CaRDS Board Meeting

Minutes

September 12, 2018

Present: Brian Bennett (Computing), William Duncan (Office of Sponsored Projects), Frank Hagelberg (Physics), Dana Harrison (Management and Marketing), Michele Joyner (Math), Janet Keener (Information Technology), Nicole Lewis (Statistics), Phil Pfeiffer (Computing), Melanie Richards (Media and Communication)

1. Board Membership

In August, we welcomed two new members to the board. Dana Harrison joined us from the Department of Management and Marketing, and Matthew McBee from the Department of Psychology.

2. CaRDS seminar series

So far, three talks are scheduled for this semester:

- Brian Drawert, a computer scientist from UNC-Asheville will speak about his research on modeling the progression of ALS on October 1. He will address the students of the Department of Computing, 11.30 am - 12.30 pm, and give later on that day a second, more data oriented talk in 265 Brown Hall, 4.00 – 5.00 pm.

- Jeff Pittges from the Department of Information Technology at Radford University, will visit us on October 29, together with three or four of his graduate students. The graduate students will present their current research project. Place/time: 265 Brown Hall, 4.00 – 5.00 pm.

- Shawn Bergman from the Department of Psychology of Appalachian State University will visit us on November 15. The time for this talk has been set (2.15 – 3.15 pm), the place still has to be found.

3. Support for dual-major M.S.-level programs

Phillip Pfeiffer alerted us to an issue that might discourage prospective dual-major MS students from continuing at ETSU: currently, the M.S.-level student support granted by ETSU is restricted to three years. This constraint is not compatible with the demands of some dual-major programs, such as Accounting and Computer Science. Brian Bennett and Phillip Pfeiffer turned to the ETSU Graduate Council with this issue, proposing that M.S.-level aid be extended to four years. In view of the mission of CaRDS to foster interdisciplinary research and education, CaRDS should support this proposal.

ACTION ITEM: CaRDS is to present a recommendation to support the proposal submitted by Brian Bennett and Phillip Pfeiffer, thus making it easier for our students to embark in interdisciplinary programs.

4. Future data science programs at ETSU

The Whitepaper submitted by CaRDS in July, proposing a interdisplinary minor in data science, has been sent on on Dr. Bach.

Michele Joyner informed us that ideas for a 4+1 data science curriculum are presently considered in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. The program would combine courses in mathematics/statistics with data science courses and lead to a Master degree in data sceince.

A suite of data science courses are currently designed in the Department of Computing. In this context, Phillip Pfeiffer proposed, as a further action item, that these courses be reviewed by CaRDS. The respective course proposals will soon be ready for review.

ACTION ITEM: Cards board members should review the new data science courses and pass on their comments to the Department of Computing.

5. Remarks by William Duncan on new developments of relevance to data science at ETSU

William Duncan joined the meeting at 3:30 pm and summarized various items of recent interest for CaRDS. Among these were the following:

- ETSU hired a consultant, Paul Hill, a former director of NSF-EPSCoR. He will meet with the ETSU Board of Trustees in the near future and emphasize the importance of establishing data science at ETSU.

- ETSU and Ballad Health care, the result of the recent merger between Wellmont and Mountain State Health Alliance, are in the process of negotiating a partnership. This could create substantial support for data-related initiatives on the ETSU campus .

- Edmon Begoli, chief data architect of Computational Science and Engineering Division at ORNL, with strong connections to NSF's Joint Institute for Computational Sciences (JICS), expressed interest in interacting with ETSU faculty on matters of computing and data science. He might advise us on ways to join the South Big Data Innovation Hub, led by Georgia Tech.

The meeting adjourned at 4.10 pm.

The tentative date for the next meeting is October 10.