ECE Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes for October 21, 2011

Members AY 2011-12: Stephen Levinson (chair), Jont Allen, Tangul Basar, Stephen Bopart, Andreas Cangellaris (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, Basar, Cangellaris, Hu, Hutchinson, Leburton, Lumetta, Makela, Mitra, Smaragdis, Vaidya, Wong

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM.

The minutes of October 14 were reviewed. There were several comments. The changes will be forwarded to the chair by e-mail and the minutes revised accordingly.

The chair announced that the Curriculum Committee Wiki is now current.

There was a detailed discussion of ECE110 and ECE190 with respect to the discussion of the Oct. 14 meeting. The chair distributed the syllabus for 110 and 190. Andreas distributed detailed information about grade distributions in the two courses. There is a larger than expected number of students in both courses who get poor grades and probably do not understand the material well enough. The big question is why does this occur. There are conflicting answers the main ones of which are poor preparation and the volume of material presented in rapid succession. Should 190 actually be a two-semester course? Should 110 cover many fewer topics but include a 6-lecture segment on scientific programming? Should 190 spend time on debugging and CLI interfaces? Should there be a pre-registration course for freshmen introducing requirements for both courses? What is the nature of the complaints that the Dean's office gets about these courses?

The discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM

These minutes drafted by S. E. Levinson, Oct. 23, 2011.