

# ECE Curriculum Committee Meeting

## Wednesday, December 7th, 2022

**Attending:** Arabshahi , Chen, Fazel, Johnson, Kirschen, Makhsous, Moritz, Overly, Rudell, Suresh, Swanson, Sykes, Wilson

### **Agenda:**

1. Writing studio discussion for pilot of course (Wilson)
2. Core Course Teaching Preference Survey (Core Courses Group)
3. Departmental Honors for BSECE Degree (Thomas/Overly)

### **Writing Studio Discussion for Pilot of Course (Wilson)**

([Slides](#))

With the committee having approved moving forward with the Writing Studio concept in its June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 meeting ([minutes](#)), Wilson returned to the proposal with an initial structure for a pilot of the course.

- [See slides](#) for proposed structure.
- The course would provide as an option to satisfy the Advanced Technical Writing degree requirement currently satisfied by taking EE 393 or ENGR 333. With ENGR 333 being strongly limited in the number of seats available, most students take EE 393. EE 393 is has not historically been reviewed favorably by the majority of students.
- Students are interested in alternative ways of satisfying the requirements.
  - ENGR 333 enrollment consists primarily of ECE students.
- Wilson proposed piloting the Writing Studio with EE 397 in the Spring
  - Writing Studio would be a 2 credit course in which students already enrolled in EE 397 could register.
    - Led by TA with strong writing skills
    - Weekly seminar
    - TA hosts weekly tutoring hours
    - See slides for further details
- Members asked about the oral component that is present in EE 393 expressing its importance in the curriculum. Wilson stated an oral component could be incorporated to the course.
- Some member expressed concern over the resources needed, wondering the course could be done well with just a single TA
- Members also expressed excitement for the concept, believing it was a great alternative to EE 393, and could be useful for a number of students.

**Course to be piloted in Spring 2023, and results reported to committee for review prior to final course proposal**

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### **Core Course Teaching Preferences Survey (Core Courses Group)**

At its November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, the ECE Curriculum Committee approved the creation of a faculty group with the responsibility of monitoring and reviewing the group of courses constituting the BSECE core. (Currently: EE 215, EE 241, EE 242, EE 271, EE 280, EE 393 and EE 398) One of the first orders of business for the Core Course Group was the scheduling of instructors for the 2023-2024 academic year. As part of the process, the group proposed sending a survey to faculty to assist in assigning those courses.

- Survey would request core course preferences from faculty to find faculty willing to teach the course, and gauge interest for each course.
- The committee entered into a discussion clarifying the purpose of the group
  - To provide greater consistency
  - To add stability to the teaching content
  - To allow for stronger review of the core courses, and improve their connection to the rest of the curriculum.
- Survey would be asking faculty for their first, second and third choices of core courses
- Survey is to be announced at the faculty meeting to inform faculty of its purpose
- Will help plan for future quarters and build up course material accordingly.

### **Committee approves of the process outlined by the Core Courses Group**

### **Departmental Honors for the BSECE Degree (Thomas/Overly)**

The BSEE degree has a departmental honors track for its students. ECE Undergraduate Advising would like to continue the program for the new BSECE degree program, but needs approval from the committee. (See BSEE departmental honors requirements [HERE](#).)

- On reviewing the GPA requirements for the current departmental honors program, many committee members expressed concern over the 3.3 cumulative GPA and 3.5 minimum EE GPA requirements to achieve honors, feeling they were too low for an award of honors.
- Arabshahi noted that the department is only allowed to control the department (EE) GPA, and the 3.3 cumulative GPA is a university-wide controlled requirement.
- The committee decided more time was needed to review the program and requirements before a decision could be made.

### **Topic tabled for further discussion**