



Department of Engineering, Computing, and Cybersecurity
Computer Information Systems and Cybersecurity Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2023

Meeting Location: SEC 2030-2031

Meeting Time: 5:30 PM

Attendance:

Advisory Board Members Present: Mr. John Arce, Mr. Lee Carsten, Mr. Joseph Griffin, Mr. Vipul Gupta, Ms. Amanda Lee Keammerer, Mr. Jayaram Rajamurugan (via zoom)

Full-time Faculty Present: Ms. Meerna Ammari, Dr. Sree Ande, Dr. Marta Del Rio, Dr. Gonzalo Parra

CIS-CSEC Part-time Faculty Present: Mr. Dirce Hernandez, Dr. Joan Labay Marquez, Mr. Brian McDougald

Administration Present: Dr. Zhanbo Yang

Reflection – Dr. Joan Labay Marquez did a reflection prayer.

Welcome and Introduction - Dr. Zhanbo Yang welcomed the advisory board members. He asked the attendees to introduce themselves, after which the Advisory board members and faculty present at the meeting introduced themselves.

UIW Mission Statement – Dr. Marta Del Rio shared the UIW mission statement.

Transition to Founders Hall Updates - Dr. Yang talked about the SMSE plans to move to Founders Hall. He mentioned that the renovation of the Founders Hall has

started, and the companies involved with the renovation are Lake Flato Architects, AGCM, and Joeris. He mentioned that the Department of Engineering, Computing, and Cybersecurity and the Department of Mathematics and statistics will be moving to the renovated building and the estimated move in date is Fall 2024.

Ms. Keammerer mentioned that the St. Phillips College has the state of art computer labs and recommended for faculty to visit heir labs. In addition, Ms. Kaemmerer highlighted the Importance of considering these facilities when recruiting.

Advisory Board Mission and Statement of Purpose - Dr. Yang read the board mission and the statement of purpose while the document was projected on the screen.

Ms. Keammerer asked if there are any alumni on the board to which Dr. Yang replied no.

Advisory Board Chair Election – Chair and chair-elect positions were announced by Dr. Yang. Mr. Vipul Gupta and Mr. John Arce nominated themselves to be the chair and chair-elect, respectively. Ms. Keammerer and Mr. Carsten seconded the nominations. The board members voted ‘yes’ for Mr. Gupta as the chair and Mr. Arce as the chair elect. Mr. Gupta mentioned that he would like to meet with Dr. Ande prior to the next board meeting to discuss the agenda items for the next meeting. Dr. Ande agreed to this.

Computer Information Systems (CIS) and Cybersecurity (CSEC) faculty - Dr. Ande talked about the merger of CIS and CSEC departments with the Engineering Department in Fall 2021 and introduced CIS, CSEC full-time and part-time faculty. She showcased faculties specialization and the courses that are being taught at UIW.

CIS Degree programs and the Curriculum – Ms. Ammari shared the three concentrations in Bachelor of Science in CIS program namely Networking, Programming and Cyber security. She showcased the curriculum from each concentration.

CSEC Degree program and the Curriculum – Dr. Parra shared the Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity program.

NSA CAE-CD Accreditation - Dr. Parra mentioned that faculty has been working on the NSA CAE-CD accreditation and the application will be submitted on

September 11, 2023. He thanked Ms. Ammari, Dr. Ande, and Dr. Marquez for their contribution to the application. He also shared the benefits of accreditation to the University.

Discussion –

- Ms. Keammerer asked if a course related to psychology/communications can be added to the curriculum because students are lacking skills such as communication. Dr. Parra answered that his courses are project-oriented, so students are required to collaborate and communicate with each other to successfully complete their projects. Mr. Hernandez also mentioned that he assigns collaborative and group projects in his classes. Marquez said that UIW students take part in community service projects where they must work in teams. Ms. Ammari mentioned that since the tuition at UIW is flat rate, students are encouraged to take classes from other programs that would benefit their CIS/CSEC career.
- Mr. Carsten asked what electives were in the curriculum. Ms. Ammari said they are the specialized courses that students take.
- Mr. Gupta asked in which course a python is required. Dr. Parra said he introduces python and AI in CIS 3353. Dr. Ande mentioned that Dr. Parra offers a specialization course for engineering majors where he teaches python.
- Ms. Keammerer asked if foreign language is part of the curriculum. Ms. Ammari said that students are required to their choice of foreign language I and II.
- Mr. Arce asked if the Women in Cybersecurity is the only CSEC club for CIS/CSEC students. Dr. Parra mentioned that the Department has Crypto cardinals, and the Department is working on recruiting students for Alamo Information Systems Security Association (ISSA).
- Mr. Arce asked if 'R' is used in the curriculum. Dr. Parra said no. Dr. Yang mentioned that the Department of Mathematics and Statistics teaches the 'R'.
- Mr. Gupta asked if Network penetration testing uses any specific tools or does it teach the science behind the testing. Mr. McDougald talked about his network penetration testing course.
- Mr. Arce asked if UIW participates or hosts any hackathon events and said that UTSA hosts a few hackathon events. Dr. Parra mentioned that he introduces students to the National Cyber League (NSL).
- Mr. Gupta said that NSA Accreditation is a good accreditation to have as it not only benefits students but also opens new talent and career opportunities to students.
- Ms. Keammerer mentioned that she puts together a cybersecurity weekly newsletter and would like to share with CIS/CSEC faculty.

- Mr. Rajamurugan said that there should be a broader framework and the courses should be mapped on framework to see how courses are connected.
- Mr. McDougald mentioned that he types 'Cybersecurity, San Antonio' on Google search on first day of his class to talk about hands-on real world applications, certifications that are critical for cyber security career. He encourages his students to take Network + certificate after successfully passing his class.
- Mr. Griffin mentioned that the cybersecurity world is growing tremendously, and he would love to hire those who have the Governance, Risk, Compliance Professional (GRCP) certificate. He is involved in recruitment for his company and would be interested in those who can do more than pen-testing.
- Mr. Arce discussed the importance of understanding the DOT compliances how students are lacking that knowledge.
- Ms. Keammerer talked about peer-mentor opportunities where seniors would mentor their juniors in projects and competitions.
- Mr. Gupta mentioned that he interviews a lot of entry-level positions and want students to know that knowing basics is a basic thing and that they should start by obtaining basic certifications not advanced certifications.

Dr. Ande asked the Board members to write down any further information they would like to know about UIW CIS and CSEC programs and any feedback they would like to share with others.

