**Florida SouthWestern State College
School of Business and Technology
Computer Science Advisory Board
(February 20, 2025)
MINUTES**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Present** | **Absent** | **Excused** |
| **Administration & Staff** |  |  |  |
| Dr. Mary Myers, Dean | X |  |  |
| Jennifer Baker | X |  |  |
| Mary Fullenkamp |  |  | X |
| Kimberly Egolf | X |  |  |
| Michele Pelletier | X |  |  |
| Crystal Wernicke | X |  |  |
| **Faculty** |  |  |  |
| Dr. Alex Djahankhah | X |  |  |
| Dr. Roger Webster | X |  |  |
| Rushell Hopkins |  | X |  |
| Frederick Bruno |  | X |  |
| Dr. Kenneth Belcher |  | X |  |
| Dr. Mark Snyder |  | X |  |
| Dr. George Kodsey |  | X |  |
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|  | **Present** | **Absent** | **Excused** |
| **Advisory Board Members** |  |  |  |
| Joe Goldstein | X |  |  |
| Nicole Bailey | X |  |  |
| Zarela Graves | X |  |  |
| Brian Zegers | X |  |  |
| Megan Guth | X |  |  |
| Matt Opalach | X |  |  |
| Inessa Pawson | X |  |  |
| Bryan Jones |  |  | X |
| Michael Long |  |  | X |
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**Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 3PM.

**Minutes.** Minutes of the last meeting were approved as submitted.

**New Business.**

**Introductions**

* Dean Dr. Mary Myers introduced herself and then attendees introduced themselves both in-person and via Zoom.

**Workforce Education**

* Dr. Mary Myers reviewed all of the upcoming opportunities provided by our Workforce Education department and encouraged community partners to sign up for the Career Fairs on all of FSW’s individual campus locations.

**Spring Enrollment**

* Associate Dean Baker reviewed enrollment numbers and noted the wonderful increases in the Cybersecurity AS and Information Systems Technology BAS programs.
* Dean Baker also noted that Spring terms usually see a drop in enrollment and the school is not worried about this change.
* Dean Baker also discussed the upcoming Fall 2025 “Express” terms and how these 12-week courses are expected to boost enrollment numbers.

**Upcoming FSW Events**

* Upcoming Open House geared towards all prospective students
* Dates on all FSW campus
	+ Feb. 25: Collier
	+ Feb. 26: Hendry/Glades
	+ Feb. 27: Charlotte
	+ Mar. 6: Lee
* Celebration of Graduates
	+ SoBT Graduates by RSVP
	+ Date TBA (May)

**Update on the RIST Cyber Security program**

* RIST Program Director Michele Pelletier reviewed her handout detailing all of the exciting things happening in the Cyber programs.
* The programs are in their 3rd year and will be applying for National Center of Academic Excellence status in the coming months. This is a prestigious designation and will boost the attractiveness of the Cyber programs to students and potential employers.
* Program Specialist Crystal Wernicke spoke about some of the recent and upcoming competitions that the student Cyber Teams have been competing in.
* Michele and Crystal are working hard to build student participation in the programs and would welcome further community partnerships, if board members know of opportunities.

**CAPSTONE Re-cap**

* Dr. Myers then introduced Drs. Roger Webster and Alex Djahankahn to speak about the exciting things they are doing in their CAPSTONE classes.
	+ CAPSTONE is the final class of many programs that aims to synthesize all that a student has learned in their program.
	+ Dr. Webster spoke about how his classes have previously built a robust online planning site for a former submarine captain’s annual conference. Another class is collating information from various sites into an app that beekeepers can use to track bee populations and diseases affecting them. His latest classes are building AI algorithm games using Pente.
	+ Dr. Djahankahn spoke about his classes building IT project management proposals from scratch and how he is taking assignments from other classes and expanding on them with these CAPSTONE students.

**Discussion Questions**

* Dr. Myers asked the Advisory Board members if there is anything that FSW can do to better prepare students for their workforces.
	+ Dr. Djahankahn proposed reviewing the DOD guidelines to see what they are requiring as standard skills for jobs.
	+ Zarala Graves mentioned that students should have help building portfolios before leaving school, perhaps using things like GitHub. Proposed their being more of this integrated into classes and also outside workshops. She volunteered to assist with something like this.
	+ Joe Goldstein started a group discussion about how students need more “soft skills” like communication and presentation. He suggested that these be integrated more into classes so that students can practice.
		- Megan Guth suggested some “Office 101” training for students to learn how to behave in a professional setting.
		- Brian Zegers suggested practice with “executive summary,” i.e. being able to pick out and share the important information in a project.
		- Zarala Graves suggested that students be paired with mentors to help learn these skills.

**Wrap-Up & Adjournment.**

* Dr. Myers thanked everyone for their suggestions.
* The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.

Minutes prepared by Kimberly Egolf, Administrative Specialist