

ECE Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes for October 28, 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, Basar, Cangelaris, Kudeki, Makela, Oelze, Smaragdis, Vaidya

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

The minutes of October 21 were approved.

The committee continued the discussion of revising ECE110 and 190. Rather than include additional material in either of the courses, we could require CS101 which covers MatLab, Unix and Fortran. An on-line screening process could be used to evaluate student programming skills and then placement in the appropriate course could be made. The chair will discuss this possibility with Len Pitt of CS. Another possibility is to spread the contents of both courses over several courses. ECE190 could be made into a two semester course. Whatever is decided it is essential to maintain the integrity of the introductory courses.

E. Kudeki added some information to that distributed at the last meeting. Based on a review of ICES forms it is clear that the students like ECE190 but consider it to be very demanding because of both its content and pace. They do not regard the course as an introductory programming course. The students would also prefer more but shorter MPs and more recitation time with TAs. This could be accomplished with a study club led by more advanced undergrad students and/or TAs. It is not clear how all these comments affect enrollment and retention.

The chair reminded the committee that the purpose of these discussions is to make a revision of the CompE and later the EE curricula. In order to make progress in this direction it may be useful to create a subcommittee to bring a proposal to the whole committee.

The discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 AM.

These minutes drafted by S. E. Levinson, Oct. 31, 2011. Revised Nov. 4, 2011.