Education Meeting Minutes  
Friday, October 9, 2015  
3 pm 1121 CSIC

Meeting was opened by Alan Sussman at 3 pm. He went over the agenda and started with Robotics Course.

Voting/Quorum Rules:  
According to the by-laws there must be a quorum for voting, this would mean at least half of the members who are NOT on sabbatical or leave-of absence. We did not have a quorum.

Robotics and Perception CMSC 498F - Spring 2016 (Cornelia Fermulier):  
Cornelia gave everyone an over view of that course and the content of what will be used during the course.

The students will learn to use software for vision and robotics, ROS under Linux, Learn developing Computer vision and Robotics algorithms, and learn to work with OpenCV, PointCloud, Navigation packages under ROS

The equipment used will be: Turtlebot: Roomba based platform with laptop and Kinect, Simple Grasper, and Baxter for selected projects.

The course will build modules of increasing complexity by using, Navigation: making a map and localizing the robot, Finding objects: recognition, 3D model building, manipulations of objects on the table and a final project that combines all three components.

Fundamentals of Virtual and Augmented Reality Course (Amitabh):  
Course is for UG, 30 person class, assignments groups of 2 each. Latest advances in 3D displays and rendering of 3D graphics, there will be case studies along with 4 assignments with the last assignment ongoing for a month. The case studies will involve VR in Entertainment, Augmented Navigation, Medical Education and Training, VR Manufacturing and VR for Sports training.

Space has been secured for the course, thanks to Samir and Jayanth.

Social Media Computing Class (Amiriebrahimadbadi, Sussman):  
This course will study social networks by analyzing social relation between users, contents they share and ways contents and events are propagated through such networks. This will help us to better understand the structure of the social networks and uncover the live and emerging social phenomena that will affect communities.

Good reviews last time Hadi taught this course (last spring), he will teach again.
Intro to Data Science Course:
Intro to Data Science course will be offered in the Spring, and is now listed. Will be taught by Hector.

Study Abroad for CS (Rich Gerber):
Rich introduced himself, and talked about a little bit of what he does here to do.

One of his main duties is the work with Study Abroad office concerning computer science courses and transferring the courses over for credit here at UMD. He has been looking over the courses at a few different universities and when he sees a course that looks promising he sends that description to the field committee for approval.

This year CS isn’t going to substitute any core courses for the courses from study abroad, but they count towards the two upper level elected courses.

The students will need to bring Rich a proposal to take courses for study abroad, he will share that with the field committees for approval, and if approved they can be brought in as transfer credits.

Students need to be aware of what the policy is, and this can be done with the help of the academic advisors.

Rich is gradually adding course that can be pre-approved and won’t need to have prior approval before going abroad. He will continue to go over the courses and get them approved so the list will grow.

Student Representatives - UG students weren’t aware you could get credit for study abroad, but thinks it needs to be known to the students that you can get credit for CS classes taken study abroad.

This will go into effect next year.

UG Student Advisory Board (Samir): Samir informed everyone know about the UG Student advisor Board. This board was formed after the announcement of the tuition differential was announced. The students wanted to have a voice on how things are done in CS and this was one way they would be able to come together and talk about the issues for UG in CS with the chair. The first order for the group is to come up with a process on how to bring new people into the group when people graduate.

There is another comment section that is run by the advisors, and it is confusing and there needs to be a distinction before the two groups.

Computer Engineering Program Change for Operating Systems Class (Sussman):
Issue: Computer Engineering is a joint program between ECE and CS. Similar to our increases in the number of UG students CE has also experienced increasing enrollments over the last several years. This is because, while ENG overall has limited enrollment, once a student is accepted into ENG they can choose an engineering major, including CE. CE majors are required to take the same introductory CS course as our majors and then must take CMSC 412 (Operating Systems) and one additional 400 level CS class. All of that is in addition to other required courses offered by the ECE Dept.
Proposed Change: The proposed program change is to allow CE majors to fulfill their Operation Systems requirement by taking either CMSC412 or ENEE447. The change also requires that we change the CMSC 412 course description to not allow the student to get credit for both CMSC 412 and ENEE 447. Students will also be limited to two total attempts to take both courses.

Some of the CS students are afraid to take 412 due to so many CE students being in the course, and by them having their own course then the CS students may feel more comfortable in taking the course. The CE students are really good at the content in this course so many of the CS students are intimidated to take the course, with the CE student having their own course the CS students will feel more comfortable.

Looking at the course grades the CS students do better than the CE students in the course.

Is this going to cause an issue where the class enrollment will go down? Not too worried about that and CE student will still be able to take 412 on the CS side.

Changes to CS UG Degree Requirement (Sussman):
Issue: CS degree requirements for upper level classes require that students take seven total courses at 300 or 400 level. Moreover, five of these courses must be across at least three areas with no more than two in any area with the other two courses electives that can be any 300 or 400 level course.

Two areas, information processing (numbered CMSC42X) and Theory (CMSC45X) currently have additional restrictions on which classes students can take to count toward their required upper level courses. For information processing, the requirement is that CMSC420 must be one of the maximum two, and for theory CMSC451 must be one of the maximum two. However, for several years these requirements have not been enforced for graduating students, mainly because of high enrollments in all upper level classes but also because no one has been able to articulate good reasons for those requirements.

Proposed Change: The first proposed change is to eliminate the requirement that CMSC420 must be one of the maximum two upper level courses from the information processing area that can be counted toward the five required courses from at least three areas.

The second proposed change is to eliminate the requirement that CMSC451 be one of the maximum two upper level courses from the theory area that can be counted toward the five required courses from at least three areas.

Since there wasn’t a quorum there was only discussion on this subject.

The student representatives were concerned about making this change as it may prevent them from graduating. They were assured by the UG advising staff that they would still be able to graduate.

Most faculty didn’t think any changes needed to be made and to leave the wording the way it was.

Alan adjourned the meeting at 4 pm.