

ECE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

TO: Tanguil 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 20, 2003

- 1) Members present: Dick Blahut, Donna Brown, Seth Hutchinson, Doug Jones, Steve Levinson, Daniel Liberzon, Dilip Sarwate
- 2) The minutes of November 13, 2003 meeting were approved.
- 3) Joe Rosenblatt and Rob Ghrist joined the meeting for discussions of the curriculum committee proposal to modify the math requirements in ECE programs.

The discussions came back repeatedly to issues about the experimental math methods course, ECE 271 MM, team taught by S. Levinson, S. Carney, and R. Ghrist this semester. The visitors from math seemed uncomfortable about a course with applications drawn from a single discipline, namely EE. Nevertheless, R. Ghrist thought that the course has the potential for success if it were enriched with applications from a variety of engineering disciplines.

The issue of applications and flavors of applications (EE, versus ME, versus Chemistry, etc.) also came up with regards to Math 243 and Math 286. It was suggested that one way to accommodate various flavors of applications without generating a bureaucratic nightmare is to offer a spectrum of recitations with a variety of themes which the students are free to choose from. Joe Rosenblatt also expressed the willingness of Math Dept with to work with interested ECE faculty members to design an ECE flavored version of Math 243 --- with vector calculus applications from EM area, for instance, and even the inclusion of some material on complex variables.

It seems that Math Department finds no fundamental difficulty about going along with options 1 and 3 of the proposed revision plan (other than some comments about reshuffling of faculty and resources, as expected). On the other hand, there seemed to be some concerns/criticisms from the Math perspective about option 2 involving ECE 271 MM, due to reasons already described above.

Nonetheless, there was a general consensus amongst the committee members that ECE 271 MM experiment should continue in order to give the course the time and opportunity for growth.

- 4) The next meeting is planned for 3 pm Thursday, December 4, 2003 in 312 EH.