Minnesota State Community and Technical College



Computer Department Meeting

Date --- October 29, 2008

Location --- MSCTC, Moorhead, RM C116

Membership: (Attendees will appear in bold): **Dave Owings (Chairperson),** Noridian**; Shawn Weisz,** General Equipment**; Wally Treat,** North Country Business Products**; Kristie Hagen and Anne Kuzas,** Maintenance Engineering**; Gail Bratholt,** Meritcare**; John Centko, Deb Flaskerud, Tim Preuss, Chris Goltz, Dave Hjalquist, and Randy Johnson,** MSCTC**; James Anderson,** MSCTC student and City of West Fargo**; Noah Hanson,** MSCTC student and Fargo Schools**; Joseph Colvin,** MSCTC student**.**

Meeting Notes

| Topic | **Responsible**  **Party** | Discussion/Outcome |
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| **MSCTC Technology, Gaming, and Robotics Club** |  | ***Background***The student organization (<http://tgrc.minnesota.edu/>) has sought approval to be a part of the Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher program.  ***Current Status***The student organization has been approved for the program.  ***Action Needed***The organization needs to locate business and community members to donate equipment. |
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|  | Chris | To be a member, projects must have a community service focus. Microsoft will donate copies of operating system and application software.. |
|  | Dave O | Will there be additional requirements for space? |
|  | Chris | The club will work offsite if necessary. |
|  | Wally | How does the equipment have to be, and how new will the software be? |
|  | Chris | Office, 9x, XP, 2000, |
|  | Anne/Kristie | Maintenance Engineering has computers to donate. |
|  | Dave O | Will receipts be required for the donating agency? |
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| **Moorhead Police, security class** |  | ***Background*** *–* Police view computer crime scenes different than other computer/professional people would.  ***Current Status*** *–* Officer Mike Detloff will present a Network Security class on November 6 at 7:00p.m.  ***Action Needed*** *–* Meeting attendance. |
|  | Tim | As an example: the first officer on scene may not be computer expert, and could inadvertently corrupt evidence. There is also a difference between computer based and network based forensics. An invitation is offered to all in attendance. |
|  | Dave O | In a situation involving a compromised server; a ghost image that was made ruined any attempt to perform computer forensics since the drives were active during read part. |
|  | Shawn | Several examples of forensics level software, and forensic software vs. imaging software. |
|  | Dave O | We have our own forensics department. |
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| **Excellence Grant – Minimum Competency Testing** |  | ***Background*** *–* The State of Minnesota will be mandating course limits of 120 credits for 4 year degrees and 60 credits for 2 year degrees. Our Department can drop the Intro to Computer class if we provide competency testing.  ***Current Status*** *–* Tests are being developed.  ***Action Needed*** *–* Group discussion. |
|  | Dave O | At what level will the tests be given? |
|  | Deb | The State mandate is 60 credits for and AA degree. Testing of the Fundamentals of Computers and the Intro to Computer classes will be at pre-admissions levels. The tests will involve 4 MS Office applications and file management. The tests won’t count towards total credit count. |
|  | Tim | File management is an especially important part of the test. |
|  | Dave O | If the tests are preparatory, will they be used to guarantee a 2yr time frame? |
|  | Deb | The tests will be similar to Accuplacer testing allowing the students to meet the 60 credits mandate. |
|  | Anne | Why 60 credits? |
|  | Chris | Community/Technical degrees/diplomas can range from 64 to 72 credits. The State is hoping to standardize the credit count. |
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| **Excellence Grant – Electronic Communication** |  | ***Background*** *–* The Grant will provide funds to create projects that reinforce electronic communications.  ***Current Status*** *–* The project being considered will connect several MSCTC campuses through VPN.  ***Action Needed*** *–*Group discussion. |
|  | Dave O | Then this could be turned in to a VPN contest. |
|  | Tim | We would use VPN to connect various servers. This would allow students to go beyond the traditional college lab room. This could be used in conjunction with IPv6, email servers, and open to other technologies and/or suggestions. |
|  | Shawn | SharePoint is growing fast. |
|  | Anne | Microsoft is pushing SharePoint server technology. |
|  | Tim | A benefit is that gas costs can be controlled. |
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| **ACM** |  | ***Background*** *–* The Association for Computing Machinery (<http://www.acm.org/>) is a world-leading source for computing information.  ***Current Status*** *–* Review of Special Interest Group: Information Technology Educators.  ***Action Needed*** *–*Group discussion. |
|  | Tim | Current trends in education include defining roles of various IT job titles. ACM has definitions of 4 year institution recommended curriculum, and is proposing 2 year curriculum standards to address 4 year recommendations. |
|  | Dave O | Is this aligning with Hewitt standards? |
|  | Tim | It is being defined by Department of Labor standards. (Unfamiliar with Hewitt standards) |
|  | Shawn | The challenge is that there are so many different titles in use in the industry, not all of them having the same meaning from organization to organization. |
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| **IT degree** |  | ***Background*** *–* MSUM has developed an IT degree. MSCTC has worked to align our courses for a 2+2 program.  ***Current Status*** *–* MnSCU has offered their approval.  ***Action Needed*** *–* Group discussion. |
|  | John | MnSCU has given final approval for an AS degree in Information Technology to be used in conjunction with MSUM for a 2+2 program without the need for student to retake credits, or require additional funding. Industry-wide, IT is on upswing. This is a way for students to prepare for a 4 year degree. |
|  | Tim | We need to discuss minimum standards. Examples include Sequel; networks, web design, and DB Administration. In terms of our companion diploma program, it is more customizable but harder to transfer. |
|  | John | There are two different avenues for our students: joining the workforce or continuing at a 4 year institution. The benefits are better for nontraditional students. Older students may have the gen eds as well as diverse backgrounds. Our options include accelerate courses and night courses; |
|  | Dave | Do gen eds have an expirable shelf life? |
|  | John | There may be associated recency testing |
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| **Cisco** |  | ***Background*** *–* MSCTC is an authorized Cisco Academy. We teach all four ‘semesters’ of the CCNA curriculum, for a total of 12 credits.  ***Current Status*** *–* Considering future options.  ***Action Needed*** *–*Group discussion. |
|  | Tim | We are teaching the new CCNA 4 semester Exploration curriculum. How valuable is Cisco to those present? There are defined expenses to the department. It is not our most popular offering. |
|  | Wally | Some products that NCBP market require certification. CCNA is needed currently. Next year may change. |
|  | Dave O | If your employees are not given certification classes in house, will you send employees to class? |
|  | Wally | Yes |
|  | Anne | It’s good that students have the understanding and the coursework, but not necessarily the certification. |
|  | Shawn | Companies do look at other options. Cisco is not the only presence in the market place. |
|  | Anne | What other courses are you giving up if you need to focus on Cisco? |
|  | Dave O | The other manufacturers on the market are coming up. |
|  | Shawn | Is a broader market consideration more proper? |
|  | Tim | In previous discussions we have found that employers will send employees to classes if they need it. ACM sees a current need to send employees to classes for storage management such as RAID, fiber channel, and iSCSI. |
|  | Anne | Virtualization is also popular. |
|  | Shawn | It gets back to the future definition of IT roles. The field is too broad. It will come down to vendor specific training. |
|  | Dave O | IT is more specialized the medical technology. In Noridian’s case, several years age just 2 people handling all tasks, now it takes four people per floor. |
|  | Anne | In terms of a mainframe world vs. a storage world, it is becoming a disk management world. |
|  | Dave O | Disk management includes knowing how to use perfmon, monitoring spikes, large disk arrays, temporary DB storage, and file management |
|  | Shawn | From experience, hands on is more preparatory than lecture. |
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| **60 credit mandate** |  | ***Background*** *–* Discussed previously.  ***Current Status*** *–*  ***Action Needed*** *–* |
|  | John | Additional legislation being proposed. |
|  | Tim | What is the bare curriculum minimum that MSCTC would have to teach? What will we need to pull out? We can approach the concept of continuing education by using topics courses. |
|  | Dave O | Are we teaching Expressions web? |
|  | Chris | Front page became too complicated. Our students learn to write webs by hand. |
|  | Group | Positive remarks for using had written web design. |
|  | Shawn | What is made in Dreamweaver may not work in Firefox. |
|  | Chris | We are currently teaching things like HTML and CSS We also offer accelerated classes, mostly online and at night. Future topics can include game creation and project management |
|  | Tim | We could also offer and accelerated Linux 1 class. |
|  | Shawn | Here’s another are where virtualization can be used; ESXi is free. |
|  | Tim | Students learn virtualization in several classes including Linux, robotics, etc. |
|  | Shawn | There are a lot of servers migrating to ESXi, and the number is growing. |
|  | Dave | Noridian has 1/3 of its servers on ESXi as well as 600 programmer using vm’s on basic communications pc connected to ESXi. The largest database is 570GB using one drive for temp and one for transactions. A 1 millisecond hiccup can cause crossover to a backup server. Then someone has to reimage 27000 pieces of mail. The funny part is that we are using EMC disc with MS cluster services. |
|  | Group discussion | EMC; sales tactics. |
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| **Computer Programming** |  | ***Background*** *–* Continuing discussion.  ***Current Status*** *–*  ***Action Needed*** *–* |
|  | Shawn | COBOL is coming back very strong and has a high demand. |
|  | Programming Instructors | Strong consensus of agreement. |
|  | Dave H | COBOL is primarily used with Unisys and IBM mainframes. There is currently more going on with IBM; it is cheaper to use IBM technology. |
|  | Wally | North Country Business Products is using some Visual Basic, but programmers mostly spend their time manipulating SQL. |
|  | Chris | We are considering advanced course work in Sequel administration and normalization. |
|  | Anne | Maintenance Engineering is using Sequel (SQL), with some scripting. |
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| **Other business** |  | ***Background*** *–* Continuing discussion.  ***Current Status*** *–*  ***Action Needed*** *–* |
|  | James | Are employers looking for more well rounded students, or ones that are oriented on CCNA? |
|  | Shawn | General Equipment’s network equipment is Cisco, but the concepts are more important. |
|  | Dave | Noridian uses Extreme routers. |
|  | Anne | Maintenance Engineering uses Nortel routers. |
|  | James | The City of West Fargo is using HP. |
|  | Joseph | Do employers look at student’s grades, their certification level, or their ability? |
|  | Wally | NCBP requires specific skills if certification can be obtained within timeframe. We want employees that can do customer service first, and then technical considerations second. |
|  | Shawn | Customer service translates to customer technical support; end users are customers. |
|  | Anne | Eye contact. Grades are important, but an IT employee has to be able to talk to the public. |
|  | John | Do you as employers do skills tests? |
|  | Anne | ME will do personality profiles; spelling/grammar is also important. |
|  | Wally | NCBP will do personality based testing. Potential employees should come prepared to talk. Read the company website first, and don’t have cover letters and applications forged by friends or spouses. |
|  | Noah | How do you post openings? |
|  | Group consensus | The company website; MN Job Force; job service; newspapers. |
|  | Dave O | Large company process applications slower than smaller companies. |
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|  |  | MSCTC has an employer-friendly web site for posting current jobs/internships located at:  <http://careers.minnesota.edu/> |
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**Vision Statement:**

MSCTC will be a regionally recognized organization focused on and partnering for innovation, learning, and your future.

**Mission Statement:**

MSCTC’s mission is to provide accessible education with vigor and integrity to diverse learners, preparing them for dynamic learning, living, working, and serving.