Strategic Advisory Board
Conference Call Minutes
Friday, December 18, 2009

The NC State University Department of Computer Science Strategic Advisory Board met via conference call on Friday, December 18, 2009. Below is a summary of the discussion points, actions and decisions.

Identified Participants – M. Chen, S. Chopra, W. Clark, K. Collins, J. Faulkner, K. Markham, G. Keller, J. O'Neill, M. Squire, K. Tate, J. Strickland, D. Thompson, M. Vouk, S. Worth, and M. Wyatt. Visiting presenters included M. Carter and M. Stallmann.

Regrets – R. Puryear, D. Ramoneda, R. Stiles, E. Wagner

Department Update - Dr. Vouk & K. Tate provided an update on noteworthy departmental awards, highlights and indices since our last meeting in April 2009:

- **Budget Update** – Dr. Vouk reported that we've had a good semester and a good year despite the fear of departmental cuts at the beginning of the year. The Dean has been able to secure good funding from the legislature. SOSI is receiving additional funding from the government ($2.4M) – not a done deal, but it's coming.

- **Hiring Activity** – The department has received permission to hire an assistant professor in gaming, who will start in August 2010 (David Roberts from Georgia Tech). We also have permission to hire a software engineering faculty member, and we are currently interviewing candidates. We have hired the department's first teaching assistant professor, Dr. Sarah Heckman, who will be receiving her Ph.D. at the department's diploma ceremony on Saturday, December 19, 2010. We have back-filled an open position: Monica Watkins is our new bookkeeper. Finally, Dr. Vouk welcomed SAB Emeritus Member, Wayne Clark (recently retired from Cisco) as our new Associate Director for Research with the Institute for Next Generation IT Systems.

- **December Graduation** – Barring any drastic weather changes, the diploma ceremony will take place as planned at 1:30 p.m. at Providence Baptist Church. We will have 120 students graduating – 18 PhD degrees, 66 MS degrees, and 36 BS degrees. We are graduating our first student from our gaming concentration, and we have hired our first teaching assistant professor, Dr. Sarah Heckman, who will be graduating Saturday as well.

- **Outreach & Student Recruitment Update** – Ken provided an update including: We are still working on our outreach and recruitment plans and are looking at a different vendor(s) to help with finishing the project including revamping the Prospective Student page on the department's website. We will share more information and bring the SAB back into the process when we get further along. John O'Neill added that we should be sure that our efforts are "smart phone friendly."

- **Enrollment** – Graduate program enrollment has been up in recent years, but is currently flat. Undergraduate enrollment is increasing about 10% each year. The job market is solid right now and improving. Approximately 80% of the spring graduates had jobs at graduation.

- **Dr. Harry Perros** has recently been honored as the department's **5th IEEE Fellow**.

- **Dr. Laurie Williams** has been selected as the inaugural winner of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) 2009 SIGSOFT Influential Educator Award.

- The Computerworld Honors Program recognized NC State University as a 2009 Laureate in the Educations category for its VCL-based Cloud Computing Services case study in a medal ceremony in Washington, D.C., on June 1, 2009.

- **Dr. Annie Antón** has been named one of 10 distinguished academics to the non-resident Fellows Program for the Center for Democracy & Technology (CDT). Antón is the only non-lawyer technology expert named to the program.

- **Dr. Tao Xie** has been awarded a prestigious **Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award** by NSF, the department's 19th NSF CAREER Award winner!

- **Keith Collins** (B.S. '82), and his wife Margaret (B.S. Horticulture '79) recently finalized gift plans with an estimated value in excess of $2.5 million that will benefit Engineering and Agricultural & Life Sciences, including a Distinguished Named Professorship, Scholarship Endowment and Program Endowment for the department of computer science.

- **Total cash contributions** to the department are ahead of last year's record pace. Through end of November, we had received almost $500,000 in cash donations (from alumni and corporations), trending ahead of last year's YE total of $900,000.

Accreditation Update – Dr. Matt Stallmann provided an update including: As part of the assessment, alumni surveys are sent our every three years, but the response rate has been very low. In addition to this survey, he would like to see us implement an employer survey and a skills survey. He asked if anyone had looked at the five Curriculum Objectives, but few had because the link to the webpage had only recently been sent with the meeting reminder. These objectives can be found at http://www.csc.ncsu.edu/academics/undergrad/bs-csc.php. Matt would like to collect feedback from the SAB on the Curriculum Objectives and Learning Outcomes by January 15, 2010.

Communications Survey Update – Dr. Mike Carter provided an update including: An article on communication needed by software engineers, based in part on input from members of the SAB, was published (http://fie-conference.org/fie2009/papers/1290.pdf). In follow-up research, Dr. Carter and his co-author are conducting a survey to prioritize the skills listed in the article. Matt Stallman asked if a list of questions from the Communication Skills Survey is available. The link to the survey is http://web.mit.edu/ruff/SEcomm.

Skills Survey Update – Steve Worth provided an update including: Steve has spoken to professional surveyors to learn the best way to structure the survey. You need a base of at least 1,000 people for the survey, and can expect a 15% return rate. The survey should focus on hard and soft skills including social media skills. It was suggested to bring those involved in the Strategic Planning Process (Annie Antón, Matt Stallmann, etc.) into the process to shape what's important to the department. Keith Collins suggested categorizing who is filling out the survey – IT consumers or providers. Donald Thompson offered I-Cubed assistance in putting together a local focus group since he's right here on Centennial Campus.

New Member Nominations – Dr. Eugene "Spaf" Spafford has resigned due to his increasing travel and workload. We have 20 board members, not including emeritus or faculty members, meaning we can take as many as five new members this spring. Our nominees for Dr. Vouk's consideration include (in alpha order):
- **Jeff Crume** (BS '84), Distinguished Engineer & IT Security Architect w/ IBM
- **Robert McIsaac**, Group VP & CIO w/ First Citizens Bank
- **Dr. Elizabeth Mynatt** (BS '88), Director GVU Center at Georgia Tech

- **Troy Tolle** (BS '98, MS '00), CTO of Infinity Learning Solutions
- **Executive Candidate TBD to represent Super ePartner, AT&T**

Members were invited to send recommendations to Ken by COB on Dec 22nd. Dr. Vouk will consider slate and invitations will be extended by the end of January 2010.

Endowment Update – Ken provided an update including: As of June 30, 13 of the 18 endowments are underwater – their value is less than the invested amount. Twelve are scholarship endowments, and of these, nine are underwater. Ken plans to reach out to the original donors to see if they will consider making cash awards to students since no awards can be distributed until the funds are no longer underwater.

Closing Remarks – Mark Wyatt thanked everyone for participating in the call, and thanked Ken Tate and Dr. Vouk for a great year considering the tough economy. Dates are being considered for face-to-face in March or April. More details to follow.