

## ECE Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes for October 14, 2011

**Members AY 2011-12:** Stephen Levinson (chair), Jont Allen, Tangul Basar, Stephen Bopart, Andreas Cangelaris (ex-officio), Alejandro Dominguez-Garcia, Matthew Gilbert, Yih-Chun Hu, Seth Hutchinson, Erhan Kudeki (ex-officio), Jean-Pierre Leburton, Xiuling Li, Steven Lumetta, Jonathan Makela, Sayan Mitra, Michael Oelze, Constantine Polychronopoulos, Paris Smaragdis, John Tucker, Nitin Vaidya, Martin Wong

**Attendees:** Levinson, Allen, Kudeki, Hu, Hutchinson, Oelze, Basar, Lumetta, Vaidya, Mitra, Umberto Ravaioli (guest)

The meeting of the AY 2011-12 Curriculum Committee was called to order at 10:05 AM.

The minutes of the meeting of Sept. 23 were amended.

All ECE498 requests have been processed except ECE498JD. This course has been given before and will be given again this Spring.

Material for the upcoming ABET review was prepared by E. Kudeki and distributed at this meeting.

E. Kudeki reminded the chair to contact L. Pitt of the CS department to establish some collaboration between CS and ECE regarding the CompE curriculum review.

E. Kudeki announced that there is a revision of ECE459 and 461 in preparation and will be submitted to this committee for review.

Umberto Ravaioli was a guest at the meeting and reported on the problem of student enrollment and retention related to ECE110 and ECE190. His comments were the basis of an intense discussion of several contributing issues and are summarized as follows. The main issue is how to keep enrollment and retention high without degrading the course content. In order to assess the magnitude of the problem the committee needs statistics on course-drop rates and grade distributions. S. Lumetta has some statistics available and stated that the median grade in ECE190 is lower than that of ECE110. Both courses are considered by students to be demanding and this causes significant numbers of complaints to the Dean's office from parents of students. The committee needs to know the numbers and nature of the complaints. Umberto asked whether there is anything we can do regarding methods of instruction to make the course more attractive to students. Can we introduce more programming in ECE110 and then exempt EE students from ECE190 or is there another way to alter the balance between the courses. The committee expressed some concerns about altering these two courses and expressed a general opinion that both are required. The committee will continue to analyze this problem in the context of the CompE curriculum review.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

These minutes drafted by S. E. Levinson, Oct. 14, 2011.