

ECE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

TO: Tangu Basar, Jennifer Bernhard, Dick Blahut, Steve Boppart, Donna Brown, Seth Hutchinson, Wen-Mei Hwu, Doug Jones, Steve Levinson, Daniel Liberzon, Tom Overbye, Mary Parsons, Sanjay Patel, Narayana Rao, Dilip Sarwate, Naresh Shanbhag, Greg Timp, Bruce Wheeler

FROM: Erhan Kudeki

SUBJECT: Curriculum committee meeting minutes

DATE: November 13, 2003

Minutes of the Curriculum Committee November 13, 2003

- 1) Members present: Tangu Basar, Jennifer Bernhard, Donna Brown, Seth Hutchinson, Wen-Mei Hwu, Steve Levinson, Daniel Liberzon, Sanjay Patel, Narayana Rao, Dilip Sarwate, Greg Timp
- 2) The minutes of November 6, 2003 meeting were approved.
- 3) Seth Hutchinson gave a presentation overviewing a proposal to modify the CompE Curriculum. The proposal originates from the efforts of an ad-hoc committee appointed by Dick Blahut last year, and is being presented to the Curriculum Committee with the full support (unanimous) of the Computer Engineering area Committee. Very briefly, the proposed changes eliminate some of the overlaps in the existing core CompE courses, inject the coverage of operating systems into the former ECE 291 (now referred to as ECE 2XX) at the expense of assembly language programming which is being shifted into lower level courses, replaces the programming course CS 125 with the "bottom-to-top" "bits-to-C" computing systems course ECE 190 (formerly approved at least 8 times;-), adopt identical math requirements as the recently approved rules for EE majors, make ECE 313 a strict requirement, and modify the discrete math requirement (Math 213->CS 173).

Some of these proposed changes will have repercussions on the EE curriculum: e.g., due to the dependence of ECE 290 on ECE 190, EE students will also have to take ECE 190 instead of CS 125. Overall, the proposed changes lessen the difference between the EE and CompE curricula, and may even spark changes in the EE curriculum to further the trend: e.g., simplify the technical electives rule, re-examine the 3-out-of-5 rule, adoption of ECE 313 as a required course. Discussions of the proposal will continue next week. The overall reaction of the committee members to the proposal seemed very positive around the table.
- 6) The next meeting is planned for 3 pm Thursday, November 20, 2003 in 312 EH.