ECE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

TO: Tangul Basar, Donna Brown, Andreas Cangellaris, Minh Do, Seth Hutchinson, Wen-Mei Hwu, Steve Levinson, Daniel Liberzon, Tom Overbye, Sanjay Patel, Narayana Rao, Naresh Shanbhag, Gregory Timp, Nitin Vaidya, Pramod Viswanath, Bruce Wheeler

FROM: Erhan Kudeki

SUBJECT: Curriculum committee meeting minutes

DATE: November 5, 2004

Minutes of the Curriculum Committee October 29, 2004

1)   Members present: Tangul Basar, Donna Brown, Andreas Cangellaris, Minh Do, Seth Hutchinson, Steve Levinson, Nitin Vaidya, Pramod Viswanath

2)   Michael Loui and Phillip Hillmer presented their proposal on "Ethical, Social, and Professional Issues in Engineering". The proposal has three components:
     1) Each student will take one course from an approved list of courses in the area of "ethical, social, and professional issues in engineering". This course would impose an additional constraint on the student's 18 hours of SS and Humanities electives.
     2) A new 200-level 3 hr course entitled "Ethical and Social Issues in Engineering". This course would be on the approved list in item (1).
     3) All students to be required to write a 5-page reflective paper that summarizes their understanding of moral responsibilities as professional engineers.

     These proposals will be discussed in the next meeting.

3)   The future status of ECE 398MM was discussed in response to a request from the Mathematics Department that the course be made permanent in that department.
     While the committee recognizes the reasons why the Math Department wants to have a primary control over the course it still recommends a careful examination of the possible benefits of having the course cross-listed with ECE --- e.g., computer engineering students may be able to use a cross-listed course as an ECE elective rather than an "Other Elective", and, also, having the course cross-listed may be one way of ensuring a long-term cooperation between the departments regarding how the course evolves over the years. Furthermore a final decision on this matter should be delayed since:
     1) The planned third offering of ECE 398MM in Spring 2005 will allow the syllabus to be further tuned and the respective roles of ECE and Math faculty in the course better defined.
     2) The new ECE curriculum has not yet been approved, and it would be premature to attempt to finalize ECE 398MM at this time.

4)   ECE 390 proposal of Steve Lumetta, "Computer Systems Engineering" was reviewed. The following changes are requested in the proposal:
     a) Drop "; ECE 190 encouraged" in item 5,
     b) Clarify or delete "etc" in item 15a,
     c) Check "CS 423" in item 17 --- the right number?
     d) Clarify the Lab component of the course, if any.

5)   A draft version of the curriculum revision proposal to the COE was circulated.

6)   Next meeting is planned for 4 pm, Friday, November 5, 2004 in 312 EH.