

ECE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

TO: Tangu Basar, Pat Chapman, Brian Cunningham, Matthew Frank, Seth Hutchinson, Wen-Mei Hwu, Jianming Jin, Doug Jones, Steve Levinson, Chang Liu, Sean Meyn, Narayana Rao, Naresh Shanbhag, Greg Timp, Pramod Viswanath, Bruce Wheeler

FROM: Erhan Kudeki

SUBJECT: Curriculum committee meeting minutes

DATE: Nov 17, 2005

Minutes of the Curriculum Committee Meeting Nov 17, 2005

- 1) Members present: Tangu Basar, Brian Cunningham, Seth Hutchinson, Jianming Jin, Steve Levinson, Naresh Shanbhag, Greg Timp
- 2) ECE 417 proposal was approved subject to the following revision: The last line in the course outline should be replaced by "Exams 3", reducing the proposed exam hours from 6 to 3, and 3 hrs released as a result should be distributed to three different topical areas included in the outline.
- 3) A discussion regarding ABET evaluation took place. Specifically, the discussion concerned "direct" versus "indirect" assessment of ECE program outcomes a-n (see the ABET Evaluation page within the ECE Web Site for the definition of outcomes a-n) being debated in the ABET Evaluation Committee. The Curriculum Committee reached a consensus view that the ECE curricula are, by definition, the means by which outcomes a-n are being achieved, and that outcome assessments coincide in practice with the totality of curriculum assessment procedures used by the Department. These include various polls and surveys of recent graduates as well as the alumni, and student end-of-semester evaluations of existing courses (ICES forms and HKN surveys). The ECE faculty and Curriculum Committee are involved in an ongoing effort to improve the ECE curricula based on the assessment outcomes (e.g., major curriculum revisions such as those which are going through the University Senate at the present time, as well as adjustments at individual course levels such as the ECE 398GT initiative to re-align the ECE 440 requirement) as well as improving the assessment procedures being used. It was agreed that this view of the Curriculum Committee on the subject matter be brought to the attention of ABET Evaluation Committee in order to encourage the committee to focus its efforts to find practical and efficient ways of presenting the ECE curricula and its self-evaluation methods in its report to ABET.

Prof. R. Blahut was present during the meeting and expressed his views on ABET evaluation as follows: We should take advantage of the ABET process to examine and improve the programs offered by our Department; that would be consistent with the outcome ABET expects from program evaluations as acknowledged by its Board of Directors. Our participation in the process need not involve a substantial amount of extra efforts in addition to those needed to improve and strengthen our curricula.

To clarify the roles of the Curriculum and ABET Evaluation Committees, Prof. Blahut added: The role of the Curriculum Committee is to keep the ECE curriculum current and high quality for its student population through continuous evaluation and revisions. The role of the ABET Evaluation Committee is to extract and present key aspects of the ECE curricula and instructional activities in order to satisfy the ABET requirements.

- 4) The next meeting is planned for Thursday, Dec 1, 2005, 9:00 AM.

