The UCA Computer Science Advisory Board met on Friday, December 10, 2010 in MCST Room 115 at UCA.

Board Members participated are:
- Allison Nichonas (Acxiom, representing Kristi Epps)
- Lee Easley (Data-Tronics)
- George M. Gill (Snap-On)
- John Gray (Mayflower School District)
- Jon Haslauer (Dillard’s)
- Thomas E. Mckibben (HP, representing Jonathan Allen)
- Terry Tally (Southwest Power Pool)
- Cathy Yang (Acxiom)

Board members absent: Greg Lindstrom (NovaSys), Rick VanNorman (BEI), George Williams (Engenious Tech)


Dr. Steven Runge, Dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics welcomed the Board in the luncheon and participated in the discussion with advisory board and the faculty.

The meeting started at 1:00 pm.

1. Hu, the department chairperson, reviewed the mission of this department and the objectives of the Bachelor of Science degree program. Hu then briefed the Board recent accomplishments and activities of the department including the BS/MS combined program, continuous improvement of the programs, highlight of student accomplishments, and activities of collaboration and community outreaching. The department enhanced its existing courses in 2010. The CS 1 course is now delivered with gaming, image, and animation. Standard template libraries and Unix are introduced in CS II. Group projects have been developed in multiple upper level courses such as Data Mining, Scientific Computing, Software Engineering, etc. The department also created an iPhone programming course as the pilot of a to be proposed new course Programming Mobile Devices.

The Board reviewed the restructured curriculum of the BS degree program. There are two significant features of the restructure. One is the specification of focused advising tracks. The other is options for students to complete the 19 credit-hours mathematics requirement of the BS degree program.

2. Paruchuri, the department graduate coordinator, briefed the Board current status of the Master’s of Science in Applied Computing degree program. The program established a list of internal policies related to admission, advising, etc. The program will have its external review in the academic year of 2012-2013. Through the self-study of the program in 2011, opportunities for improving the program will be identified.

3. The Board and faculty members discussed challenges and opportunities of this department and its programs. This meeting was held during the nationwide Computer Science Education Week designated by the U. S. House of Representatives. The discussions focused on ways to bring computer science to all levels of education. Ideas on practical approach and marketing are actively exchanged. Follow-up actions will be taken and reported. Board members acknowledged the efforts of the department for making continuous improvements of its programs.

After the meeting adjorn at 3:00 PM, board members and faculty continued their conversation in small groups.