

# Strategic Advisory Board Conference Call Minutes

Thursday, January 24, 2008

The NC State University Department of Computer Science Strategic Advisory Board met via conference call on Thursday, January 24, 2008. Below is a summary of the discussion points, actions and decisions:

**Known Participants** – K. Tate, M. Vouk, K. Markham, K. Hibbard, J. Fearrington, R. Puryear, W. Clark, S. Worth, E. Wagner, M. Wyatt, and B. Weiss.

**Department Update** – Dr. Vouk provided an update on several key departmental initiatives and indices, including:

- **Funding Trends** - On research side, YTD proposal activities are at \$31M (up ~60% over last year's \$19.5M), and new awards are at \$3.1M (down \$1M from last year, but awards come in waves so we are hopeful that the increased proposal activity pays off in a big way in coming months). Overall active research grants exceed \$23M. Of particular note are Dennis Kekas' efforts to attain a \$4M award to establish a "Secure Open Systems Institute" on Centennial Campus. Non-research related support totals \$517K YTD, up almost \$200K over last year at same time.
- **Enrollment Trends** - Undergrad is at ~ 600 (down ~3% from last year's 628). Grad is at ~ 475 (up ~21% from last year's 395). We are working closely with CoE admissions office to develop a comprehensive recruiting strategy to help us improve our Undergrad enrollment trends, and specifically improve attraction rates for females and minorities.
- **Faculty Update** – Over the past two years, we have had several faculty retire or leave the department to accept roles within industry or other universities internationally. On the plus side, we have added three new faculty members this academic year, all female. We are also aggressively recruiting for new faculty in Software Engineering, Security, and Gaming.
- **VCL Success** – This “virtual computing lab” initiative continues to grow and expand in scope, thanks to recent and sizable equipment donations from Intel and IBM, as well as Cisco's support with the network design. The university and the initiative were recently recognized as the "2007 Laureate" winner by the Computerworld Honors Program. Per industry leaders, the initiative is creating quite a buzz globally, and could become a tremendous PR opportunity for the department and the university.
- **Concentrations & Collaboration** – We are developing strong collaborations with the College of Education and the College of Design. We also continue to work toward the formalization of several undergraduate concentrations, and hope to make an official announcement about the "gaming" concentration during tentative event in March – a talk by noted author, Steven Berlin Johnson (author of "The Ghost Map" and "Everything Bad is Good for You"). [Note – we are still in negotiations w/ Mr. Johnson's publicists, so this is far from a done deal – more to come on this soon.]
- **Enloe HS Students** - three local exceptionally gifted HS students, mentored by Vouk & Bitzer, took 2nd place in Siemen's National Science Competition.
- **Centennial Campus** - Recently honored as Nation's top research science park by Association of University Research Parks. Also, the CoE plans late Feb groundbreaking for Engineering Building 3.

**40<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration Recap** – Ken summarized the key activities and initiatives launched by the department to commemorate its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary last fall including:

- **Geek-A-Thon Event** – About 300 student and industry volunteers came together for a weekend last October to refurbish over 200 donated PCs, which were distributed to needy middle school families.
- **40<sup>th</sup> Year Tailgate Party** – An alumni event held prior to the Homecoming Game. It was so well received that it will probably become an annual event.
- **40<sup>th</sup> Year Scholarship Endowment Drive** – Proceeds from a direct mail campaign and an online auction netted over \$11K. Good results, but we still need a minimum of \$4K to officially create the endowment, and we'd like to have at least \$25K in the account to make for a meaningful student award each year.
- **40<sup>th</sup> Year Technical Symposium** – This was the capstone event drawing advance registration at over 250 people. An impressive list of speakers were featured, headed by Apple co-founder, Steve Wozniak. Streamed video of all the speakers is now available online at <http://www.csc.ncsu.edu/40th/techsym.php>. Reception held the night before was very special evening for anyone lucky enough to have attended.
- **40<sup>th</sup> Year Publication** – Great document, thanks to the work of Dr. Christopher Healey and many others. It was sent to all members of the CRA list (CSC leaders across the nation who have input into our rankings)
- **Fidelity Investments “Leadership in Technology” Executive Speakers Series** – Launched under the 40<sup>th</sup> Year umbrella, this series is growing in visibility and notoriety. The spring line-up includes Doug Balog (VP of IBM's Blade Systems Development), Bob Young (co-founder of Red Hat and now founder & CEO of Lulu), and Tom Mendoza (President of NetApp). Details and streamed video of previous talks can be found at [http://www.csc.ncsu.edu/corporate\\_relations/fi\\_lit/](http://www.csc.ncsu.edu/corporate_relations/fi_lit/).

**New Member Nomination** – Ken led discussion, announcing that Dr. Vouk would like to add the chairperson of the faculty's Strategic Planning Committee as an ex-officio board member; Dr. Carla Savage is the chair of the SPC for the 2007-08 academic year. Current board membership has dipped to 17 regular members plus our 2 emeritus members, due to several unexpected resignations due to a variety of circumstances (Satish Gupta & Chet Fennel due to relocations, and Gayle Lanier due to recent appointment to the NCSU Board of Trustees). We also have four members who will finish their final terms with the April meeting (Nick Bowen, Wayne Clark, Chris Crump & Gopal Kakivaya). This opens up more slots than usual for membership, and nominations have been received for a large and outstanding group of new members. Nominees this year include:

- Dr. Eugene Spafford – Professor of Computer Science at Purdue University
- James “Jim” Faulkner (CSC B.S. '78) – Owner, Graphic Horizons, Inc
- Dr. Matt Squire (CSC Ph.D. '95) – Sr VP & CTO w/ Hatteras Networks
- Michael Chen (Comp Ntwkg M.S. '02) – VP, Corporate Marketing w/ Red Hat
- Lyliana “Lilo” Newberry – VP of Engineering & Strategic Development w/ Harris Corp
- Roger Stiles – Sr. VP of Development w/ Fidelity Investments
- Tsegereda Beyene – Advanced Services Technical Leader w/ Cisco Systems
- Christopher “Chris” Benson – Director, Platform Engineering w/ Tekelec

- Dede Ramoneda – VP & CIO w/ Progress Energy

Bill Weiss made a motion to accept these nominees and submit their names to Dr. Vouk for final approval and invitation to join. Steve Worth seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Invitations will be extended to all candidates in the next few days.

**Annual Meeting Agenda Planning** – Ken and Wayne led an open discussion to gather suggestions for how we spend our time together in April. Highlights of the input are as follows:

- Dr. Vouk will again provide a more detailed update on the department, identifying the Top 3 Challenges for SAB input.
- Last year's agenda structure (presentations in the am and group discussions in the pm) was ideal and will be retained.
- Ken will provide an External Relations Update, including development and outreach activities.
- Suggestion made to ask Sam Averitt, NC State's Vice Provost of IT, to give presentation on the Virtual Computing Environment (VCE) initiative, as this is such a positive PR point for the university and the department. The thought was that the board should be well versed in this initiative to serve as our PR foot soldiers.
- Bill Weiss suggested that an update on efforts to partner with the international community might be beneficial. [We will invite the new Dean to join us and have him talk to his vision and activities to date to establish international emersion experiences for our students, and to partner with various universities worldwide.]
- Strong support voiced for inviting students to participate in some form, and to consider the possibility of having time dedicated for student poster sessions.
- Suggestion made that we should explore possibility of conducting surveys with recent grads, as well as companies hiring recent grads, to gather feedback that might be used to enhance the curriculum. Dr Vouk said that this may actually be required in advance of upcoming accreditation efforts, and he took the action to gather more information.
- Agreement reached to review and update of board objectives. The most recent SAB objectives will be attached to these minutes as Addendum A.
- Wayne provided a brief intro to an agenda topic he wants feedback on - the "business & academic impact of grad students requiring sponsorship". It was suggested that this might be a topic that impacts a small number of members, and might be best handled with a special topics breakout.

**Closing Remarks** – Group was reminded that our **Spring Face-to-face Meeting** will be held here in Raleigh on **April 16 (evening only) & 17 (all day)**. **Please reserve the dates on your calendar now.** More details to follow.

## SAB Objectives

## Addendum A

- Expand the Board to a full membership of 25 maximum (15 minimum).
- Establish a formal leadership structure, defining roles, terms, and selection process. This will include a Chair and Vice-Chair.
- Provide input and guidance in support department's fundraising goal, as a component of NCSU's Comprehensive Campaign, with a focus toward significantly growing the department's endowment funds.
- Facilitate expansion of partnerships with corporations and foundations through the ePartners Program, and related partnering opportunities.
- Establish advocacy relationship with the NC State Board of Trustees, NC State University administration, General Assembly, Board of Governors (UNC System), NCEITA, and other influential groups and international organizations as appropriate.
- Serve as executive presenters or participants in the department's Leadership in Technology course and other Leadership Forums, and establish a mentoring network for talented and aspiring student leaders.
- Help build and sustain a greater sense of brand recognition for the NCSU Department of Computer Science both internally and externally.