

ECE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

TO: Tanguil Basar, Pat Chapman, Brian Cunningham, Matthew Frank, Seth Hutchinson, Wen-Mei Hwu, Kanti Jain, 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: April 7, 2006

Minutes of the Curriculum Committee Meeting April 7, 2006

- 1) Members present: Brian Cunningham, Matthew Frank, Seth Hutchinson, Kanti Jain, Steve Levinson, Sean Meyn, Naresh Shanbhag, Greg Bruce Wheeler
- 2) Notes taken by Brian Cunningham of the discussion on biology courses:
 - i) Fundamental knowledge about biology may be considered as a basic science requirement along with chemistry and physics. MCB 150 would satisfy this requirement in a similar fashion to the basic chemistry and physics courses. Adding this as a requirement to the ECE curriculum would necessitate coordination with the MCB department, because our action would result in a 20% enrollment increase for this class. Also, there is not room in the curriculum currently for an additional 3 hours of course requirement.
 - ii) Another option would be to purposefully include discussion of biological applications of electrical engineering principles in early-level ECE courses such as ECE210 and ECE329. The goal would be to inform students that such applications exist and to therefore give interested students an early opportunity to make informed choices for additional classes in junior/senior year.
 - iii) Many (or most) ECE students still find employment and careers without ever considering biology beyond the high school level. The job market for circuit engineers, computer engineers, semiconductor engineers, etc, still outpaces the growth in biology-related fields by a wide margin.
 - iv) Many good options for biology-oriented applications of ECE exist in the current curriculum, particularly at the senior and graduate student levels. Also, there is no shortage of students to populate the emerging bioengineering major and minors at the present time.
- 3) The next meeting will take place on Friday, April 21, 2006, at 10 AM in EL 159.

