean Allen.

Data source consulted: Internship Flyer, Information Technology & Electronic Security Career Expo Flyer

Action: Associate Dean Allen will send out an email e-vote with two goals identified for a vote by the members. If you are interested in becoming an internship site, please email Associate Dean Allen your interest.

E-vote Results – BPC approved identified goals:

- a. Identify project opportunities for students to be used in the Innovative Lab.
- b. Program Mapping: Industry comparison for curriculum alignment.

ITEM 5. *Meeting Dates/Times*

Discussion: Associate Dean Allen explained that there are two meetings required per academic year, but it is up to the Council as to determine the frequency of meetings. The members agreed that they did not want to have a set number of meeting dates, but to be fluid with it. The next meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2017 at 3:30 pm.

Action: Associate Dean Allen will send out an email with a save the date for the June 28th meeting date.

Attendance: Associate Dean Kimberly Allen (PBSC), Robert Decker, Shari Elessar, Elizabeth Horvath (PBSC), John Howard, Jose Ortiz (PBSC), Alex Parker, Fabio Rincon, Olivia Witkowski

Submitted by: T. Chow

Scribe