



## Geographic Information Systems Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 28, 2016, 11 a.m.– 1 p.m.  
Faculty Office 2900

**Members Present:** Adrian Youhanna, Donna-Mae Villanueva, Patricia Rendon, Jason Finley, Soheil Boroushaki, David Turcote, Ngan Mork, Jose Luis Fernandez, Mike Williams, and David Wilcox

**Guests:** Oleg Bespalov, Lyn Clark and Giselle Calubayan

### I. Welcome and Introductions

### II. Pierce College Mission Statement

1. ACCJC College Recommendation 1 for improvement – Oleg provided context. The advisory committee was given copies of the Accreditation Standards, Education Code, LACCD's Mission Statement and Core Values and the function of the community colleges. The committee was given time to review the College's Mission Statement and asked whether it reflected what Pierce offers and represents in the community. Overall, the advisory committee did not delete anything from the existing mission, however there was some input. Donna-Mae suggested adding a statement about public accountability and transparency. David Turcote (CTE counselor) also suggested adding a statement about student challenges and how Pierce meets those challenges and barrier (student equity). The committee agreed with both suggestions.

Oleg asked that all other suggestions be emailed to him or Lyn.

### III. GIS Certificate Program Overview

1. Adrian reviewed the Certificate of Achievement and the 18 unit course sequence.
2. Conversation pursued whether CSIT 501 should be officially replaced with another CSIT (programming) course, such as CSIT 575. The concern was that CSIT 501: Introduction to Computers and Their Uses may be too elementary for some GIS students. Soheil recommended a programming course, such as CSIT 575 because those are the types of skills required by the Department of Labor. He added that other certificates have some form of programming course. Jose Luis and others, however, suggested leaving the certificate as is because it represents a basic set of skills. Students who wish to opt out of CSIT 501 can be dealt with on a one-on-one basis. Such students may enroll in a different CSIT course (with the Dept Chair's approval) or a credit-by-exam may be administered.

Consensus was to leave the certificate as is for a year and collect data on whether CSIT 501 should be officially substituted.

3. Jose Luis and Donna-Mae suggested a second certificate, which would combine GIS with CSIT, CAOT, and other disciplines. New certificate would need to go through curriculum, EPC and have a viability study.
4. Soheil recommended removing ArcView from GIS/Geography 33: Intermediate GIS Applications: ArcView. ArcView is now referred to as ArcGIS for Desktop Basic. Adrian will officially submit a non-substantial change for this course through the Curriculum Committee.
5. GIS A.A. Degree (waiting approval). Patricia had print outs of current LA County job listings requiring GIS skills/minimum qualifications. One of the GIS jobs required either a certificate or an AA Degree in GIS.

#### IV. Industry Needs/Input

1. Soheil stated GIS Desktop and web programming, SQL courses, open source GIS. He suggested a course in Applications in GIS for AA Degree. Pierce will work to create a 3-unit GIS Application course OR a 1-unit course (rotating application topics each semester).
2. CSUN's 300 level and 400 level GIS course combine GIS and Adobe Illustrator. David Wilcox mentioned that he uses AutoCAD – recommended skill.
3. Chris Monreau, Senior GIS Analyst – LA County, Dept. of Regional Planning, was not present, however offered the following regarding quality cartographic design:

*“Because of the growth of GIS technology, more people are gaining access to it & therefore more people are making maps. But the cartographic quality is not keeping pace with the quantity of maps being made, particularly interactive online web mapping apps. And there’s always the question of how valid is the data being mapped. Most GIS professionals are careful to use accurate & precise data, & to present their work with high standards of cartographic design. But the concern is what non-GIS people may do with the data & technology. Many examples can be found where poorly designed static & online maps pass along bad data, thus becoming a nearly useless tool for spatial communication. So, this is something that I feel needs to be addressed both by GIS educators & working professionals.”*

4. As was discussed extensively by the advisory committee, Chris, too, emphasized the need for programming courses (Python, Javascript, &/or HTML5). *“There continues to be significant growth in the development of cloud-based, web-enabled GIS, particularly with regard to apps on mobile devices. On the flip side, Esri is designing much of its Story Map, AGOL, & AppBuilder technologies to be simple to use, often requiring little or no programming experience. Perhaps Pierce could offer a Current Trends course that covers these emerging GIS technologies, while also incorporating one or more Esri tutorials on developing a basic Story Map, AGOL project, or GIS app.”*

- V. Adrian suggested articulating GIS/Geography 33 with CSUN's immediate course. Soheil voiced his concern regarding unprepared students enrolling in their intermediate (spatial

analysis skills lacking). Adrian and Soheil agreed to meet and review their intro GIS courses.

VI. New Trends

1. ArcGIS 10.3 vs ArcGIS Pro – CSUN will be changing their courses to move to ArcGIS Pro within two years. As Chris pointed out, *“Esri is really focusing their resources in promoting & further developing ArcGIS Pro, while continuing to support ArcMap since the majority of GIS students & working professionals continue to use it. This means that Esri’s innovations are being directed more toward enhancements & bug fixes in Pro, whereas ArcMap is only receiving nominal improvements.”*

**Adrian moved that Pierce transition to ArcGIS Pro within the next two years to keep up with industry standards. The motion was approved unanimously.**

2. According to Chris Esri’s Story Maps and ArcGIS Online, cloud-based, web-enabled GIS are “hot topics.” Chris: *“Perhaps Pierce could offer a Current Trends course that covers these emerging GIS technologies, while also incorporating one or more Esri tutorials on developing a basic Story Map, AGOL project, or GIS app.”*

VII. LA Hi-Tech Grant Overview / Planning

Ngan, LA Hi-Tech coordinator, explained that the LA Hi-Tech grant is to support the development of career pathways, such as GIS, for students to transition from high school to college and into the workforce. The grant is designed to align High School and College programs within the chosen pathways and expose HS & CC students to industry professionals, employers, jobs & internships. Students will be trained with current- and industry-recognized equipment, technology and software. The Hi-Tech grant will also develop course sequence from High School to College resulting in industry-recognized training and certificates. Pierce is looking to partner with Taft HS and Birmingham HS, in addition to creating partners with industry and the LA Chamber of Commerce.

1. Ngan and David Turcote (CTE counselor) are working with GIS faculty to promote GIS outreach/marketing
2. Through this grant, GIS will engage in Work Based Learning such as:
  - Career Fair
  - Company Tour
  - Guest Speaker
  - Job Shadowing
  - Internships/Mentorship
  - Panelist Participant
  - Professional Development Workshops

VIII. GIS Day: Wednesday, November 9, 2016  
Adrian and Jason will be reaching out to potential presenters.

IX. Next Meeting: Spring/Summer 2017