

Minutes from SIGCSE 2003

- Possible names:
- 1) Committee on Small Departments of Computing
 - 2) Committee on Small Departments
 - 3) Small Department Initiative
 - 4) Computer Science Small Department Initiative

Proposed Mission Statement was discussed:

To provide small computer science departments (typically one to four full time faculty) in higher education tools and support in the assessment and development of quality computing programs (including CS/CIS degrees, computer technology, and general education courses).

Good enough for now – will revisit after more work done.

Areas of concern that were expressed:

1. Help convincing administration that teaching loads are unreasonable.
2. Help teaching courses with which we are unfamiliar.
3. Help with hiring new faculty members.
4. Help with gender / minority diversity issues.
5. Help managing outside demands on our time – recruiting, alumni, etc.
6. Help with doing general education and interdisciplinary courses – finding time to do it, etc.
7. Help finding good adjunct professors.
8. Help with recruiting majors, especially through freshmen level courses – how to keep the people we want?

One option for getting help with administration is to have an outside review done to get some help.

One benefit of a small department that the curriculum is integrated

Volunteers:

- 1) Paper : Christine Shannon (leader), Ellen Walker, Scott Thede, Russ Bjork
- 2) Curriculum: Ellen Walker, Russ Bjork, Alan Iliff, Loren Rhodes, Grant Braught
- 3) Survey: Cathy Bareiss (leader), Scott Thede, Judy Williams
- 4) Web Page: John Cigas, Matthew Burke
- 5) Coordinating Panels Ellen Walker, Leila Wallace
- 6) Possible Showcase Exhibit Deb Hwang

We discussed what is a small department. 1-4 full-time faculty members in the CS department seemed to be generally accepted.

Web site for this group: <http://intellihawk.org/smallcs>

Comments for the papers – send to shannon@centre.edu.
Comments about the group – send to cbareiss@olivet.edu.

Departmental guidelines (including curriculum) will take a significant amount of time (typically 2 years) and needs to take into account the diversity associated with all the different types of small department

Start with paper outlining the strengths and challenges associated with small department

Partial list of strengths:

- 1) personalities (but faculty and students)
- 2) aid weaker students
- 3) integrated curriculum
- 4) holistic
- 5) mentoring, personal education
- 6) adaptability of curriculum and courses
- 7) diversity between institutions
- 8) interdisciplinary
- 9) experiment with pedagogy
- 10) involvement of undergrad's in researching, teaching, and system administration
- 11) know your strengths
- 12) faculty are generalists (not czars of topics)

Partial list of challenges:

- 1) recruiting students/faculty
- 2) personalities (faculty/students)
- 3) limited teaching styles
- 4) lack of political power
- 5) burnout
- 6) can't have excellent courses
- 7) lack of specialization
- 8) networking
- 9) researching
- 10) resources (lab)
- 11) lack of name recognition

Goals/priorities

- 1) White paper on strengths and challenges of small computing departments
- 2) Panel(s) on one or more challenges for small departments and creative approaches. Topics might include: lab, mentoring, interdisciplinary, curricula 2001
- 3) enhance website (and coordinate with SIGCSE's site)
- 4) Day long session before a sigcse (small department consortium)
- 5) CC 2005 for Small departments
- 6) Small Department Showcase
- 7) Other guidelines (such as load, lab space, etc.) for 2004
- 8) directory of small departments

Other items discussed:

- 1) Need to stay professional competent
- 2) Provide networking assistance for chairs
- 3) Provide links with larger schools
- 4) Have a group of faculty willing to travel to provide assistance
- 5) Think outside the box