

Networking & Cybersecurity Curriculum Updates & TRUE Grand OSA Discussion
Business and Leadership Council Meeting Minutes

CHAIRPERSON:		
MEETING DATE: February 26, 2026	MEETING TIME: 4:00 pm	MEETING LOCATION: Teams Meeting
RECORDER: Traci Nowell		PREVIOUS MEETING: October 17, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: (P = Present) Add nonmembers to bottom of table with heading "Others Present."

P	Name and Title (List all)	Business Affiliation	Email	Best contact number
	Trever Wagner, Instructor	AmTech	trever.wagner@amaisd.org	806-881-9733
	Jeff Stoughton, Instructor	AmTech	jeff.stoughton@amaisd.org	806-231-7008
	David Payne	Valero- Application Development	david.payne2@valero.com	512-201-0242
	Aaron Hayes	Valero	aaron.hayes@valero.com	
	Kyla Collier	CTO/Owner-Kamino	kyla@kaminotech.com	806-576-8709
	Tiffany LaFleur	Pantex-Enterprise Information System Security Manager	tlafleur21@actx.edu	806-679-2375
P	David Neeley	Valero Payment Services-Card Systems Manager	david.neeley@valero.com	806-324-4516
	Candace Hanna	Maxor-Director Customer Experience & IT Helpdesk	channa@maxor.com	806-290-5609
P	Rich Gagnon	City of Amarillo CIO	rich.gagnon@amarillo.gov	806-471-1516
P	Ashley Golden	Director IT - BSA and Physician Surgical Hospitals	ashley.golden@bsahs.org	806-212-8552
P	Michael Keough	Region 16- Chief Technology Officer	michael.keough@esc16.net	806-290-2061

P	Shiloh Inthirath	IT Desktop Manager- BSA and Physician Surgical Hospitals	shiloh.inthirath@bsahs.org	806-930-9870
	Ex-Officio			
P	Karen Boatman	AC CIS Chair		
P	Holly Hicks	AC Advising		
	Jordan Ramos	AC Perkins		
	Taya Mamba	AC Perkins		
	Carol Buse	AC Instructor CIS		
P	Lynne Kenney	AC Instructor CIS		
P	Joseph Melius	AC Instructor CIS		
P	Chris George	AC Instructor CIS		
P	Delane McUne	AC Instructor CIS		
	Traci Nowell	AC Administrative Assistant CIS		
P	Edie Carter	AC Dean of Stem & Academic Success		
	Frank Sobey	AC VPAA		
	Becky Burton	AC		
	Linda Munoz	AC		

Minutes	
Key Discussion Points	Discussion
Welcome & Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delane opened the meeting with introductions and welcome. • Purpose of the meeting: to present to members the curriculum changes that have been approved by AC Curriculum Committee. Implementation of changes will begin in Fall 2026.
Overview of today's Conversation	<p>Review curriculum changes that will begin Fall 2026 Introduce Certification name changes Discuss the Occupational Skills Award Get BLC approval that we are going in the right direction as we work towards adding necessary items into courses as they apply to the OSA and the type of skills that will be required for students looking towards working in data center environments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum Updates (Effective Fall 2026) Council members reviewed proposed CIS curriculum changes that will take effect in Fall 2026. New courses will be introduced, and course availability will increase to every semester to support improved student retention and timely program completion. • Certification Name Changes (Effective Fall 2026) The Council was informed of upcoming certification name updates to ensure consistency with industry standards and clearer communication to students and employers. • Occupational Skills Award (OSA) – Data Center Focus Discussion included the development of a new Occupational Skills Award (OSA) centered on data center skills. This initiative is supported by the Texas TRUE Grant and is designed to align continuing education offerings with industry-recognized certification requirements. The OSA will equip students with the specific skills needed for employment in data center environments. • Internship Program Inquiry from member A structured internship pathway was inquired about, with the goal of connecting students directly to employment opportunities. The structure emphasizes certification training and industry-relevant experience to better prepare students for the workforce. • Industry Engagement and Directional Approval Ongoing collaboration with industry partners will continue to guide curriculum updates and internship structures. The

	<p>Council was asked to provide feedback and approval that the program is moving in the right direction as courses are enhanced to incorporate the skills required for data center and related technology careers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing Efforts to Engage Data Center Operators to join our BLC and further validate and refine the OSA curriculum and credentials. AC is pursuing more direct input from data center professionals to ensure alignment with employer needs. • Positive feedback so far supports CIS is moving in the right direction on OSA.
Old Business:	
Continuing Business:	
	<p>Curriculum Overview and Changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new curriculum approved by the curriculum committee will be offered in the Fall 2026. <p>AAS course changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We replaced CPMT 2349 with ITMT 2305 to better align the course number and name with what we were teaching. • Fundamentals of Cloud is now in the major course requirements. • Removed Advanced Cloud and replaced it with Special Topics in Computer and Informational Sciences. Special Topics course will change based on industry needs over time. Fall 2026 and Spring 2027, we plan to focus on AI and documentation. Two certifications will be ITIL4 and AI900. • Removed Digital Forensics Tools and replaced it with Incident Response and Handling. EC Council Certification is available with this change. <p>Certificate changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIS IT Foundations Certificate includes: six courses for a total of 16 credit hours. We added Learning Frameworks and Unix. • Removed Cisco II because it was not applicable to the IT Foundation Certificate. • Reviewed the two tracks- CIS Network Technician & CIS Cybersecurity Technician

	<p>Certificate Title and Track Name Changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIS IT Foundations Certificate includes: Six courses for a total of 16 credit hours to meet financial aid requirements. • Two tracks available after completing Level I -IT Foundations Certificate. <p>CIS Network Technician includes: CCNA courses, Fundamentals of Cloud, Server Infrastructure class, and Special Topics.</p> <p>CIS Cybersecurity Technician includes: Intrusion Detection, Digital Forensics, Advanced Linux, Incident Response and Handling, and Security Management Practices.</p>
	<p>Internship Program and Industry Partner Collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Keough inquires about a potential internship program with a definitive pathway to full-time employment. • Delane McUne recommends working through Imelda for internship support, as she will continue to work for AC after the STEM grant ends. • Christopher George mentions that current interns have been through the program for about a year and a half and are close to graduation. With the coming changes, we will have internship opportunities throughout the year since we are going to be teaching every course every semester to ensure all students can get the courses they need to finish in a timely manner. • Michael Keough expresses interest in hiring interns with a clear pathway to full-time employment, focusing on networking and cybersecurity.
	<p>Occupational Skills Award (OSA) Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delane McUne introduces the TRUE Grant (Texas Re-Skilling and Upskilling), which aims to create an occupational skills award for data center technicians or network services specialists. • The OSA will include CompTIA A+, Server+, and Linux Essentials courses. • Michael Keough and other industry partners discuss the importance of server management and cloud architecture skills for future job requirements. • The OSA is designed to be marketable and relevant to both data center and cloud-based roles.
<p>New Business:</p>	
<p>Summary of Proposed Changes:</p>	
<p>Curriculum Decisions:</p>	

Other:	
Action Items:	<p>Action Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and recommend student candidates for internships and coordinate with Imelda Saavedra to align candidates with employer needs and timing • Contact industry partners toward the end of the semester to confirm the occupational skills award (OSA) details and present planned changes for review, and to solicit data center operator input for the OSA • Recruit or solicit referrals for our open adjunct faculty position. We need someone who can teach evening networking and cybersecurity classes (contact program if you know candidates) • Reach out to Imelda Saavedra to discuss creating a definitive internship pathway where students can intern with an employer across semesters and be trained toward potential full-time roles
Adjourn:	4:25pm

Committee Chairperson:	MEETING DATE: 02/26/26	NEXT MEETING: Fall 2026
Recorder's Signature: Traci Nowell	DATE: 03/4/26	
DEPARTMENTAL CHAIRPERSON SIGNATURE: <i>Karen Boatman</i>	DATE: 03/12/2026	
DIVISION DEAN'S SIGNATURE <i>Eddie Carter</i>	DATE: 03/12/2026	