Date: April 25, 2019

To: Chang-Hyun Jo, Coordinator
        Software Engineering Program (Online)

From: Susamma Barua, Dean
        College of Engineering and Computer Science

Subject: Dean's Review of the PPR Report, Online MS in Software Engineering (MSE)

The PPR Self-Study Report, External Review Team Report and the Response from the Program Coordinator to the External Review Committee Recommendations for the online MS degree program in Software Engineering have been reviewed at the Dean's level. Here are the findings and follow up activities:

The Review Committee identified the following aspects as the Program strengths:
1. Curriculum structure and flexibility provided to students
2. Commitment and dedication of faculty members to teaching
3. Responsiveness of faculty
3. Strong alumni base
4. Great value to students, alumni, industry and the university

While the Software Engineering Program is of high quality, the recommendations given by the Review Team will allow the Program to better prepare the students and to meet the current workforce needs of the industry.

1. Curriculum Enhancement

   The Program was launched in 2004 and has undergone minor curricular updates, primarily initiated by individual faculty members. It is time for the Program to undertake a benchmark study of online software engineering programs offered by best-in-class comparable institutions and identify areas and courses that need to be incorporated and/or revamped. The Program is also encouraged to review and calibrate the currency and appropriateness of the courses that are currently offered. The Program may undertake a curricular revision based on the findings from the review.

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2. Enhanced Mode of Delivery

   Current mode of delivery includes primarily the recording of lectures and posting them online. This is essentially a replication of the lecture experience. The Program is encouraged to find new and improved experience for students by utilizing advanced technology and tools that are available.

3. Enhanced Alumni Involvement

   The Program has a solid alumni base. However, the Program has not fully engaged its alumni and tapped into the partnership potential that this alumni base can offer. The College recognizes alumni involvement as an area where more work is needed.

4. Appropriate Investment of Online Course Fee

   The Program Coordinator is required to present a "Spending Plan" to the Dean before the start of each academic year. The plan focuses on both the strategic priorities and operational needs of the program. The Dean and the Program Coordinator review and discuss the plan. The Dean allocates funds based on the "Spending Plan" review and discussion. Strategic investment including outreach, student recruitment, and faculty development must be the "Spending Plan" priorities going forward.

Overall, the recommendations provided here along with the response from the Program Coordinator establish a viable roadmap for addressing the findings of the External Review Team. The Dean's office continues to support the Program by sharing the salary and benefits towards the administrative support for the Program and by compensating the coordinator's administrative responsibilities with six WTUs release time each semester.

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