ECE Curriculum Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 15ᵗʰ, 2025

Attending: Arabshahi, Bushnell, Chen, Dela Cruz, Fazel, Hauck, Kirschen, Overly, Rudell, Shepard, Swanson, Van Fossen

Absent: Huberman, Kaushansky, Majumdar, Moritz, Reyes

Minutes of Apr. 8ᵗʰ, 2025: Approved

Slides: Link

Agenda:

1. New Course Proposal EE 448: Control Systems Laboratory
2. Course Change Proposal for EE 517: Introduction to Large Language Models
3. Change of Grad Program name from EE to ECE
4. Schedule Annual Curriculum Review

Discuss New Course Proposal EE 448: Control Systems Laboratory

Professor Sam Burden presented a course proposal for a revamped version of the previously retired EE 448 to re-create the controls system lab. The goal was to provide more courses for students to explore systems/controls/robotics pathway as the previous EE 448 and 449 courses were merged into the ENGINE Capstone courses.

- Master Course Description (MCD) - Link
- There are only two courses that explore this pathway:
  - EE 347: Introduction to Robotics
  - EE 447: Control Systems Analysis
- The committee was concerned about the proposed lab sessions being 8 hours per week; two 4-hour long lab sessions.
  - Overly brought up the concern on the advising side that two 4-hour blocks for labs for students will be difficult for them to schedule around other courses
- **Professor Sam Burden will get together with Overly (Curriculum Manager) and Tyler Pipin (Instructional Lab Manager) to revise MCD to proposed lab meeting times; aim to shorten the currently proposed meeting lab times of 8 hours per week.**
  - **The committee will either vote via email or revisit during the following meeting to approve the proposal.**

ECE Curriculum Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 15th, 2025

Discuss Course Change Proposal for EE 517: Introduction to Large Language Models

Professor Banghua Zhu presented a course change proposal for EE 517 to incorporate industrial needs and an aim to modernize the curriculum. Previously, EE 517 was more focused on continuous-space statistical models, while the proposed changed version will focus on large language models.

- Master Course Description (MCD) - Link
- Presentation Slides - Link
  - See page 4 for justification
- Kirschen brought up the concern that the proposed learning topics resemble Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) too closely.
- The committee suggested revisions to highlight ECE learning topics and point the application in the justification towards ECE.
- **Professor Banghua Zhu will revise MCD to highlight ECE learning topics and present it to committee members**
  - **To be reviewed via email or in following meeting to approve proposal**

Change of Grad Program name from EE to ECE

With the department name chance to Electrical and Computer Engineering having been in place for a number of year, and the subsequent change from a BS in Electrical Engineering to a BS in Electrical and Computer Engineering implemented at the start of Autumn 2022, Lim and Overly presented the option of changing the graduate degree programs to Electrical and Computer Engineering degrees to continue the migration of the department to its new identity, and create consistency across the programs and offerings.

- Lim mentions that some graduate students already request to list their course as Electrical and Computer Engineering to encompass the computer engineering aspect of their learning.
  - Lim reviewed the process required by the Graduate School.
- Overly stated that the process was likely only a change of program names and would not be considered degree changes.
  - Need to investigate how to message students during the transition, and what the process is for students currently in the program.

- **Lim will prepare a presentation and present to the faculty for further discussion**

Schedule Annual Curriculum Review

With the need for curriculum group reviews to take place during the spring quarter meetings, Overly presented the schedule for the rest of the quarter's meetings and asked for volunteers for the April 22nd meeting.

- **Bushnell volunteered to present the review for the Controls & Robotic group for the Tuesday, April 22nd, 2025 meeting.**
- **Overly will send out sign up form to schedule review dates for each curriculum group**