

Foothill College Geospatial Technology Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2019, 11:30AM-1:30PM – Foothill College Sunnyvale Center, Room 128

Attending

Arlison, Len
Fotelli & EOPS; Teresa Ong, Foothill
College Associate Vice President, CTE & Workforce programs; Steve Rodriguez, City of Mountain
View; Cindy Schmidt, NASA Ames; Maegid Torres, Green Info Network

Board members not attending

Unclear, but not likely as there are not lower division equivalents at UC or CSU.

Program Highlights

The highlights of the program include the low cost of the program to the college because it does not require equipment or lab space. Most GIST software is open source or purchased. Students have a very high job placement rate. Downside is that we are losing program completers.

New hires have very high pay (\$30/hr for a 'technician' level job). GIS skills also bump up salaries in many fields such as police officers or fire fighters.

Q: would employers hire just someone who has a certificate (not bachelor's degree)? Most employers still want a 4 year degree and GIS certificates, especially in government employers.

Discussion ensued about how a 4 year degree is anonymous to life skills. Employers want trainable employees. Allison noted that most students in the Foothill GIST already have undergraduate degrees. There was follow up discussion on the level of education desired for entry level employees. Board members agreed that most students may not be exposed to GIS in their undergraduate education and need the certificate or coursework at the community college to provide training.

GIST Program Changes

- Uneven enrollment. Attrition of students due to housing, declining birth rates.
- Professional upskilling students==> who are they? how do we reach them?
- This program went online in 18/19. Completely online 100%. Students can use desktop Esri.
- Th i4(n)-99.1(at1 ET11.6)6.5(3(oTl12o.t1l6(g,)3..6(i4(n)-99.1(D 12 >T(tel)13.8(y)-1.4(

Allison noted the class cancellations from 2017 due to the poor state of the college budget not supporting lower enrolled classes. Class target 'break even' enrollment is 33 for lab classes (all except GIST 11) and 40 for GIST 11. There is still room for improvement to meet target numbers.

Allison noted that the state's new funding formula rewards the number of certificates and degrees awarded, so she is seeking help and ideas from the college administration to encourage students who have completed course work to apply for their certificates

A study completed by Foothill Institutional Research office in December 2018 found that from 2014-2018, 34 students completed all of the requirements to earn Certificate of Achievement, but only 13 certificates were awarded during that period. In addition, there were nearly 40 students who lacked one or two classes to earn their certificate.

Tobias explained the current system to get certificates. Board members questioned why the certificates were not automatically awarded or a more streamlined process was not in place. John suggested informing students of their social responsibility to apply for the certificate to support the program that had given so much to them.

Curriculum

The program curriculum was reviewed. Allison solicited feedback for eliminating cartography from core course requirements with the reasoning that skills to use separate cartography software (Adobe Illustrator) were required when the program formed 20 years ago, but now GIS packages have excellent cartographic tools

Maegan requests not to eliminate course, focus course on more relevant software. Steve suggests web focus in cartography, data visualization or graphics (possibly CS class, web friendly data visualization platform), seconded by several other members. Sharing content, scaling/device, core skill of interpretation of data.

Alexis reviews curriculum for GIS 4 >>BDC /CS1 cs 0 scneS 4 >11 01.9(o)-5b.9(u)2.25.2(u)5.3(l3(b)n)2.2.25.

Steve wants to continue internship program. Teresa provides details regarding Workforce support for internships and structure. Allison asks for feedback regarding internships requiring desk space vs remote working. John noted that desk space for interns is a major issue. Amadea provides details regarding shift in remote vs on-site work for industry, moving more towards in-person offices. John emphasizes importance of working independently and critical thinking to balance remote vs in-person.

Allison notes that online courses help provide this type of self-directed structure and organization and scheduling skills. Cindy from NASA notes importance of interoffice interpersonal skills gained through in-person internships. General consensus that on-

Program Learning outcomes

Allison requests feedback regarding program learning outcomes. Board reviews program learning outcomes. All members agrees regarding current outcomes.

Recruiting special populations

Allison requests feedback regarding recruiting special populations, see slides. Tobias suggests veteran populations, Allison agrees that military often uses GIS software and many military jobs offer GIS