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INTRODUCTION: IS CURRICULUM ISSUES

Timothy Hill
San Jose State University

Laku Chidambaram
University of Oklahoma

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INTRODUCTION: IS CURRICULUM ISSUES

Tim Hill

San Jose State University

Laku Chidambaram

University of Oklahoma

The blessing and curse of any high tech-related field is, of course, its dynamic nature and IS academia, being no exception, must consequently, constantly evolve not only in terms of research, but also in curriculum. Indeed it is incumbent upon us as the suppliers of IS professionals, to relentlessly monitor and continuously adjust what we teach to ensure currency and relevance. In doing so, we maintain our contribution to the value chain that connects incoming students to the world of professional practice and at the same time, we refine our own understanding of our constantly changing field. This year's minitrack provides a forum for that critical process.

The minitrack is anchored by a presentation of the Undergraduate Information Systems Model Curriculum Update – IS 2002, jointly sponsored by AIS (Association for Information Systems), AITP (Association of Information Technology Professionals), and IFIP (International Federation for Information). This is the first revision of this collaborative model since the 1997 version and accounts for several important changes that have occurred since then.

The minitrack is rounded out, in terms of both breadth and depth, by the remaining entries. One paper broadens the discussion to graduate programs, while two others each address a specific area within IS curricula – e-Commerce and Systems Analysis and Design, seeking to ensure that what we teach is in touch with professional practice needs. Finally, we include a study that seeks to help guide the curriculum evaluation and redesign process with a methodology for determining the coverage of core capabilities for a given curriculum.

Taken as a whole then, the minitrack serves our profession in its most fundamental mission, that of teaching, by providing not only a model curriculum and examinations of several specific curricular aspects, but also an approach to curricular evaluation and assessment. The authors are to be commended for their efforts, on behalf of us all, to maintain the currency, vitality and relevancy of our discipline and we invite all interested colleagues to join us for an informative and stimulating set of sessions.