College of Southern Nevada
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Computing and Information Technology

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Date: Friday, Nov 13, 2026
Time: 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Location: Microsoft Teams

Attendees:	
Karen Ahern	Faculty, CSN
Stephanie Benoit-Kurtz	Trace3
Steve Bonilla	Wynn
Michael Connolly	CSN Faculty
Karen Coombs	CSN Faculty
Patricia Dreven	CSN Faculty
Khaled Elzayyat	Dean, CSN
Steve Ferreiro	UNLV OIT
Naser Heravi	Chair, CSN
Michael Herring	City of North Las Vegas
Jay Jackson	Faculty, CSN
Lata Koneru	CSN Faculty
Adam Lopez	CMIT Solutions
Dylan Mlynarczyk	LVVWD
Lily Morningstar	Faculty, CSN
Jose Portillo	CSN Faculty
James Pristas	Faculty, CSN
Syd Rabin	Faculty, CSN
Kevin Ragsdale	Virgin Hotels
Larry Rodis	Faculty, CSN
Lori Scheuerman	Faculty, CSN
Lina Shoshani	Faculty, CSN
Jae Simpson	Faculty, CSN
Eve Taghva	Faculty, CSN
Jesse Taylor	UNLV OIT

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Meeting Minutes:

1. **Industry Engagement and Student Employment:** CSN is always expanding employer connections through guest speaking, internships, job shadowing, and a more formal student-to-employment pipeline, while Kevin confirmed Virgin Hotels had recently hired two people and would verify whether one was from CSN.
    a. **Guest Speakers Needed!:** Karen described recent outreach involving Victor Aldana, Charles Woods, Joe Miklovic, Steve Bonilla, Dylan, and Leo, including sessions on AI-assisted career planning, cybersecurity hygiene, data-center careers.
    b. Industry participants can speak online or at CSN's North Las Vegas, Henderson, or West Charleston campuses.
    c. Karen requested practical activities such as tabletop exercises, playbooks, or demonstrations.
        i. Steve Bonilla provided a link to Iron Dice for possible tabletop for students
            1. IronDice | Cyber Crisis Simulations for Casino Executives
    d. **Hiring And Internships:** Karen said CSN tracks student hires through a SharePoint site and distributes job and internship opportunities through a Canvas board reaching more than 2,000 IT students, with the ability to target specific student groups.
        i. Kevin said Virgin Hotels hired two people that week and would check with Allison, the operations manager, to determine whether one was a CSN student.
    e. **Employment Pipeline:** Jay Jackson explained that CSN is developing a formal pipeline in which employers can identify desired student profiles and offer job shadowing, or mock interviews. Employers interested in participating were asked to contact Jay or Karen so the structure and employer expectations can be developed.
2. **Artificial Intelligence Associate Degree and Transfer Pathway:** Lina Shoshani and Naser presented a proposed 60-credit Associate of Arts in Artificial Intelligence that would build on the existing AI and machine-learning certificate and target a 2+2 transfer pathway to Nevada State University's bachelor's degree in data science.
    a. **Program Structure:** The proposed program is an Associate of Arts rather than an Associate of Applied Science because it is intended to transfer to Nevada State University. The four-semester, 60-credit plan includes introductory AI, programming, systems analysis, data analytics, machine learning, computer vision, natural language processing, Python I and II, databases and SQL, mathematics, communication, science,

humanities, and general education courses. The existing 33-credit AI and machine-learning certificate would stack into the associate degree.

   b. **Industry Skill Recommendations:** Steve Bonilla recommended emphasizing practical AI use rather than treating AI only as code generation. Suggested entry-level capabilities included exporting data from business systems, processing it with AI, producing useful outputs for business decisions, analyzing SQL and DB2 data with a data dictionary, and demonstrating safe automation. Kevin Ragsdale added practical examples from Virgin Hotels, including AI-assisted SQL work, DB2 support, log analysis, event-viewer scraping, and IT automation.
   c. **Program Support:** Lina asked whether advisory members would support the proposed program and provide letters of support. Karen and Naser agreed to send a fuller description containing program outcomes and courses, and to provide a letter template so members can review the proposal and respond without drafting letters from scratch.

3. **Industry-Specific AI And Synthetic Data Labs:** Steve Bonilla, James Pristas, Adam Lopez, explored creating a synthetic lab based on Las Vegas casino, hospitality, and business systems so students could practice collecting, processing, and analyzing realistic data with AI.
   a. **Casino And Hospitality Systems:** Steve Bonilla asked whether CSN had lab environments representing casino management, player-card, hotel-booking, or hospitality systems. Karen said the CIT department does not currently have those systems, although the slot technician program has related equipment and possible industry relationships. Steve explained that students could practice building player or guest profiles, extracting information from connected systems, and processing it with AI.
   b. **Follow-Up Collaboration:** James requested a smaller follow-up meeting to develop the concept, potentially integrating a Las Vegas industry-focused lab into the AI curriculum or offering it as a standalone lab course.
      i. Steve Bonilla offered to help obtain vendor participation, and
      ii. Adam Lopez offered experience from Hard Rock International and Golden Entertainment involving player-card data consolidation.
4. **AI-Enabled Software Development Practices:** Participants discussed teaching students to use AI as a code reviewer, debugging assistant, security checker, and maintenance tool while retaining core programming fundamentals.
   a. **Development Use Cases:** Steve Ferreiro said students should learn to use AI tools such as Claude with existing systems, including diagnosing difficult applications, patching code, identifying issues, and reviewing entire sites or repositories at an architectural level through Git integrations.

b. **Quality And Security Checks:** students should use AI to identify hidden bugs, explain broken applications, review code for security vulnerabilities and accessibility problems, and check SEO metadata before production. The intended framing was AI as a built-in code reviewer, proofreader, and security guard rather than a replacement for software fundamentals.

c. **Institutional Tool Access:** Steve said Claude is available to UNLV employees, and Lily confirmed that active UNLV students also have access. UNLV also has Gemini, while Naser said CSN and the Nevada System of Higher Education are evaluating broader enterprise access to AI tools.

5. **NEXUS Grant And AI Curriculum Expansion:** Naser and Lily Morningstar described CSN's $3 million, five-year NEXUS grant to expand AI instruction, create an open Nexus Center, train faculty, and strengthen industry pathways across CIT and other departments.
    a. **Grant Objectives:** Naser said the grant's goals are to create pathways to industry, increase AI use in existing courses, provide faculty professional development, and build a stronger CSN-to-industry pipeline. The project is intended to involve workforce development, the faculty learning center, CIT pathways, business, and other departments rather than CIT alone.
    b. **New AI Courses:** Lily said CSN is developing two cybersecurity-focused courses: an AI Security+ course informed by CompTIA and an AI ethical-hacking course that is not tied strictly to a single vendor curriculum. The grant requires development of five AI courses over five years.
        i. **Defensive Security Applications:** Steve Bonilla recommended practical defensive-AI exercises such as analyzing event logs and reports across systems, identifying indicators of compromise from known threats, correlating Microsoft 365 activity with on-premises systems, and using AI to produce incident timelines, after-action reports, summaries, and investigation-ready evidence. They noted that these skills could help organizations with different security-tool budgets and reduce the preparation burden on incident-response firms.
6. **Advisory Committees and Faculty Recruitment:**
    a. **SME Groups:** Karen said CSN will reopen sign-up forms for smaller subject-matter-expert meetings, including separate cyber/networking/administration and software/CS/AI groups. These meetings will focus on specific curriculum areas such as cybersecurity, networking, software, and AI, allowing industry members to participate in the group most relevant to their expertise:

i. **Cyber/Networking** Please fill out this form

ii. **Software/CS/AI** Please fill out this form

b. **Adjunct Opportunities:** Karen listed potential teaching needs in cloud and cloud security, AWS and Microsoft environments, Microsoft and Linux systems, information systems, databases, software development, AI/ML, cybersecurity, and networking. Interested professionals or referrals were asked to contact CSN to determine whether a suitable course is available.

c. **NEEDED NOW: Systems Analysis Course instructor:** Naser identified an immediate need for an in-person instructor for **CIT 260, Systems Analysis and Design**. The course normally meets once per week, and CSN provides a Canvas course shell, textbook, syllabus, weekly activities, and course outcomes. Interested candidates should contact Lina Shoshani for the syllabus, schedule, and teaching details.

i. **More Course info:** Catalog Search - College of Southern Nevada

7. **Advisory Board Information and Participation:** Naser and Karen asked advisory members to help update the CIT advisory webpage with optional photographs and biographies and to submit updated roles or membership information.

a. **Website Profiles:** Naser requested optional photographs, brief biographies, or links to professional information for advisory-board members so the CIT webpage can better represent the board and provide context about member expertise. Karen clarified that personal contact information would not be posted unless members specifically chose to share it.

8. **Student Events and Sponsorship Opportunities:** Upcoming student-facing events, including

a. **CyberJutsu Unplugged:** CSN plans to host CyberJutsu Unplugged with the Women's Society of Cyberjitsu on March 5 at the West Charleston Student Union. The event will include industry and student participation, food, and an activity such as a capture-the-flag exercise; speakers and participants were invited to contact Karen.

b. **VEX Robotics Event at CSN:** Naser announced VEX robotics events for middle- and high-school students. Judges are needed for event:

i. December 19, 26 and January 16, 27. and asked industry members to volunteer as judges for approximately two or three hours.

ii. If interested please send a message to rekha.subramanian@csn.edu and naser.heravi@csn.edu.

c. **SIM (Society of Information Managers) Annual Golf Tournament:** Jesse Taylor described the fourth annual SIM Nevada Chapter Scholarship Golf Tournament on **December 7 at Red Rock Country Club.**
    i. Net proceeds support workforce development and CSN scholarships, and Karen said CSN students volunteer at the event to interact with industry participants and vendors.
    ii. Sign up here to play golf: https://sim-las-vegas-golf-tournament.perfectgolfevent.com/
d. **Donations And Certifications:** Naser explained that companies can sponsor events or donate systems through CSN's departmental gift account. Funds support student events, robotics, and industry certification attempts; students who pass CSN practice exams may receive funding for certifications such as CompTIA A+, Network+, Security+, or CCNA.
    i. **Contact Naser.Heravi@csn.edu if you would like to donate.**

9. **Potential Networking Bachelor's Pathway:** Michael Connolly raised the need for a networking bachelor's pathway after observing that Nevada state networking professional and manager classifications commonly require a bachelor's degree.
    a. **State Job Requirements:** Michael said Nevada's networking career ladder includes a network professional trainee level, four IT professional levels, and four IT manager levels, with the posted professional and manager positions generally requiring a bachelor's degree or equivalent progression through state employment.
    b. **Alternative Bachelor's Models:** Naser discussed the possibility of a traditional Bachelor of Applied Science and the emerging 90-credit bachelor's model being considered within Nevada's higher-education system. No specific CSN degree decision was made.

Other Follow-up tasks:

- **Meeting Minutes:** Post the approved May 8 meeting minutes on the CIT website and resend them to the committee. Karen and Naser
- **AI Associate Degree:** Send the advisory committee a detailed description of the proposed AA in AI, including outcomes and course information, and provide a support-letter template for interested members. (Karen, Naser, Lina)
- **AI Program Feedback:** Review the proposed AA in AI materials and provide feedback or letters of support, including recommended entry-level skills and practical AI applications. (Advisory committee members)

- **Synthetic Industry Lab:** Schedule a follow-up meeting with interested faculty and industry representatives to explore a Las Vegas hospitality and casino systems lab using synthetic data, including potential vendor support and curriculum integration. (Karen, James, Lina, Naser, Adam Lopez, Steve Bonilla)
- **NEXUS Grant:** Publish and circulate the requisition for the Nexus Grant project director position when it becomes available. (Lily Morningstar)
- **AI Curriculum Development:** Incorporate industry use cases into the Nexus AI curriculum planning, including AI-assisted log analysis, threat detection, incident summaries, evidence preparation, and correlation of cloud and on-premises data. (Naser, Lily, Karen)
- **Advisory Board Profiles:** Collect optional photos, biographies, and role updates from advisory board members and update the CIT advisory board webpage. (Karen, Naser, advisory board members)

Any comments or suggestions on anything related to Computing and Information Technology courses, curriculum, etc. please contact either lawrence.rodis@csn.edu , karen.ahern@csn.edu , lori.scheuerman@csn.edu, naser.heravi@csn.edu