

November 18, 2007

Dear Dr. Hedetniemi and Dr. Allen Parrish:

The following is a response by the Computer Information Science program at Lock Haven University to the Draft Statement of findings for the recent evaluation by the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET. As requested, this report has been provided electronically.

I would like to begin by thanking Dr. Steve Hedetniemi who reviewed the CIS program's Interim Report. It was a pleasure working with Dr. Hedetniemi, and I feel the report accurately reflects the progress made over the last year. The department has worked very hard to address the previous concerns and weaknesses and this is evident in the Draft Statement.

In the Draft Statement, there is one standard in which it was determined that our program still has a weakness. The Draft Statement received on October 19, 2007 reports the following weakness with respect to Standard VII-5:

“Heavy teaching loads combined with large class sizes, no availability of grading or teaching assistance, heavy advising loads, and evidence of little scholarly activity or professional development activities for some faculty members, raises a concern as to whether faculty members have sufficient time for scholarly activities and professional development.”

“Moreover, this concern regarding Standard VII-5 continues to lead to a weakness in the Program Delivery category, due to the lack of improvement in the time available for such activities.”

The majority of this response will focus on how the department and administration will be addressing the reported weakness with respect to Standard VII-5.

After recent discussions with administration, the travel and professional development budget for the CIS program has been significantly increased. For the 2007/2008 academic year the program has been given \$4,500 to cover travel expenses to Information Systems related conferences. In addition, \$2000 has been allocated to cover professional

development activities such as graduate level courses in Information Systems. This represents more than a 300% increase in travel and professional development funding.

Members of the CIS program are eager to take advantage of this increased budget in order to address the weakness outlined in the Draft Statement. Specifically, this funding will allow faculty members who have not yet had a chance to attend ISECON or AITP, to do so this academic year. Dr. Peter Huegler has already utilized this increased funding to attend the 2007 ISECON conference in Pittsburgh. In addition, two other faculty members (Dr. Susan Strayer and either Mr. Bruce Wooley or Dr. Krish Pillai) will be attending AITP 2008 this spring in Memphis. Lastly, the increase in professional development funds will be used by Dr. Susan Strayer, who will be taking a graduate level course in Information Systems this spring.

With respect to the heavy teaching loads cited in the above weakness, the CIS program plans on taking advantage of a new winter session that will be introduced at Lock Haven University in the winter of 2009. During this winter session, faculty in the program will be able to teach a five week online course during winter break that will count towards their spring course load. To take advantage of this, the members of the department are currently working on converting two of the more popular courses to a web-based format, and plan on having two faculty members teach these courses during the new winter session. This will lead to a three credit reduction in course load in the spring and, when combined with the three credit release time that has been regularly granted by administration, will provide considerably more time to conduct research and engage in professional development activities.

I would like to add that many of the concerns expressed in the Draft Statement will be addressed by our current search to replace the temporary position occupied by Dr. Michael Ruth with a full-time Assistant or Associate Professor with a degree in Information Systems. With the hiring of a full-time faculty member, along with the anticipated completion of my Ph.D. this spring, there will be two faculty members in the CIS program with terminal degrees in Information Systems.

Once again, the CIS program appreciates the effort made by Dr. Hedetniemi. The faculty members of the CIS program look forward to continuing to improve the program by addressing the concerns and weakness identified in the Draft Statement. Specifically, the increased funding provided by administration, and the reduced spring course load that will result from our participation in the winter session, will provide faculty with the funding and time needed to increase scholarly and professional development activities.

If you have any questions regarding this response or the proposed actions described here, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Cohen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Cohen" clearly distinguishable.

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