

ECE Curriculum Committee Meeting

Monday, January 23rd, 2023

Attending: Arabshahi , Chen, Hussein, Hwang, Johnson, Kirschen, Makhsous, Mizell, Moritz, Overly, Rudell, Swanson, Thomas, Wilson

Agenda:

1. Course scheduling process and discussion about policies for department (Overly)
2. Prerequisite “cancellation in effect” issue (Overly)
3. CSE 163 as allowed deg. req. alternative to EE 241 (Overly)

Course scheduling process and discussion about policies for department (Overly)

Overly requested feedback from the committee on an increasingly complicated issue with assigning class times for faculty on the quarterly time schedules. With university policies restricting the percentage of their classes departments request in each time slot, when certain length classes start and end, and which days the different meeting structures departments prefer are allowed meet (the block system), time schedule coordinators are more limited in how they schedule courses than previous to the 2019 changes. Overly requested suggestions from committee members on how best to work with faculty when the restrictions of the time schedule, and the needs of the department in avoiding specific course conflicts, makes time slot requests difficult.

- Courses need to be spread out between 8:30 and 6:30, with no more than 12% of a department’s courses in one time slot, making the number of requests by faculty to teach primarily in the 10:30 – 4:30 time slots untenable.
- While committee members agreed that faculty needed to be flexible, members expressed their concerns on issues such as parking becoming more difficult, greatly increased difficulties in commuting to campus with the growth of the city and increase in traffic and commuting time needed. Safety walking long distances in the dark to parking locations of for public transit were also a concern.
- Overly proposed emailing all faculty teaching for a quarter prior to constructing the quarterly time schedules. He would ask for time when faculty were unable to teach. Two attempts will be made to receive a response, with a mention on the second email that if a response is not received by a specific date, it is assumed that there a no time constraints for that instructor.

Discussion Concluded

Prerequisite cancellation in effect issue (Overly)

Overly asked the committee to decide on a policy regarding the “cancellation in effect” option for courses registrations. The registration system allows students to register for course with prerequisites while they are currently taking the prerequisite(s) needed for that course. Example: if a student is taking EE 271 in autumn, they can register for EE 371 for the following winter quarter. If that student then fails EE 271 in autumn, the system will drop the student’s winter registration for EE 371 since the “cancellation in effect” option has been set EE 371. There are courses in the ECE curriculum with prerequisites that do not have the “cancellation in effect” option set in the university curriculum

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management system, allowing students to stay registered for a class even though they have not satisfied the prerequisite course requirements.(EE 475 is one such course.) Overly asked if the committee would prefer to have the “cancellation in effect” option set by default, and change to the option for the current undergraduate courses where the option is not currently set.

**Motion to set “cancellation in effect” for all undergraduate courses, both current and future:
Approved – Unanimous**

CSE 163 as allowed deg. req. alternative to EE 241 (Overly)

For students to be eligible to take EE 242, they must have taken either EE 241 (which can be taken concurrently) or CSE 163. An issue arises for BSECE students who have taken CSE 163 rather than EE 241 as pertains to their degree requirements. EE 241 is required as part of the BSECE core, and CSE 163 is not listed as an approved option in its place. This means that students who have taken CSE 163 are required to then also take EE 241 to satisfy the degree requirement. After discussions between the faculty Undergraduate Program Coordinator and the Undergraduate Advising Team reached a consensus that CSE 163 should be allowed as an alternative degree requirement to EE 241, the Undergraduate Advising Team requested that the ECE Curriculum Committee consider the change to allowed the CSE 163 option.

Motion to allow CSE 163 as an option to the EE 241 BSECE degree requirement: Approved – Unanimous , with Hussein abstaining