ECE Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes for Apr. 19, 2013

Members AY 2012-13: Stephen Levinson (chair), Juliy Baryshnikov, Tangul Basar, Andreas Cangellaris (ex-officio), Ann Catrina Coleman, Brian Cunningham, John Dallesasse, Alejandro Dominguez-Garcia, Yih-Chun Hu, Seth Hutchinson, Erhan Kudeki (ex-officio), Gang Liu, Steven Lumetta, Jonathan Makela, Sayan Mitra, Michael Oelze, Gabriel Popescu, Maxim Raginsky, Paris Smaragdis, Rayadurgam Srikant, Nitin Vaidya, Daniel Wasserman

Attendees:
Levinson, Dallesasse, Makela, Cunningham, Lumetta, Raginsky, Smaragdis

The meeting was called to order at 11:08 AM

The minutes of 4/12/13 were approved with revisions.

As of this date there have been no comments on the faculty meeting last week at which the CompE curriculum proposal was discussed.

There was an informal discussion of grading in ECE courses.
- There is a disparity of about one half grade point between ECE190 and ECE110 with 190 more stringently graded. This raises the question of how to assign the median grade in large required courses.
- Both ECE190 and ECE110 are widely regarded by students as "weed-out" courses.
  - Overall ECE has about a 25% attrition rate some of which may be due to grading. This can have an effect on department rankings since some ranking schemes equate higher ranking with lower attrition.
  - What information should be provided to students as measures of their classroom performance? Individual class rankings? Grade histograms?
  - Recently many CS applicants were assigned to ECE in the CompE curriculum. These students then request to transfer into CS. Does grading affect this?

The next meeting on April 26 will be the final meeting of the committee this semester.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

These minutes drafted by S. E. Levinson, Apr. 19, 2013.