

University of Denver Cyber Advisory Board

The University of Denver Cyber Advisory Board held its first meeting on July 30, 2021, at 2:00 pm MT. The purpose of the first meeting was to introduce board members to one another and discuss the purpose and cadence of the board. Preliminary feedback on curricula was also obtained.

Attending

Organizers and Interim Acting Co-chairs

- Mike Batty Ph.D., Director Academic Infrastructure, University of Denver, University College
- Bruce Harmon Ph.D., Professor of the Practice & Faculty Director for MS Data Science and Cybersecurity, Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science, University of Denver

Board Members

- Ike Barnes, Supervisory Special Agent, US Secret Service
- Howard Haile, VP/CISO SCL Health
- Gary Starling, CIO/CISO, University of Denver

Introductions

Advisory Board members introduced themselves, including their organizations and titles.

Opening Remarks

Mike Batty and Bruce Harmon provided an overview of the Center of Academic Excellence – Cyber Defense (CAE-CD) and the process to renew the University of Denver's CAE-CD designation.

University of Denver Profile

Bruce Harmon described the Master of Science in Cybersecurity in the Computer Science department in the Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science.

- The Master's in Cybersecurity program faculty consists of two tenure-tracked professors and two teaching professors
- The sequence of courses in the Master's program begins in the Fall term with approximately 20 students
- The program is structured such that students can complete the degree in two years. It is recommended that students go through with their cohort so as to have courses available in the optimum sequence.
- Funding sources for the program include grants and student tuition
- Students are primarily domestic; international students rarely attend the program
- Bruce presented the curriculum for this program and obtained feedback from the board members. The members agreed that the curriculum changes planned for the fall starts were consistent with changes in workforce demands of cybersecurity engineers. A more detailed treatment is planned for the October meeting.

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Mike Batty described the Master of Science in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) program with Information Systems Security and Cybersecurity Management concentrations in University College.

- The Master's in ICT with concentrations in Information Systems Security and Cybersecurity Management instructors consists of 10 Adjunct Faculty
- The sequence of courses in the Master's program makes it possible for students to earn degrees in two years
- Funding for the program comes from student tuition
- Master's program students are both domestic and international. International students are enrolled primarily in the Information Systems Security concentration with an occasional International student.
- Mike presented the curriculum for these two concentrations and obtained feedback from the board. The board is especially tuned to these cybersecurity management concentrations and were insistent that we dive into the curricula in greater detail and soon. An October meeting is planned for exactly that.

Partnerships

Bruce Harmon and Mike Batty provided the names of organizations in which they, or members of their programs, participate.

- Mountain West Cyber Fraud Task Force (MWCFTF)
- Mountain West Cybersecurity Consortium (MWCC)
- National Institute of Standards and Technology, National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NIST-NICE)

Discussion

Howard Haile said that information on DU programs is important for board members' understanding. Howard also said that establishing an advisory board charter will help members determine the board's direction and the cadence for future meetings.

Howard Haile asked if the DU Cyber Advisory Board is a sub-board of a larger DU board. Mike Batty and Bruce Harmon said that the DU Cyber Advisory Board is a standalone board.

Gary Starling said that the DU Information Technologies department hires (as interns) approximately two excellent students from the Computer Science department each year and that he is pleased with their performance. One of the recent interns left after 18 months to take a position with a government agency.

Gary Starling supported the goal to complete the board charter at the next meeting.

Ike Barnes said that he would like to take the "boogie man" out of cybersecurity to help the field become more professional and accessible.

After discussing meeting cadence and time, the board agreed to hold another meeting on August 26, 2021, at 2:00 pm MT. The purpose of the 8.26.2021 meeting is to complete the board charter and set

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the direction and cadence for future meetings. Soon thereafter, that meeting was postponed to October.

Members of the board expressed their excitement and interest in being part of the DU Cyber Advisory Board.

Action Items

- Mike Batty and Bruce Harmon will assemble a packet for board member review. The packet will include information about programs, degrees, and courses (including descriptions and outcomes).
- Mike Batty and Bruce Harmon will provide a draft charter for board member review and edits.
- Mike Batty will schedule the next board meeting for October.