College Curriculum Committee

College of Business Faculty and Staff In attendance: Dr. Alsamara, Dr. Abuleil, Dr. Jackson, Dean Collins, Dr. Coupet, Professor Bibb.

Assessment recommendation: Offer MIS certifications for MIS and COB students

Dr. Abuleil submitted a proposal for the formal certification in Management Information Systems (MIS)

Note: A copy of this document was forwarded to all COB faculty, via email, prior to today's meeting.
  The MIS Proposal was initiated by the Dean and highlights the importance and the key role of certifications in the College of Business. The proposal Dr. Abuleil presented outlines new certifications for MIS. As he noted, certification are important factors in recruitment and in helping students develop skills employers seek.
  The certification is for two types of people – those without prior MIS education and those who have a degree in MIS who want to refresh their memory about new developments in the field of IT. Dr. Abuleil noted the different tracks (there are 6 tracks) in the proposal; the tracks represent different areas or concentrations (see document).
  The basic requirements for certification: Students would be required to take 3 courses for each track and earn a minimum grade of "B." See the proposal for a complete description of the 6 tracks. Dr. Abuleil also noted that "we are using the TPS course for Track #2, which is a course currently offered in Technology and Performance Improvement Studies (TPS 4110); those students will take courses from the COB (i.e., we will work in partnership with another college, using an existing course rather than developing a similar offering in the COB).

There were questions about the tracks.
  The tracks are designed to prepare students to sit for various national or industrial exams. Dr. Abuleil noted, "We looked into and picked some [exams] for which students would be certified (e.g., Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM)). So if a student completes track #2, he/she will be prepared to sit for this exam (CAPM). The track 2 material and curriculum cover what is required in the CAPM exam. Track #2 also prepares students for the Project Management Professionals (PMP) exam; however, the requirements for the PMP are higher (i.e., students must have experience in the field, 100 hours or more). Again, see the proposal for a list of the possible certifications and exams for which students may sit.

"To have any one of these certifications on a resume is a big plus for any person applying for a job." The certificates give students an opportunity to compete. This proposal is for non-degree certifications. Thus, we can target people from anywhere, not just Chicago State University (CSU) students. The vision is to target the community. We need to reach out as a college and this proposal offers one way to do so. Students could earn two certificates: One from CSU and one from a professional association.

  The Dean asked if we have information to tell students how to apply for and sit for certification. Not yet. Drs. Alsmara and Albuleil noted that there is some testing that can take place on campus, in our building. Dr. Kpo provided information about the COB as a certified training site. There is currently a site at the College of Education that has been attracting people from outside (i.e., off campus and not affiliated with CSU) to come to the CSU campus to take the certification exams. CSU is a testing site for professionals. "The problem is marketing. The first place to market is MIS alums. That is low-hanging fruit."

Dr. Coupet asked if it were possible to offer a course that prepares students for the exam itself. He asked if, after completing the courses, would students be ready to sit for the exams?

Dr. Alsamara indicated that we could prepare students to sit for the exam. "The biggest prize is the certificates … If it can be done, it would be worthwhile to ensure that certification is met. For example, I have taken 10 practice exams. Anyone who sits for certification in these courses will be exposed to the practice exams. We can expose students to practice exams." It was also mentioned that we may wish to consider adding a course so that students can practice the exams. The Dean asked, are practice exams provided by publishers? Yes and we can link to the site and download the exam. Dr. Coupet asked, is this available in a secondary market? Yes. Further, we can help students access practice test resources.

It was also noted that we are using existing courses; thus, we need to ensure that students properly sequence the courses to complete their chosen concentrations.

Dr. Coupet moved to approve the proposal for the MIS concentration; Dr. Jackson seconded the motion. We are pending an e-vote from the entire body of College Curriculum Committee members.

Assessment recommendation: To improve the results of the ETS Major Field Test and to educate and enrich the knowledge of COB students in the IT field we recommend offering a general introductory course in IT such as INSY1360 to be required course for all COB students.

Dr. Abuleil noted that "we are not happy with the results" from the assessment tests (ATS) that Dr. Kpo administers (i.e., our students are not scoring well on the assessment). "We do not teach students what is tested (the IT stuff)." Dr. Abuleil suggested that we teach "this stuff in 1360." Further he suggested that, "program advisors recommend this course as a business elective." We need to make this course (1360) a business elective.

Dr. Alsamara added, "our decisions about curriculum should be driven by market demand (versus certification testing). While true, the thought is, what do you (as the student) need to know? What are the basics that we need to know (part of what is in 1360)?"

Dr. Coupet moved and Professor Bibb seconded a motion to allow 1360 to be used as business elective course. Five committee members present voted in favor of this motion. A vote will be put forth for the committee members not present.