

ECE Undergraduate Core Courses Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 22nd, 2023

Attending: Arabshahi , Chen, Hameed, Makhsous, Overly, Shepard, Swanson, Van Fossen, Wilson (Chair)

Agenda:

1. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes for Approval
2. Core Courses 2024-2025 Teaching Schedule
3. Continued Discussion of EE 201: Computer Hardware Skills

Minutes of October 25th: Approved

Minutes of November 15th: Approved

Core Courses 2024-2025 Teaching Schedule

With the teaching schedule for the 2024-2025 academic year coming due around the end of the year, Wilson presented the current assignments for the core course. Under a new method of producing the annual teaching schedule, the core courses are to be assigned before all other courses offered by the department, with the task of recruiting and assigning the courses falling to the committee chair.

- Wilson provided an update on the courses assigned.
- Majority of courses have been assigned, with a few left to be determined.
- The issue of the undergraduate seminar still needs to be resolved.
 - Colloquium will become a grad-only course.
 - EE 491 could be re-used for a different undergraduate seminar, but it will need to be defined.
- EE 398 is still without an instructor
 - Arabshahi informed the committee he has reached out to various faculty and will work on finding a faculty member to fill the assignment.

Continued Discussion of EE 201: Computer Hardware Skills

Chen presented work on revisions to EE 201, following up on previous committee discussions concerning a desire to strengthen the course.

- Chen spoke with previous instructors of the course for feedback and recommendations.
- Chen presented a revised MCD. (See MCD)
- The goal of the revision was to enable the class to be able to be run more smoothly and consistently for the rest of the year.
- A couple topics were removed or modified.
 - Removed Git material.
 - Modified material around 3D printing to us “current and up to date” software as opposed to specifying the use of Fusion 360.
- Having spoken to the current instructor, Prof. Eley, the desire is to keep the course as just lab sections and not add a lecture section to the course, which had been discussed as a possibility in previous committee discussions.

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- There is a recommendation to create a website for the class so students can easily access tutorials and information.
- Hameed and Makhsous both expressed some concern over the removal of Git material as Git is used in many courses. Arabshahi noted that Git was only covered in a minor way, mostly as a base repository, and that the information could be easily learned from numerous websites and online tutorials.
- Arabshahi express concern that there were still a number of issues with the course, such as the heavy reliance on TAs for a 1 credit course.
 - Chen stated that the current revision for the near-term offerings for the rest of the academic year to help the class work more smoothly.
 - Arabshahi stated that we would still need to revisit the course to make larger changes.
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- A discussion was started around the possibility of adding a section on oscilloscope usage. Chen and Wilson agreed to discuss the issue further outside of committee to see where in the core it might be best to fit oscilloscope material.

Motion to approve removal of Git from the course: Approved

Action Items:

- Chen to create language about course being led by a TA, but that a faculty member will check in periodically. (Accountability)
- Chen and Wilson will touch base re: oscilloscope issue.