

ECE Curriculum Committee Meeting

Monday, Oct 13th, 2025

Attending: Arabshahi, Burden, Bushnell, Chen, Eley, Hauck, Kirschen, Lim, Mishra, Moritz, Reyes, Rudell, Sallows, Shlizerman, Swanson, Thomas, Huberman

Absent: Dela Cruz

Agenda:

The meeting began with the approval of the October 6, 2025 meeting minutes. During this process, Rudell raised a discussion about the removal of EE 233 as a prerequisite for EE 331 in connection with Moazeni's course proposal. Hauck recommended that Rudell and Chen discuss the issue offline with Moazeni and power electronics faculty (Choi) to reach a resolution. The minutes were then approved.

Course Proposals

Arabshahi presented a slightly updated MCD by Moazeni (EE 4XX/5XX - Electronic-Photonic Integrated Systems) based on Thomas' emailed recommendations.

Motion to approve Moazeni's course proposal: Motion approved.

Burden presented proposed updates to the graduate course EE 585, which involves significant curriculum modernization with 70% of the content being revised. The plan is to retire the existing version of the course and reintroduce it under the same course number with the updated material. The changes have received consensus support from other affected departments.

Motion to approve Burden's course proposal: Motion approved.

Lim will lead submission and tracking of these proposals in the UW Curriculum Management System (Kuali).

Laptop Policy

Thomas presented the department's outdated laptop policy webpage and asked whether it was still needed and accurate, noting that the College of Engineering (COE) already maintains a dedicated page outlining technology expectations. Arabshahi mentioned that the ECE site had recently been updated, while Hauck expressed concern that the COE policy gives Macs equal

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priority to Windows, even though some ECE tools function best on Windows. He explained that while Windows systems support all instructional software, Mac users may need to install additional software to make some tools work. Rudell, who uses a Mac, inquired whether such issues could be addressed through the Linux lab. Hauck noted ongoing compatibility problems in courses like EE 271 and EE 371, particularly during the embedded lab overhaul. Mishra added that TAs and lab setups are primarily configured for Windows, though Mac users can receive individual support. Mishra further pointed out that DTC students are looking at COE policy first before being placed in majors. Sallows observed that many courses now offer alternative solutions for Mac users, and most students manage well with their Mac devices.

The committee discussed whether to maintain the ECE-specific laptop page or instead direct students to the COE site. Swanson suggested linking to the COE policy with a brief note about ECE-specific software challenges. Hauck supported this approach, recommending that the ECE page direct students to the COE guidelines while highlighting considerations unique to ECE such as use of certain software such as ModelSim and Quartus. Thomas, Eley, and Arabshahi agreed, noting that the COE FAQ already addresses Mac-related issues. Hauck reiterated that students frequently ask what laptop to buy and suggested including language advising that those uncertain should consider purchasing a Windows machine. The group reached consensus to align with the COE recommendations: advise students to follow the COE laptop specifications, recommend Windows systems for best compatibility, and direct Mac users to the COE FAQ for additional setup guidance. Rudell emphasized keeping the message welcoming and not discouraging Mac users. Arabshahi agreed to draft new policy language reflecting this position and present it at the next meeting.