AGENDA
Education Meeting
Friday, December 4, 2015

1. CMSC 412 Prerequisites (Sussman, vote)
2. Grading breakdowns for graduate courses (Foster, vote)
3. Graduate Outcomes Assessment report discussion (Foster)
4. Discussion of intro course sequence (Pop)
5. Develop new undergrad courses discussion (Foster/Sussman)

The meeting commenced at 2pm, and unfortunately, the Education committee was unable to attain quorum.

So, as result, there was a long conversation about CMSC412 prerequisites led by Alan Sussman in which he was able to explain clearly to the committee members present that CMSC412 is a course for which some students need additional preparation. Simply having taken and passed CMSC330 and 351 is not necessarily a guarantee that a student will be able to take CMSC412 and understand the material. Sussman emphasized that maturity is a component to success. He also cited (somewhat anecdotally) that students who take an additional 400-level course or two before taking CMSC412 tend to do much better in the course. There was also discussion about how the course becomes divided between Computer Science Undergraduates who often self-select into the course and Computer Engineering students who are required to take the course for graduation. The CS students are generally advised to take other 400-level courses before enrolling in 412, and the CE students may not receive the same suggestions--mostly due to schedule constraints. The requirement of an additional 400-level course will give students some of the experience to be able to handle work in GeekOS, and the ability to be self-starters (a requisite of 412). Alan also informed the committee about the ECE course that will be allowed to substitute for 412.

The committee chose to table the Graduate Outcomes Assessment Report until later.

The committee also discussed the developing changes to the introductory programming sequence. Mihai Pop is spearheading the process and informed the committee about the changes to the course and the evaluative components that he has introduced. He appeared to be very positive about this course, and praised the graduate students and undergraduate students with whom he would be working.

Foster and Sussman introduced the need for additional new courses for undergraduates to match some of the courses being offered by peer institutions. That discussion generated a few ideas, but was also eventually tabled for future meetings.

The Education Committee adjourned at 2:55pm