



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON

College of Engineering & Computer Science

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Date: April 26, 2019

To: Dr. Susamma Barua, Dean
College of Engineering and Computer Science (ECS)

From: Chang-Hyun Jo, Coordinator
Master of Science in Software Engineering (MSE) Program (Online)

Subject: MSE Program's Response to the Dean's Recommendations

This report is in response to the Dean's Evaluation and Recommendations. It addresses the findings and recommendations given by the Dean.

Response to Findings

The Master of Science in Software Engineering (MSE) program has been successfully performing its function for the last 15 years of educating software engineering leadership. MSE's contribution to the Computer Science Department, the ECS College, the University, and wider society is high.

As the Dean and Review Team found, the MSE program has valuable strengths:

- Curriculum structure and flexibility provided to students
- Commitment and dedication of faculty members to teaching
- Responsiveness of faculty
- Strong alumni base
- Great value to students, alumni, industry, and the University.

We thank the Dean and the University for providing us with the resources that have been necessary to make this program successful. We will continue to strengthen our ability to provide adequate services to students and the community.

Response to Recommendations

The Dean recommends the following, to better prepare students and meet the current workforce needs of the industry. To enhance our service to the students and community, here are the activities we are planning:

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- **Curriculum Enhancement**
We will perform a benchmark study of comparable online software engineering programs, to figure out how to improve our curriculum. We will find out how to make our program unique, so that we can recruit students who are targeting the niche market that the online programs that are offered by big-leagues do not enter. We will also calibrate the course contents to meet the current needs in the industry. We will also revise the curriculum if we find it necessary. For some contents that may be helpful for students but hard to incorporate directly in the current curriculum, we may build supplemental and complementary contents that will be additional to the regular curriculum.
- **Enhanced Mode of Delivery**
We will find how to utilize new and advanced technologies and tools to revamp the course materials. Building and testing online materials requires much more resources than on-campus teaching materials do. We will figure out what to enhance and how to do so.
- **Enhanced Alumni Involvement**
We will find how to get more engagement and involvement from alumni, and utilize them for current student education and recruitment. We will frequently invite alumni leaders to serve on the industrial advisor board, and get feedback and ideas from their experiences. We have been active in social media, in efforts to attract many people in the field. We will continue finding ways to build strong connections between alumni and current and prospective students. We will also construct and provide some complementary contents that may be helpful to alumni, so that alumni will continue to keep in touch with us.
- **Appropriate Investment of Online Course Fee**
Many of the above activities require resources: organizational support and financial support. Recruitment activities are also very important for maintaining the current enrollment level, in the face of strong competition among online programs. To enact and perform necessary improvement activities, we will present an annual Spending Plan in order to get the necessary resources. We will try to use all resources to meet the target goals economically and effectively.