



Science, Engineering, and Technology

**Montgomery College Cybersecurity Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

May 6, 2022 - 3:00PM - 5:00PM Zoom meeting details: Meeting ID: 947 2624 5089 Passcode: 665275

**Present:** Muhammad Kehnemouyi, Dave Vargas, Silvia Vargas, Alla Webb, Nawal Benmouna, Eduardo Noboa, Alusine Sesay, David Hall, Michael Mehalick, Sam Visner. Joe Reddix, Sheba Shastri, Chat Aker, Vennard Wright, Michael Chung, Genevieve Gadwale, William Mapp, and Susan Cargil.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Dean Kehnemouyi welcomed all the participants and thanked the Board members for their time and participation. He mentioned that the board's feedback and recommendations help us design curriculums that are current, up to standards, and aligned with industry, the workforce and our receiving institutions.

**Cybersecurity Program Overview** – Professors Silvia and David Vargas presented an overview of the cybersecurity program and enrollment numbers.

Professor D. Vargas showed the 4-semester curriculum and discussed individual courses. He reiterated that our cybersecurity program is a 2-year program leading to an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree. Professor Silvia Vargas explained the CAE designation and the requirements. She said that our program's primary goal is to prepare students for employment. We currently have three full-time faculty and several part-time faculty and are in the process of hiring one additional full time faculty.

Both professors then asked the board members in identifying and helping our students with Internships, coop, and job opportunities.

Prof. Silvia Vargas also showed the list of schools that our Cybersecurity program has pathways and transfer articulation agreements.

Questions asked by Mr. Sam Visner include Code vulnerability scanning, vulnerability report released by DHS, and power scanning.

Professor D. Vargas response: We are using scanning tools like Nessus, Greenbone and Burp Suite for vulnerability scanning but we do not scan code as that is more appropriate in the computer science program.

Professor S. Vargas also added that although these specific vulnerability reports are not utilized in the classroom, students are exposed on the latest vulnerabilities. Examples were provided on how students were exposed in the classroom on how to address mitigation of log4j, heartblead, etc.

Mr. Visner further asked If Is there are options for students to review DHS daily published reports.

Professor D. Vargas response: No, but this is a great idea and I will integrate into NWIT 230.

Mr. Visner: Morgan state is building an exciting program and encouraged MC to consider reaching out to them.

The question was asked about the security clearance and how our program can help students get their clearance.

Professor D. Vargas explained we are advising students on what needs to be done to get their clearance in the future. Most of our faculty have clearance from DHS, military, and state departments. Also, our course content, workshops, and seminars cover these kinds of information.

Mr. Chung suggested adding the following two topics; Windows Administration and Cloud Security. He said that they deal with many contracts, and for this, students don't need to be very technical. They need to understand the compliance requirements, look at the evidence, etc., and assist clients in writing standard operating procedures. The third point is that he is interested in offering contracts to them after working 5-6 years in the industry.

Dr. Alla Webb explained that we don't have any formal alumni tracking, but after Mr. Chung's suggestion, we can start the tracking system for this.

Mr. Chung also suggested that alumni would be great mentors to current students. Mike Mehalick explained he has been in contact with alumni and can help find these students. The office of the President has a website that highlights the alumni who work in Montgomery County.

Dr. Alla Webb noted that the next program review already includes cloud security for the following year.

Professor David Vargas added that we already cover the subject of Window Administration.

Ms. Shastri asked if the cybersecurity program offers data security courses, or is it incorporated in the curriculum?

Professor Silvia Vargas answered we do not have a specific data security course, but it is incorporated in other classes such as NWIT 173, NWIT 245 and NWIT 247. Encryptions and file/folder permissions are covered, but if the Board suggests other topics, we can add those.

Mr. Visner asked if the program has an apprenticeship and how the industry could reach out to them. Professor Silvia Vargas stated that the Cybersecurity program has a process to identify top Cybersecurity students. She can collect/send students' resumes to him. To send these resumes, it would be better to identify the criteria so that students are made aware.

In addition, Professor Silvia Vargas will compile the curriculum and course descriptions and send to Mr Visner so that he can share with some of the companies that have already shown interest in our students.

Mr. Eduardo Noboa – discussed the Cybersecurity lab and shared some photos from the Lab. He also Shared examples of software used in the lab – Encase, Cellebrite, NDG and Cisco

Mr. Noboa mentioned that the students are very passionate about our cybersecurity clubs, and students competitions are a big part of our program.

VPP Margaret Latimer introduced herself and appreciated the Board's input on industry needs.

Mike Mehalick will check with MITER corporation regarding internship opportunities.

The Board members suggested the next meeting to be scheduled in 6 months.

In conclusion, Dean. Kehnemouyi thanked the board members for their time and participation