

Masters of Cybersecurity and Leadership Council Committee – Minutes

December 6, 2021

10:00am – 11:00am

Virtually via Zoom

Attendance:

Voting Faculty: Yan Bai, Bryan Goda, Zoe Barsness, Sergio Davalos

Non-Voting Staff: Rachel Long, Joel Larson, Victoria Olive

Items:

1) Review MCL admission criteria (https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/2021-01/2019-20_uwtacoma_general_catalog-final.pdf) and (<https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/set/programs/graduate/mcl>) and discuss our target demographic group and enrollment numbers

Currently, we require applicants to have 3 years of work experience. We also require students to have technical proficiency in networking and programming. Our website needs updates to reflect the requirements listed in the catalog – Yan will reach out to the SET website administrator (Rachel Long + Zaide Chavez) to make these changes to our page on the SET website. Our current demographic is students with a certain amount of technical and managerial experience. The committee worked together to reword one sentence in the catalog, which currently reads: ***“The MCL is designed for professionals with a minimum of three year’s work experience, IT managers, and military personnel with a regionally accredited bachelor’s degree.”*** After some discussion, the committee recommended editing this sentence to: ***“The MCL is designed for professionals with prior relevant professional experience, preferably at least two year’s full-time work experience.”*** This change will allow us to attract a larger pool of applicants.

The committee also discussed that the pathway that will allow us to attract potential students, who might not have as extensive of work experience that we currently require (i.e. recent MBA or newly BSIT graduates). The committee is interested in potentially having 2 cohorts in the future. Due to the shortage of instructional resources, we will continue with 1 cohort in AY 22 – 23 with a relatively large class, i.e. 40 students. The graduate advisor agreed to do some research in previous applicant pools to see which students have applied in the past and weren't accepted due to our requirements of technical experience and number of years work experience.

2) Discuss program modality (hybrid, or intensified hybridization, or fully online)

Currently, we are offering 2 courses a quarter on Saturdays, and the program as a whole is 39% hybridized. If we move to 2 separate cohorts in the future, it will be important to have 2 different delivery methods. Although we offer some courses online, it is important to note that courses held in person should be attended in person, and that those who have to attend remotely (i.e. those with visa issues) not be fully benefited from the current course design and delivery if they aren't able to participate in in-person activities/lectures. One committee member suggested doing research into other fully online or intensified hybridization cybersecurity programs to see how they are organized - This research will help us have a better understanding of what does or doesn't work. It was also suggested that offering this program fully online could help us expand to those outside of Washington state – one committee member suggested that if we were to offer this, we could require students to meet on campus (for a retreat-like meeting) at the beginning, middle, and end of the program to establish connection within the cohort.

3) Discuss course support and resources for the program, faculty, and students / Discuss fee increase request for 2022 – 2023

Last year, we didn't spend a lot of money – several software vendors didn't charge for online labs because of COVID, and we are still generating a significant surplus. However, the committee suggested to make a request for tuition increase.

The rationale for this increase is to cover the cost of program hardware and software, and will keep in line with inflation and anticipating future growth.

Motion: To approve 2% fee increase for 2022 – 2023

Moved: S. Davalos

Seconded: Z. Barnsess

Eligible to vote: 4

The committee approved the 2% fee increase for 2022 – 2023.

Joel will work on the paperwork for tuition increase request.

Closing discussions:

Although we did not cover everything on the agenda today, we will schedule future meetings for Winter and Spring quarters – expect an email with a Doodle poll from Rachel in the next day or so. Please reach out to Yan if you have any proposed agenda items or any questions.