ECE Undergraduate Core Courses Committee Meeting
Friday, May 17th, 2024

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

Agenda:
1. Discussion of EE 241 as corequisite/prerequisite for EE 242 – Continuation (Makhsous)
2. Review of revised EE 201 for approval (Chen)

Minutes of May 3rd, 2024: Approved

Discussion of EE 241 as corequisite/prerequisite for EE 242 - Continuation (Makhsous)
The committee revisited the issue of using EE 241 as a prerequisite rather than a corequisite for EE 242. Data was pulled on the grades of EE 242 students, comparing those who took EE 241 prior to EE 242 to those who took EE 241 and EE 242 concurrently.
([See Slides](#))

- Data showed students received, on average, a slightly higher grade when taking the courses concurrently.
- No current indication that changing EE 241 to a prerequisite for EE 242 would be better for students.
    - Other factors may account for the higher grades among the samples as the data does not isolate strictly for taking course concurrently or one before the other.
- Continued monitoring and examination of the data is recommended.
- Hameed noted that the EE 241/242 connection is related only to success in the labs, which are only a small portion of the grade.
    - For the data to be analyzed correctly, lab grades would need to be isolated and compared.
    - The majority of the grade for EE 242 is based on assignments and exams on the material content.
- It is important that instructors of both classes are aware that the relationship only pertains to programming skills needed for the EE 242 labs, and not material content covered in EE 242.
    - Programming content must be strictly coordinated and synchronized.

    Decision: The committee decided not to change the status of EE 241 to a full prerequisite for EE 242, and it will remain a corequisite.

Review of revised EE 201 Master Course Description for approval (Chen)
While the committee previously approved a new credit allotment and course structure for EE 201, Chen had not yet completed a final revision of the course Master Course Description (MCD). With the committee having worked during the winter quarter to review the MCDs for all ECE Core courses, review of the EE 201 MCD for approval was required to complete the reviews.
([See MCD](#))
- Chen presented the proposed MCD.
- Course is now a 2-credit course, as previously approved.

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- Course will now have an additional single 50-minute lecture each week to go over the material needed for the 3-hour lab sections for the class.
  - This will free up valuable lab time, as well as simplify the work for the TAs and TA coordination.
- Makhsous requested clarification on how students are grouped for the labs. Chen explained:
  - For the main labs, students will work in pairs.`
  - For the final project, students will work in groups of 4.
- Overly described the current time schedule (for Autumn 2024) workaround for adding the extra credit and lecture section while waiting for official approval.
- The change proposal has already been submitted into the UW proposal workflow, has been approved at the College level, and is now awaiting approval at the University level for an "effective Winter 2025" start quarter.

Motion to approve proposed EE 201 MCD: APPROVED