Saddleback College  
CIM/Certificate/Degree Advisory Committee

Minutes  
August 10th 2021, November 17th 2021

Working IT Professional Members in Attendance

Michael Trujillo Trinet Internet Solutions

Trint Duringer IT Support Specialist

Claudia Imhoff – Analyst – Business Intelligence

Matthew Berardini Forensic Accountant Danen Haurer

Paul McGraw Senior Software Developer UPS

Michael DeDonno Associate Professor/Research Psychologist

Forme Mike Sapien Network/Cybersecurity Specialist r IT Professional

Member not in Attendance

George Earl IT Entrepreneur, Bill Me (later purchased by PayPal) Founder Corsairs Ventures – Data Analytics Expert

VP & Chief US Analyst, Enterprise Services – OVUM  
Renah Wolzinger – GWC regional expert in CCC data analytics  
Dorsie Brooks – GWC database career education  
John Donovan – Web and Corporate IT consultant

Saddleback College Members in Attendance

Tom DeDonno chairman (Computer Information Management/IT) CIM  
Alan Foote CIM Professor/Software Specialists/Data Analytics

Prologue

Due to the diverse nature of an Information Technology (IT) department in the 21st century. It is prudent to have Advisory Committees composed of experts in a specific area. It would be foolish to include a help desk employee in a network/security discussion. As a result, this advisory committee focus was on cloud, IT administration, databases, big data, Computer support and mobile development. We also discussed the following evolving technologies cloud and cybersecurity.

Action Items Approved:

1. Create a 4-year IT degree
2. Create a fast pace Data Analytic certificate for working professional
3. Reaffirmed need for AS Degree in Business Data Analytics and Database or Data Management.
4. Add cloud more classes and advance Python class.
5. Consider cloud certificate
6. Consider adding Game Design or Developer Certificate Degree
7. Modify Network Administrator and Cybersecurity with more cloud.

All members voted yes on the above 6 action items.

Advisory Committee General Discussion Points

Chair Report Tom DeDonno – CIM/CCC Certificate Objectives

California Community Colleges (CCC) supply certificates to achieve one of three major goals:

1. Economic Workforce Development (EWD) retraining of working professionals to maintain a competitive workforce and increase an individual's chance of procuring a job.

2. High School to Information Technology (IT) entry-level jobs.

3. Transfer paths to 4 year BS and six-year BS/MS degrees.

4. Recently 11/2021 state has allowed the BS degree pilot program at CCC to be extended indefinitely.

A major constraint of all certificates is that we have to be within a 60 unit max, which means the specific courses in the certificate need to be between 12 and 26 units. The other major constraint is the schools moved toward proficiency. They are dropping courses with less than 18 students. The expert advisory felt this is a severe mistake. You can take online classes anywhere. Dropping skill builder classes will result in working professions looking elsewhere. In high-tech, fields professional development is critical.

General Discussion Points Made By Experts:

Paul McGraw felt that data analytics should include either Python or Java programming. Paul feels the biggest problem with junior-level programmers is they lack the soft skills needed to determine what the customer wants. Recommended adding some class to develop skills on choosing what the customer wants. He felt Java is here to stay. Cloud and databases are becoming more and more critical.

Matthew felt more and more jobs are requiring data analytics. We need to have working professionals in all areas to take data analytics. He also felt that data modeling and reporting have become critical skills like knowing Microsoft PowerPoint years ago.

Mike Truijillo and others felt that a 4-year IT degree would be a great cost-effective way for students to complete a 4-year degree. He and others thought that the strategy of combining the three IT support certificates: Network Administrator, Cybersecurity, E-Commerce into a single BS degree like:   
IT Cloud Cybersecurity Support Specialist  
IT Cloud Cybersecurity System Configuration and Support Specialist

In general, the overall response from both students and the advisory committee was very positive on adding a low-cost 4-year BS degree, especially since many students have already completed two or more similar certificates at Saddleback. Furthermore, finding an online MS degree from a reputable college in fields such as Cybersecurity, would make that an excellent career pathway.

It was also stated that entertainment technology is rapidly growing and courses in Unity game development and/or certificate/degrees in this area should be well received.

Claudia\_Imhoff , similar to Matt's feeling, Claudia felt that the presentation of data is the most crucial area for us to focus on. She felt a data analytics degree should emphasize MicroSoft Power BI and Tableau. Data scientists are important and probably beyond typical CCC training, but having Junior level data technicians that can present data on viewgraphs is a high-demand skill in the industry.

For a Data Analytics Degree or Certificate, Mike DeDonno, individuals need to understand accessing and building data files from large databases and merging data from multiple sources, including aspects of data management. Also important to learn a statistical analysis package such as SAS, SPSS, STATA, or R. Also, knowledge of statistical concepts, most likely a merged database course with stats.

Various individuals felt that the cloud should be integrated throughout are the entire curriculum. The future is the cloud. Matt and Mike S felt that a cloud certificate was a plus. But they thought we also need to make sure that Cybersecurity, Data Analytics, and others are aware of cloud services.