# Program Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes 05-31-2016

1. Talk about the infrastructure program:
   1. Go over curriculum.

We covered the broad overview of the infrastructure program, PAC members were very impressed. We also discussed some of the certifications out there and the curriculum they have, such as comptia cloud+ and cloud essentials.

1. What jobs do you think they can get with this preparation and these certs

PAC members said that a curriculum with certs only would likely end up getting very entry level tech positions but that there would be good prospects for quick growth for good candidates.

1. What hiring partners have you heard of besides 4-it?

UDT is a potential hiring partner. They have internships but they are not advertised publicly. The NOC at UDT is constantly looking for new people.

1. Does udt have internship-to-hire program?

See above answer

1. Talk about the state of the coding program:
   1. Success stories: freelancing students and promotion

PAC members were very pleased to hear about Frank's promotion and Kiki's freelance clients

1. Success stories: heycuba and emerge hackathons

The conversation about the hackathons we hosted and participated in ran into a tangent about software as a service and complexity as a service. We shared with PAC members how companies like Auth0 are trying to bring down the complexity involved in the world of software development and we discussed the feasibility and benefits of having things like these in the curriculum.

1. Career svcs doing a good job of finding job leads.

We discussed how our career services department is doing a great job of finding job leads but we are struggling with the fact that many HR departments are not really well qualified to discern technical talent and they get somewhat myopic in terms of ignoring candidates who didn't have a specific job title in the past. Brian shared with the group that essentially the only way around this is to make relationships with the technical decision maker in order to give candidates a chance to interview and make an impression on their own.

1. Struggle with HR departments not wanting to even look at someone who hasn't had that particular job title before

The above discussion continued and Brian shared an anecdote about a developer who was very well qualified for a job but got turned down simply because of the specific flavor of SQL he had more proficiency in. Sometimes it's all about telling applicants to convey confidence about technology stacks. If you know mysql and the job requires mariadb you should say you know mariadb because they are virtually the same and the hr person doesn't know any better. Humility can send the wrong message to an HR rep who isn't well trained in technology.

1. Ideas on how to get students hired?

PAC members helped brainstorm places to work and technology stacks to use. They came up with the idea of putting students on topcoder.

1. Marketing evolution: some traction on facebook, struggling to redefine audience because what we've noticed is that the traditional coding boot camp audience really does want a quick fix not a 9 month learning track.

We discussed our latest marketing efforts and had limited feedback from the committee.

1. PHP - give feedback that students provided and probe for ways in which it could be made better. Should we drop it? Make it focus more on wordpress?

Laravel is a very big skill in the job market still. We discussed the fact that students felt like php was confusing because they get thrown into this new language right as they are finally starting to get the hang of the old language. The PAC members felt that php is still an overwhelmingly valuable skill and we should be looking to make it fit into the curriculum rather than eliminate it if students feel like their knowledge of it is limited.

1. Coding instructors seem like they might be too quick and eager to jump on the bandwagon of new technologies, any ideas on how to tame that?
2. React vs Angular, ES6 and transpilers. How can I find out what people in south fl companies are actually doing?

We had a long discussion about how we might be able to find out what companies are actually doing rather than what lecturers on youtube are saying. We discussed the transpiling craze and the extremely early adoption of es6 javascript. Developers in the know seem to believe that it's been 10 years since everyone is transpiling their code with babel and webpack and our faculty at FVI seems to suffer from this a little bit. Their knowledge is so cutting edge that they don't realize most companies don't jump on new technologies that quickly. The only way to mitigate that is to get empirical data about what companies use. Mr. Perez can offer insights about this when it comes to infrastructure sicne he's familiar with what most big companies in South Florida use. He commented that although most companies constantly talk about the cloud as an essential thing, most of them only use it for test/dev environments and they still run their production infrastructure on their old-fashioned on-premise machines. When it comes to software, it's a much more difficult thing to accomplish. We probably have to survey companies one by one.

Members in attendance:

Brian Nunez, Guillermo Perez, Fernando Martel.