

Comprehensive Program Review

Bachelors of Science in Information Technology

Review Date: February 20, 2014

External Committee

Dr. Jon A Preston
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School of Computing and Software Engineering
Southern Polytechnic State University

Dr. Jack Goldfrank
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D. Abbott Turner College of Business
Columbus State University

Procedure Followed and Information Gathered

Drs. Preston and Goldfrank reviewed the comprehensive program review self study for the Bachelor of Science in Information Technology beginning February 7th, 2014. They formed individual assessments of this self study material and then came together for an on-campus review. This review consisted of meetings with administrators, faculty, and students and also included a tour of the facilities. At the end of this visit, Drs. Preston and Goldfrank met and generated a summative review of the program based upon all data gathered. They then presented their findings and assessment to Dr. Wayne Summers.

Findings of External Review Committee

Assessment of Program Quality

The external team agrees with the self-study and finds the overall program quality to be very strong.

The external committee had exposure to a limited sample of faculty and students. We note that the list of publications for the faculty and students is impressive. We are also particularly impressed with the outreach programs and see this as a strategic asset of the program.

We agree with the self-study and find the quality of the faculty, quality of research and scholarship, the quality of service, and the quality of faculty and student achievement to be very strong. We also find the quality of teaching and curriculum to be above average. We find the quality of facilities and equipment to be satisfactory.

Recommendations for Improving Program Quality

We believe there exists an opportunity to better involve students with the high school mentoring and outreach initiatives. This could involve lab assistants/mentors and provide service-learning opportunities.

Assessment of Program Productivity

The external team agrees with the self-study and finds the overall program productivity to be satisfactory.

We note the cost per credit hour is down 10% over historical costs.

We agree with the self-study and find the enrollment in the program for the past five years to be very strong. The cost-effectiveness of instructional delivery is above average. We find the comparison with CSU and USG programs, the retention rate, and the student learning indicators to be satisfactory. We also agree with the self-study that the degrees awarded over the past five years and the graduation rate are below average.

Recommendations for Improving Program Productivity

We believe the program should examine the causes of the number of degrees awarded and graduation rate and address the underlying causes of these issues.

Assessment of Program Viability

We agree with the self-study and find the program's overall viability and the program's improvement plans are very strong.

Recommendations for Improving Program Viability

We have no recommendations for improving the program viability.

Final Recommendations of the Review Team

The external review team finds the following:

1. We believe the faculty should readdress the possibility of ABET accreditation
2. We support the need for additional faculty
 - a. It could be appropriate to consider a full-time non-tenured line that has an emphasis on student support and the outreach programs within the department
3. We believe the department should incentivize and support student recruitment and mentoring. This includes providing student transition guidance upon entering the program.
4. The department should explore the use of mini grants and course releases to stimulate quality research. In particular, this would benefit the graduate research course offering. The outreach program (including summer camps) is a true asset of the program and should receive continued financial support.



Dr. Jon A Preston

2/24/2014
Date

Dr. Jack Goldfrank

Date