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Introducing a Draft Version of the Revised ACM/ AIS Undergraduate IS Curriculum Recommendation

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INTRODUCING A DRAFT VERSION OF THE REVISED ACM/AIS UNDERGRADUATE IS CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATION

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this panel is to present a draft of the revised undergraduate IS curriculum recommendation document to the IS community. The panel presentation will focus on the key changes compared to the current curriculum recommendation (IS 2002), including a) the significantly modified outcome expectations, b) the revised structure, which separates the core topics from the elective topics, c) the key elements of the revised core topics, d) a revised course structure, and e) the task force recommendations regarding the use of web-based collaboration technologies and an editorial structure for the ongoing maintenance of the curriculum. The panelists will all be members of the ACM/AIS undergraduate curriculum revision task force.

Keywords: undergraduate model curriculum, IS education, computing education, curriculum development

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this panel is to present a draft of the revised undergraduate IS curriculum recommendation document to the IS community. The joint ACM/AIS project to revise the IS undergraduate curriculum recommendation was launched in Spring 2007, and intermediate results from the project have been shared with

the IS community in presentations at AMCIS 2007, AIS SIG-ED IAIM 2007, ECIS 2008, and AMICS 2008. The goal of the project task force is to present a comprehensive but not yet final curriculum recommendation draft for evaluation in this panel presentation so that the recommendation can be revised in early 2009 and presented for approval by the cooperating organizations in late Spring 2009.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE PANEL

The panel presentation will focus on the key changes compared to the current curriculum recommendation (IS 2002), including a) the significantly modified outcome expectations, b) the revised structure, which separates the core topics from the elective topics, c) the key elements of the revised core topics, d) a revised course structure, and e) the task force recommendations regarding the use of web-based collaboration technologies and an editorial structure for the ongoing maintenance of the curriculum.

The new curriculum will be based on a significantly revised set of outcome expectations, that is, expectations regarding the capabilities that graduating IS students should have. The new capability set recognizes the change in the nature of the jobs IS graduates are likely to have by focusing on business analysis, organizational processes, enterprise architecture, sourcing options, and security and risk management. The revised curriculum also separates more clearly Information Systems specific knowledge and skills, foundational knowledge and skills, and domain fundamentals. It acknowledges explicitly the contribution the Information Systems discipline can make to domains outside business (such as governments, non-profits, health care, etc.).

The curriculum recommendation will recognize the richness of the contexts in which it will be used by separating core topics from elective topics and thus, acknowledging that the existing “one size fits all” model is not any more relevant or inclusive. In addition, the model focuses on topics instead of courses, allowing

individual institutions to organize the coverage of the topics in a variety of ways, based on the local requirements and resource availability.

The task force will present a detailed proposal regarding the recommended content for each of the core topics. In the current draft, the core topics are as follows: Foundations and Role of IS; Enterprise Architecture; IS Strategy, Management, and Acquisition; Data and Information; Systems Analysis & Design; IT Infrastructure; and Project Management. The curriculum recommendation will also provide examples of the content for commonly used elective topics, such as Application Development, IT Audit and Controls, and IT Security and Risk Management. The task force will also present a set of course recommendations based on the core and elective topics.

Finally, the curriculum recommendation will discuss possible mechanisms for the ongoing maintenance of the new IS curriculum. Despite the slow adoption of the curriculum wiki environment that has been introduced in this project, the task force still believes that the era of infrequent, very large-scale curriculum revisions is over, and the IS community should establish a mechanism through which the model curricula will be continuously revised, enabling significantly quicker responses to technological and environmental changes.

III. PANEL STRUCTURE AND FORMAT

The panelists will all be members of the ACM/AIS undergraduate curriculum revision task force. The panel will be structured so that as much time as possible will be available for community feedback and active discussion and debate. For each topic, one of the panelists will first introduce the topic to the audience with a brief presentation, after which the audience has an opportunity to participate in a discussion related to the topic together with the group of panelists. The facilitator will present a concluding summary at the end of the discussion.

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