12-31-1994

Trying to Hit a Moving Target: Report on Proposed Joint ACM/DPMA/AIS/ICIS Undergraduate IS Curriculum Update

J. Daniel Couger
University of Colorado, Boulder

David Feinstein
Southwest Missouri State University

Jack Dangermond
The Environmental Systems Research Institute

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PANEL 1

TRYING TO HIT A MOVING TARGET: REPORT ON PROPOSED JOINT ACM/DPMA/AIS/ICIS UNDERGRADUATE IS CURRICULUM UPDATE

Panel Chair: **Dan Couger**, University of Colorado, Boulder (ICIS/AIS Co-Chair)

Panelists: **David Feinstein**, University of South Alabama (DPMA Co-Chair)
John Gorgone, Bentley College (ACM Co-Chair)
Bart Longenecker, University of South Alabama (DPMA Co-Chair)
David Miller, Rosenbluth International (Industry Representative)

This session is designed to obtain input from ICIS participants on the proposed undergraduate curriculum update for an IS degree program. The ICIS team took the lead to get key organizations to agree to develop a joint curriculum. The previous situation where several different organizations had released proposed curriculum models had been confusing both to academia and industry. The joint team has been in operation for the past year and is ready to publicly present its proposed changes for comment.

There are several controversial issues that need representative input from diverse academic units. After a brief review of the curriculum, the panel will discuss these controversial issues and then get audience response.

1. **Number of required courses for an IS major**

   Schools have purported to prepare students for careers in the IS field with as few as four courses specializing on IS topics. Others insist that ten to twelve courses are necessary for success in the field.

2. **Mix of soft and hard topics for an IS major**

   Many believe that the behaviorally oriented subjects have not had proper emphasis in prior curriculum recommendations and that lack of knowledge in this area has caused systems developers to be ineffective in working with users. Others counter with the need for majors to be even more technically oriented because of the burgeoning technology in the IT field.

3. **Minimal set of resources to support a viable IS academic program**

   Some schools have tried to justify an IS major with only three full-time faculty teaching IS courses. Some have computing facilities with old technology. Some are not using the latest software releases. The updated curriculum proposal has strong recommendations regarding minimal resource levels needed to support a viable academic program.

4. **Mechanism for continuous updating of curriculum**

   It is no longer appropriate for curriculum revision cycles of five years. The rapid changes in the field dictate another mechanism for keeping curriculum recommendations current. A proposal for an electronic revision procedure will be discussed.

Panel Participants

The panel consists of the co-chairs of the joint curriculum update project, plus an IS executive.

COURSE TITLES FOR
COLLABORATIVE UNDERGRADUATE INFORMATION SYSTEMS CURRICULUM

Please select the four codes that most closely reflect your teaching areas and list them in the space provided on the front of this update form.

IS95.PO	Knowledge Work Software Tool Kit
IS95.01	Fundamentals of Information Systems
IS95.02	Personal Productivity with Information Technology
IS95.03	Information Systems Theory and Practice
IS95.04	Telecommunications
IS95.05	Programming, Data, File and Object Structures
IS95.06	Information Technology Hardware and Software
IS95.07	Analysis and Logical Design
IS95.08	Physical Design and Implementation with DBMS
IS95.09	Physical Design and Implementation with Programming Environments
IS95.10	Project Management and Practice

Additional courses often taught:

O-11	Information Technology and Organization Strategy
O-12	Organization, Management, and Evaluation of Information Resources
O-13	Technology and Development of Client-Server Systems
O-14	Control, Audit, and Security of Information Systems
O-15	Knowledge-based Systems and Methods
O-16	Collaborative Work, Decision Support, and Executive Support Systems
O-17	Human-Computer Interaction and Interface Design
O-18	Simulation Methods and Systems
O-19	Advanced Software and Hardware Architectures
O-20	Alternative Development Methods and Methodologies
O-21	IS Professionalism and Ethics