The Computer Science Curriculum Industrial Advisory Board met on Friday, December 5, 2008 in MCST Room 339 at UCA. Participated Board Members are: Mr. Jerry Bonds (Director, Shared Services, Dillard’s Information Systems), Mr. Lee Easley (Data-Tronics), Mr. George M. Gill (Manager, Snap-On), Dr. Terry Tally (Chief Technology Officer, Acxiom), Mr. Rick VanNorman (represented by two BEI associates), and Dr. Cathy Yang (Acxiom). Due to schedule conflict, board member, Mr. George Williams (Director of Business Development, Intellimation Technologies) were unable to participate. Faculty participants are: B. Chen, C. Hu, L. Igolnikov, S. Kockara, M. Nooner, V. Paruchuri, M. Smith, Y. Sun, K. Thessing, and P. Young.

Prior to the annual meeting, board members participated in the luncheon with university administrators: Dr. Lance Grahn (UCA Provost, Chief Academic Officer), Dr. Stephen Seidman, (Dean, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics), and Dr. Carl Frederickson (Associate Dean, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics) together with departmental faculty/staff in celebrating the upcoming holiday season and the recent accreditation of the BS program. Provost Grahn stated: “the active involvement of such a board is quite important to the maintaining and building the quality program and so the graduating quality graduates that we all want for UCA. And I am grateful to the members of the board and to the Computer Science faculty for their interest in such interactions.”

The meeting was brought in order at 1:30 pm.

1. Hu reported the recent ABET Accreditation to the Board. Dr. Yu Sun (Chair of Department Curriculum Committee), updated the curriculum evolution to the board with newly developed courses and rationales. Dr. Paul Young (Chair of Department Assessment Committee), briefed the board about program objectives, educational outcomes, and process of assessment for continuous future improvement.

2. Board members expressed their overall satisfaction of the programs offered and offered suggestions for future improvements:
   a. All board members emphasized the importance of the following general skills for graduates to possess
      i. Effective oral communication to different groups of broad range of audience, such as development team, business team, user interaction, general public, etc.
      ii. Writing skills in completing specification and documentation
      iii. Knowledge integration for system development and engineer
      iv. Willingness and want to learn new knowledge and technology
      v. Better understanding coporation culture and place high priorities right, and team concept
   b. Technical related:
      i. Early introduction to multi-core systems, parallel and distributed computing systems
      ii. Programming firmware and embedded systems.
      iii. Programming portable devices
      iv. Deployment of software application through network in a pervasive computing environment
   c. Pedagogical suggestions:
      i. Emphasize breadth of fundamental knowledge
      ii. Ingrating knowledge of subject areas into a whole (a course offered at Harvard has been proposed by BEI)
      iii. Relate fundamental concepts with current real-world applications
      iv. Challenge students with right questions and get them out-of their confort zone

3. Board member also suggested possible evening classes and online courses for expanding the MS in Applied Computing program.

Before the meeting adjorn around 3:15 PM, board members and faculty expressed strong interests in strengthening communication to enhance the collaboration.