Discussion Summary / Minutes

Discussion in the meeting roughly followed the circulated agenda (see below). Following welcoming remarks by Dean Pyati and Associate Dean Shah, Dr. Burns provided CS Departmental updates, and led the following discussion:

- CSC enrollment data is strong in Fall 2020, despite COVID and remote modalities. Student numbers have roughly tripled since 2012 while faculty size has stayed level. There have been numerous retirements in the past few years, but we have a good core of energetic Assistant Professors.
- The Department is currently searching for two new tenure-track faculty to begin in August 2021. Dr. Ngo is chairing the search.
  - **[Discussion on specialty areas]**
- Dr. Chen is putting the finishing touches on configuring a new CS Server ($15k) with GPU capabilities.
- Some CSC students have spoken very positively about distance education and remote asynchronous offerings. The Department is currently offering both synchronous and asynchronous varieties; students appear split on preferences.
- Our CSC student clubs remain very engaged, despite the virtual environment:
  - Computer Science Club (advised by Dr. Chen),
  - CSC Programming Club (advised by Dr. Ngo)
    - Recently achieved 3rd place out of 20 teams at a regional event last month, "beating" some of our local competition
  - Women in Computer Science Club (advised by Dr. Cui)
  - Building virtual CSC community and departmental discord server (led by Dr. Ngo)
- Introduction of new department homepage and LinkedIn page for connecting with alumni
- Brief overview of departmental curricular changes (CS major, Security Certificate, new courses) over the past year
- Current short-term challenges include:
  - students expressing emotional difficulty and feelings isolation, especially at the more rigorous points in the semester
  - Spring 2021 will be another remote semester
  - Discontinuity: sophomore students leaving campus in Spring 2020 (because of COVID-19) and returning as seniors in Fall 2021
- **[Discussion on ideas for engaging students]:** use of slack channel in industry; trying to organize social hours, or times for groups to play games – trying to connect individually outside of strict work projects. Today's industry is also not 9-5; individuals working different hours in different time zones.
- **[Discussion on remote asynchronous courses]:** really good remote asynchronous programs and courses exist (e.g. Georgia Tech). Educators in 2020 really need to learn

about theater and how to produce engaging videos. Some students may already be very good at producing video.

- **[Willingness of IAC members to contribute back to Department]:**
    - Giving talk or mentoring at WCU hackathon, CS Club
    - Giving talk from industry perspective, once per semester for reinforcement
    - Talk ideas: "What it's like on the dev team", "Necessary soft skills on a dev team", "Real world projects", "Dealing with a team troll"
    - Establishing a formal mentorship program, connecting IAC members to student body
- **[Technical ideas for expanding current curriculum via topics and courses]:**
    - Azure ML
    - Structured software engineering projects
    - Software Architecture (how to design software)
        - Design thinking as a formal concept
    - Privacy
    - Coding project as a capstone
- Next steps:
    - Will keep in touch in Spring 2021 and will provide regular updates on our reaccreditation efforts.

Pre-discussion, "time needed for student to complete major" query shared by Art over email:
In looking at course sequencing are there any numbers on average number of semesters between when a student starts on the major and when they get their degree?

- Most students in 4 years (120 c.r. requirement). 18 c.r. per semester = 3.25 years
- Current trickiness: students who transfer into major, and community college students who transfer in. (quickly getting students thru the intro course sequence, and mapping other institutions into our intro course sequence)

Post-discussion, "office hours recordings" shared by Andrew over email. Commentary is casual, approachable w/ industry connection:

- https://youtu.be/K8xRATOpsqw
- https://youtu.be/OBWL4oLT7Uc
- https://youtu.be/29KSpu5wUk0

West Chester University
Computer Science
Industrial Advisory Council

<u>Fall 2020 Meeting</u>

November 6, 2020
9am – 10:30am

Zoom Meeting ID: 965 2666 7650
Zoom Password: 392697

[CSC Department Website](#)

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. CSC Updates
   a. good news, updates, and [enrollment data](#)
   b. IAC feedback from May 2019 meeting
3. CAE Accreditation Update ([Information Security Center](#))
   a. new security courses
   b. updated requirements for Certificate in Computer Security
   c. discussion on current security trends
   d. outreach
   e. NYU agreement, strengthening partnerships in cyber security
4. ABET Accreditation Update
   a. [CS Program Education Objectives](#) (I, II, III)
   b. CS Program Outcomes (1-6)
   c. updated requirements for BS in Computer Science
   d. new courses
   e. discussion on exit survey and internship data
5. Introductory Course Sequence Re-Design
6. Wrap Up

Members

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORGANIZATION	Position	WCU Alumnus	Address
Amble	Ravi	Suquino	President & CEO	**1990**	ravi.amble@gmail.com
Barimani	Adel	Retired VP - Info Services @WCU	N/A	**1982**	abarimani@wcupa.edu
Brethenoux	Erick	Gartner	Senior Director		erick@brethenoux.com
Claghorn	Stuart	Arris Consulting	Staff IT Software Specialist	**1987**	sclaghorn@gmail.com
Curran	Lynn Ann	Vanguard	Manager, IT Hiring		lynn_ann_curran@vanguard.com
Drager	David	XDA Developers	Chief Technology Officer	**2012**	ddrager@gmail.com
Flowers	Steven	Parsons Corporation	Business Development Manager	**1986**	sjflowers@gmail.com
Freas	Arthur	F5 Networks	Principal Enterprise Architect	**1987**	afreas@live.com
Fuchs	Phillip	Chester County Tech. College HS	Faculty	**2007**	phillip.fuchs@gmail.com
Schwabe	Andrew	Microshare	Co-Founder, Board Member	**1997**	aschwabe@gmail.com
Sharma	Sandeep Karma	Deloitte	Managing Director		sandeepksharma@deloitte.com
Titanich	Linda	Vanguard	Data Architect		linda_titanich@vanguard.com
Werner	Tammy	Unisys	Engineering Group Leader		tammy.werner@unisys.com
Burns	Richard	West Chester University	Faculty, Chairperson		rburns@wcupa.edu
Cui	Liu	West Chester University	Faculty, Assessment Coordinator		lcui@wcupa.edu
Chen	Si	West Chester University	Faculty, Graduate Coordinator, Computing Coordinator		schen@wcupa.edu
Ngo	Linh	West Chester University	Faculty, Assistant Chairperson		lngo@wcupa.edu
Pyati	Radha	West Chester University	Dean		rpyati@wcupa.edu
Shah	Vishal	West Chester University	Associate Dean		vshah@wcupa.edu