ECE Undergraduate Electives Committee Meeting
Friday, October 4th, 2024

Attending: Arabshahi, Dela Cruz, Gadre, Hwang, Hameed, Overly, Shepard, Swanson, Thomas

Minutes of May 12th, 2024: Pending

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Committee focus for the coming quarter, and year, and request from the Chair
3. Capstone requirements
4. Review of general program discussions that may impact elective courses in the future

See reference slides for meeting (Slides Link)

Committee focus for the coming Quarter, and Year, and request from the Chair

Committee discussed the course of action for the upcoming academic year as well as changes to the ECE degree requirements:

- Creation of streamlined process for course proposals
    - How to make the process more visible
    - How to make it easier
    - How to incentivize
- Eric vision for the committee, and request
    - Review every course for health and place in program
    - Create a strong and clear progression through the curriculum
    - Review program to ensure our students are getting the degree expected of an ECE degree
        - Industry expectations
        - Grad school expectation
        - Student expectations
- 400-level courses were discussed in terms of possible changes
    - Arabshahi introduced the idea of offering shorter/no prerequisite chains.
    - Pathways are very one-sided at this point; the department needs to find better ways to advertise other possible pathways.

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- Overly brought up the idea of offering the other 400-level courses at other times of the year; this will help other pathways to be more accessible for students.
    - Having more intro 400-level courses offered at other items of the year would give students more opportunities to take courses
- Core courses lead to the interest in pathways; core classes need to expose students to all possible pathways.
    - From the student's perspective, embedded and computing are the most accessible pathways being offered every quarter
- There is a concern that there is no incentive for faculty to teach more 400-level courses.
- ***Discussion was tabled for further discussion in the future***

Capstone requirements were discussed for degree requirements

Committee discussed removing capstone as part of elective requirements and instead have capstone be their own set of degree requirements:

- The point was raised that students are able to complete their 20 required credits of 400-level EE courses without doing EE subject matter coursework. For example, student could take the following:
    - EE 499: Undergrad Research (6 credits)
    - EE 406: Teaching Engineering (3 credits)
    - EE 492: Leadership Seminar (1 credit)
    - EE 496: Engineering Entrepreneurial Systems and Design (2 credits)
    - EE 497/498: ENGINE Capstone (8 total credits)
- Removing capstone from applying to Advanced ECE Electives would enforce more 400-level coursework as was desired when the degree was created.
- **Motion to remove capstone credit from counting as advanced ECE elective credits and be standalone degree requirement**
    - **Motion approved**

Review of general program discussions that may impact elective courses in the future

The committee discussed possibilities that could affect elective courses in the future.

- Committee discussed the possibility of adding E E233 and E E361 to the core class list

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- Gadra expressed concern that the additions mentioned may make it more difficult for the department transfer student to graduate on time

- *This issue will be reviewed further in future discussions*