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2018 PAC Minutes, Game Development - Advanced Programming

Gayle Horchover

Fanshawe College of Applied Arts and Technology

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School of Information Technology

Computer Programmer Analyst
Internet Applications and Web Development
Game Development – Advanced Programming
Software and Information Systems Testing
Program Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENDA
March 27, 2018
G3001-4

- 5:00 PM – Welcome and Introduction
- 5:30 PM – Ministry Update (Bill Fallis via Skype) [Tentative]
- 6:00 PM – Program Overviews
- 6:30 PM – Question/Discussion

Next PAC Date: November 2018
Attendees:
Kim Gariepy – TD
Paul Murch – HR Downloads
Jim Edwards – Chair, School of Information Technology
Michael Feeney – Coordinator, IWD1, CPA2, GDP1
Dev Sainani – Coordinator, SST2, SST3
Gayle Horchover – Assistant to the Chair
Karen Kloibhofer – Co-op Consultant
Andrew Wing – Faculty
Mike Clarkson – Faculty
James Donoghue - Faculty
Sandra Neubauer – Coordinator

Regrets:
Yan Zhang – Echidna
Michelle Clavet – TD
Sen-Foong Lim – Libro
Scott Dart – Program Manager
Welcome:

Jim Edwards welcomed everyone and outlined the purpose of the meeting. Our team is looking for feedback on how we can improve our programs and better meet the needs of our employers.

Ministry Update with Bill Fallis via Skype

Bill Fallis is working on elements of performance for the programs and noted programs had common core outcomes.

Program Overviews

Dev Sainani outlined the Software and Information Systems Testing Program. Michael Feeney reviewed the following programs: Computer Programmer Analyst, Internet Applications and Web Development, and Game Development – Advanced Programming

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the skills you are looking for when you hire a graduate?
   - 3 years Java Programming
   - Graduate should be “teachable” in the workforce, not just technical

2. Should we add an advanced level of programming and/or C++ component?
   The student should be able to write automation testing. We should offer an advanced testing program with extended courses.

3. What software are industries using for testing, service desk, etc.?
   - Confluence
   - Jira
   - Legacy
   - HP QC
4. Do you have suggestions on how to integrate and promote our Graduate students in the London, Ontario?

- We need to fill the gap between software tester & development roles
- There are limited candidates in the London area – the talent pool is ‘shallow’
- Co-op placements need more practical experience along with more time to “get into” the work, as 16 weeks may not be enough time for the to achieve this

Noted: we need more time to teach soft skills to international students to help them become employable. Their resumes are lists of technical knowledge and too lengthy.

5. Female enrollment in the Computer Programmer Analyst program is low. Is the content valuable in that program?

It has always been an area that needs to be looked at. To help the issue Michael Feeney speaks at high schools and we participate in Girls Rock IT and Breaking the Gender Gap. We continue to look at the issue, it is not related to course content.

6. Is there a demand for Machine Learning?

Yes, if applied to data analysis. Jim mentioned cloud computing – business intelligence is coming back and they may include this as part of a 2 year program.

7. What is currently trending in the industry?

- The use of Cloud and server combination
- Cloud based, development environment
- The use of a Docker, virtual machines and a standardized virtual environment
- Java, eco angular, j query and node (all transferable)
- Webb app design – mobile first.

Recommendations:
- More practical automation tools
- Reactor Program was suggested – Jim Edwards announced ITY has currently joined
Recommendations Continued:

- Don’t provide all information on the transcripts, as the employer is looking at the courses with lower grades and this influences the outcome of the coop placement for that student
- User experience (design and provide a user experience)
- There is a need for the ability to design: gathering requirements versus developing: system architecture
- Strong understanding of project management
- Automate first
- Reusability
- Design to include accessibility by using Zoom, Jaws, and Compliance Sheriff