



INSTRUCTIONAL FACULTY CONSORTIUM COMMITTEE (IFCC)

INDUSTRIAL SYSTEMS/MECHATRONICS MEETING MINUTES

Date: Thursday, February 16, 2023

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Central GA Tech - Macon

Meeting Facilitator: Mike Howard

Recorder: Mike Howard

Attendees: Mark Stewart-Oconee Fall Line; Chip Dixon-Augusta; Mark McCurdy-Central GA; Al Rose-Central GA; Chris Haley-North GA; Karen Abraham-Augusta; Ted Herlo-Augusta; Manford Metcalf-Columbus; Azhar Mahmood-Southern Crescent; Lemuel Mercado (Dean)-Southern Crescent; Joshua Whittington-Wiregrass; Mike Howard-TCSG

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Mark Stewart called the meeting to order at 10:05 and welcomed those attending the meeting in person and virtually through webex.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY:

TCSG Updates – Mike discussed ChatGPT and Open AI that was brought up at a recent TCSG Academic Affairs meeting. This was for instructor information and make them aware that some TCSG instructors are beginning to experience students using this technology to complete assignments. This technology can also be used to write programming code for PLCs and robots. There could be further discussion on this topic at future IFCC meetings.

TCSG/GaDOE Articulation Agreement – Mike previewed the DRAFT MOU for the statewide articulation agreement between TCSG and GaDOE Mechatronics Pathway, which has been distributed on the Industrial Systems and Mechatronics listservs. An explanation of the process in determining the courses eligible for articulation through completion of the pathway and assessment was provided. Following a brief discussion, the faculty in attendance agreed to add the following to the Assessment section of the agreement.

“TCSG instructors may choose the option of an institutionally developed assessment which the student must pass with a score of 70% or higher.”

The DRAFT MOU will be sent out to the Industrial Systems and Mechatronics listserv for each college to submit their vote. If approved, revised MOU will be sent to TCSG leadership.

IDSY Course Renumbering – Mark discussed how the current IDSY course numbers are not in a logical sequence and introduced the revised course numbers proposed during the program review process. The course renumbering would be helpful to colleges who use non-instructional personnel to advise/register students for classes. The proposed course numbers will be distributed for all instructors to review prior to the fall IFCC meeting when a vote will be planned. Mike mentioned this may require approval from Presidents Council.

Industrial Systems Program Rename – This was not on the agenda, but Mark addressed the topic in that the current name does not correctly reflect the nature of the program and hampers recruitment. With automation becoming more prevalent, even in areas such as fast-food restaurants, the employment base is much more than “industrial.” Mark encourage instructors to begin talking to their advisory committees, high school coordinators, and even current/potential students for their thoughts on the program name. Mike mentioned changing a program name is not unprecedented, but does take time and will require Presidents Council approval. Mark asked instructors to begin thinking about possible program names and this topic will be discussed further at the fall IFCC meeting.

Mechatronics Program Curriculum – This was not on the agenda, however, during the program rename discussion, it was brought up that Industrial Systems and Mechatronics curriculum are almost identical. Mike mentioned he began the process of creating a separate and distinct Mechatronics curriculum using the Mechatronics course abbreviation. Ted Herlo and Karen Abraham agreed to take a leadership role on this project.

Fall IFCC Meeting – The next IFCC Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 12 at Central GA Tech – Macon campus. This meeting will be an in-person meeting with the webex option available.

Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 Am.

Minutes Submitted By: Mike Howard