

## **Information Systems & Decision Sciences Curriculum Review, Spring 2007**

Present: Dr Ellen Hufnagel; Dr. Alston Watkins; Dr Christopher Davis

Apologies: Dr John Gum; Willard Baird III

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

1. CD opened the meeting by reminding the group of the CBC's request that disciplines meet to discuss their curriculum, in particular the need for changes or updates.

Discussion centered on courses that had undergone revision in the last year.

ISM 2100 Computers in Business This class had been substantially adapted by Dr Watkins to support a hybrid mode of delivery – primarily on-line but with a combination of (two) mandatory and (multiple) voluntary classroom sessions. The change had proved very positive, both in terms of the learning outcomes and the student experience. Further monitoring and adjustment of teaching resources – particularly the availability of TAs for the classroom sessions – is needed to maintain the effectiveness of the revised class format.

ISM 3011 Information Systems in Organizations This class has also been subjected to comprehensive overhaul since the last meeting of the ISDS group. Dr Hufnagel has developed a comprehensive series of in-class and on-line resources that substantially enhance the course by placing greater emphasis on the acquisition of practical skills and knowledge relevant to all business majors. Further changes were already in hand to accommodate adoption of the 2007 edition of 'Experiencing MIS' by David Kroenke. Again, further monitoring of the course was required as numbers grew significantly and pressure to increase section sizes were balanced with the constraints imposed by the physical space available and the new pedagogic design of the course.

ISM 3113 Systems Analysis and Design Introduction of new video based case studies had enabled the initial sessions of this class to provide a better introduction to the IS major: student feedback had been very positive. Further changes involving the hybridization of the class (by providing support for completion of some sessions on-line) were on hold due to the limited availability of the necessary software for students. A scheduling experiment – offering this class on Saturdays – had met with limited success. Numbers had been good, but no higher than when the class was offered in the evening. It was decided not to pursue this option in the future.

ISM 3232 Business Application Development This class has assumed a more prominent role in the IS major as the result of changes made last semester. The move to an object oriented programming language represented a significant change for both students and instructor. Outcomes assessments indicated that the change had been successful and feedback from students – both formal through course evaluations and informal through ad-hoc comments - had been very positive. The change was also welcomed by various employers in the region who are increasingly looking for familiarity and competence with object oriented languages, tools and techniques. No further change is planned for this course at this time

ISM 4300 Managing Information Resources Since undergoing a major revision in Spring 2006, this class has proved increasingly popular. The hybrid (50% on-line) format provided opportunities for students to engage in learning activities that extended the range of topics and materials covered. No further substantive change was required, Dr Hufnagel reported, although review of the content would continue on a rolling basis, as always.

ISM 4382 Global Information Systems Dr Davis reported that the hybridization of this course had given rise to some unanticipated problems with cheating. However, the safeguards provided by the assessment rubrics and the Blackboard system had proved robust in detecting the offences, all of which had been resolved to the satisfaction of the instructor, students concerned and the administration. Careful monitoring of the situation would continue. No changes to the course content or resources were required.

ISM 4930 Information Systems Security This class had been offered on the USFSP campus for the first time: it had recruited well and the content had been comprehensively revised by Mr Baird. Scheduling on Friday evenings proved more popular than had been anticipated: it was agreed to consider offering Friday evening classes in future. The practical emphasis of the class and opportunity to experiment with live systems was a particular strength of the curriculum revision undertaken by Mr Baird. No changes were proposed.

QMB 2100 Business and Economics Statistics I  
QMB 3200 Business and Economics Statistics II In addition to his apologies Dr Gum sent a brief report that the content of both classes – mandatory for all business majors – continue to be reviewed as section numbers increase.

2. Discussion of classes taught in the Fall semester (ISM4220 Business Data Communications) was held over until the next meeting.
3. There was no other business: the meeting closed at 3:15pm