The meeting was called to order by Duane D. Lintner at 7:25am in the Badger Den at Amarillo College, a buffet breakfast was provided.

Duane brought the committees attention to the fact that most of the programs the CIS Department has are a direct result of recommendations that have come from this group. Without the CIS Advisory Committee we wouldn't have the kind of program we have today.

Since there were so many new faces, Duane had the members introduce themselves. There were a total of 29 people present.

One new innovation the CIS Department has is the Cisco Academy. Duane asked Jack Stanley, the chairman of the Electronics Program at Amarillo College to explain Cisco. Jack said at this time, they have on the West Campus and this campus (Washington Street Campus) a Certified Cisco Training Academy. Last month he met with the regional manager of Cisco Training for the whole central United States where they received a presentation of upcoming things.

One item was Cisco is going to get into UNIX software certification training that will be done in cooperation with the current Cisco Academies that are out there. Jack visited with Duane and they thought it would be a good chance for the hardware/software program to join together in a field of study to create some training. That would utilize Jack's academy in Electronics and the CIS Department and cut down the cost to Amarillo College.

Cisco is starting to expand into Web-based material where a person can get some certification. They are hoping they can send instructors to get training as soon as training is available. Jack and Duane will incorporate a curriculum in that area and expand the existing Academy in Electronics and the CIS Department. Jack said when Cisco gets an idea, it doesn't take them long to get it started and hopefully we can get things set up by Spring 2002 with some classes in that area. What nice about it is that it does lead to certification and that benefits the student. If they can get UNIX or Cisco certification we feel like that will enhance their degree and their opportunity to get employment out in the industry.
Duane said they are very excited about the opportunity of doing this and at this point they don’t have enough information to determine if it will be a certificate program or another two-year program. Hopefully it will evolve into a two-year degree program. He emphasized that if you follow Cisco, especially some of their certification programs, you realize what kind of potential this could be. It could be a rapid influx of a whole different group of people in the CIS Department.

Duane brought up the hand-out detailing the World Wide Web Software Development degree which is an exhibit of a new program we are implementing in the Fall. This is a direct result of your recommendations. The last advisory meeting we had, there were a lot of very active comments about the fact that we should get more involved with e-business and the web development in particular. Along with a lot of other comments he received through phone calls, this particular program evolved. It has some major changes of things we are doing outside of this program, for instance, under the first semester you see a course ITSC 1313 Internet/Web Page Development, that is the very basic web page course. That particular course was already in being before we instituted this program, but what we did was move that course into the major course requirements. So, all five of our A.A.S. programs and our certificate programs now require that the individual student go through that class. So they are going to get some very basic web development knowledge regardless of what program they go through.

Along with that we created four new classes as the capstone or the major emphasis for this program. You see Web Page Design I and Web Page Design II in first semester and second semester. Those two courses really teach the student web page design, Hyper-Text Mark-up Language, Perl scripting, and CGI scripting. For the most part, Web Page Design I deals with the server-side along with program execution. Web Page Design II gets more into the client-side, the scripting languages, such as Perl scripting, JAVA scripting, and active server pages, those kind of things.

We also added a course ITNW 2454 Internet/Intranet Server where they teach the individual how to configure and install an individual server and maintain HTTP software. We also added ITSE 2417 JAVA Programming which is not a generalized Java programming class but is one that is structured toward web processing, so the Java programming there is more involved in creating web applets or Java applets. What we are attempting to do is to take the student and start them out with very basic web development or web page development information, then take them all the way through the sophisticated side of this. When they walk out of here they are able to say, I have the ability to be a web developer, I can walk into a web installation and be that key person in that installation. We are excited in this program and how its evolved and it starts in Fall 2001.

Duane opened the meeting to general conversation asking them what do they see out there? What does the committee want us to do next? What do they see in the marketplace?

David Norris inquired into the availability of evening Web Design courses. Duane said all of our courses are both day time and evening courses for all these subjects. Duane said in this particular instance he is sure we will have evening classes for every one of these courses because he anticipates people coming back to pick up this particular training.

David Norris stated there is a very key element on the receiving end that there is a definite need for emphasis on communication skills such as public speaking and English composition. Just don’t let those subjects get lost in the technical side because he wants to emphasize the importance of good communication skills.
Larry Gray asked if there is going to be any graphics design courses. His sense is that it is easier to teach someone how to program a web page than it is to create a web page. Duane responded that the first two courses IMED 1416 Web Page Design I and IMED 2415 Web Page Design II has some information on graphics. We are going to delve into that area at the very lowest level with Web Page Design I and with ITSC 1313 Internet/Web Page Development that both have graphics.

Ken Crandell inquired about SQL which his company is looking into now. Duane said we have some SQL training in the advanced database course, but we could do a lot more. Duane said WebSphere is one of the more dynamic products he has ever seen. It came out on the AS/400 but you can use it on other machines.

O. J. Blankenship is inquired about the desktop computer being utilized for Windows 2000 and Linux? Duane said we already teach Windows 2000 in all of our labs and we do have several Linux courses. Of course if the Cisco program comes through, we will be teaching a lot more Linux courses.

Larry Gray inquired if the Cisco courses are currently designed as seminars or are they actually semester long classes? He said his company has been sending large numbers of people all the way to Albuquerque to get Cisco training. Jack Stanley said Amarillo College would be glad to do any Continuing Ed. type of training as long as we could fill a class of 10 people. We could do it on Saturdays or week-ends, or whatever it takes to meet industry needs. Right now, Cisco is set up in the Academy for the certificate with four classes and each class represents a 6 to 4 hour block of time. One being the Cisco-1 which is just the introduction, Cisco-2 is the router and troubleshooting of the router, and 3 & 4 get into more of the administrative and the setting up of it. We can customize that down if you have the need and be able to do that in so many hours. Right now we are trying to get another certified Cisco person on board. Once we do that we will have more flexibility in personnel to offer such training. Jack said Amarillo College would love to do this without sending your people off to Albuquerque or Dallas, whatever the case.

Jack offered for anybody to call him to set something up through Continuing Ed. and it would make it more profitable or everybody all the way around. We have other companies that need the same type of training and once we see we have a need, we could visit to build a class to set up. Jack said they did the same thing almost a year ago with A+ certification. He did a condensed version in twenty-four hours to prepare people for the A+ certification. We can do the same thing in Cisco.

Angela Lust asked if any other certifications are available?

Jack Stanley replied NT, they just geared up for NT 2000, as of January 1, 2001. He got off this summer to get certified in it. They have been doing the old NT certification preparation, but we’re using this semester to service the ones that are in the system now to get them through and complete because of the curriculum. Then in September we are going to kick off NT 2000 preparation/certification level. We have to get the personnel trained and qualified for, so hopefully by September we have that all done for Cisco and NT routers. Jack said they do a little bit in Novell but not as much.

Duane Lintner said the CIS Department will also start in the Fall to have AS/400 certification. There are 6 different AS/400 certifications available, that span different segments of the AS/400 environment.
Duane asked Dr. Fred Williams if he had any comments in closing. Dr. Williams told the group how much we appreciate them being here today. He said the Advisory Committees are the absolute backbone of our programs. If we are not doing the things you need and our graduates aren’t what you wanted among your employees then this is your opportunity to get us on the right track, so to speak. We also appreciate the fact you hire our graduates and it’s important that we get them trained and get them trained appropriately. There are other agencies that look at our placement grades and it’s critical that we get our graduates placed. Dr. Williams emphasized again we appreciate you being here today, we appreciate the service you’ve given us, and your time and your effort and we look forward to next time.

In closing Duane brought up our Project Classes. He explained the project class is a class we have during the fall and spring semester where he actually takes a student and place them into an active organization where they work for you, the individual employer. From feedback he received from both the student and the employer, he will issue them a grade. We are always scrambling to find enough potential employers. He has fifteen people in project classes so he asked the group if you have some needs to please give him a call.

Duane told the group we appreciate the people who are employees or who participate in this program because it is invaluable to the individual student who actually gets a flavor for what’s going on in the marketplace today.

Duane dismissed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Respectfully submitted,

Hazel Talley, committee meeting Scribe