Department of Computer Science
Education Committee Meeting Minutes
November 6 2015
CSIC 1122
2pm

Committee members present:

Chair: Khuller
Associate Chairs: Foster, Sussman

Professors: Cleaveland, Duraiswami, Elman, Foster, Gasarch, Hicks, Hollingsworth, Katz, Porter, Mount, Reggia, Ruppin, Srinivasan, Subrahmanian,

Associate Professors: Childs, Daume III, Deshpande, Hajiaghayi, Keleher, Pop, Spring

Assistant Professors: Carpuat, Bravo, Khan, Van Horn

Instructors: Levin, Golub, Herman, Mamat,

Graduate Staff: Story

Undergraduate Staff: Kassir, Vaillancourt, Johns, Gerber

Staff: Adams, Renehan

Graduate Students: Muriello

Undergraduate Students: Bateman, Bajcsy

Agenda:

1. Change to CS Undergraduate Degree Requirements, Alan Sussman
2. Change in Computer Engineering Program (vote), Alan Sussman
3. Course proposal for CMSC703 – Network Analysis and Modeling of Biological Systems (vote) - Eytan
4. Proposal to reduce number of require PhD course from 9 to 8 (vote) – Jeff Foster
5. Discussion of Middle States GOA report – Jeff Foster
6. Discussion of reorganization of CMSC131 – Mihai Pop

Sussman called the meeting to order at 2:05pm, and the committee reached quorum at 2:10pm

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Sussman began the meeting by talking about the additional agenda items to be discussed at the December meeting. He claims that the first and third items had to be discussed, and the changes to the undergraduate degree requirements. The students have to take five courses among five different
courses in degree requirements. Sussman said that the changes would make the requirements clearer for the students, “match reality,” and make it easier for the undergraduate office to enforce the policies of the major. The two areas were the 42X courses and the 45X courses. Neither area group objected to the changes. Katz also mentioned changing CMSC452 to modernize it a bit.

The motion passed by an overwhelming majority.

Sussman then asked about the changes to Computer Engineering Major program change. The Computer Science Department has not been able to offer enough courses to take CMSC412 to allow students to graduate. Instead, the program has allowed students to take CMSC417 as a substitute. CE is worried about ABET accreditation they are going to resurrect their own Operating Systems course called ENEE 447. They plan to offer the course as an alternative to 412.

CE Students will be allowed to take either ENEE 447 or CMSC412. There was a great deal of discussion about what would be taught and how many seats they would be able to contribute.

The motion passed with three abstentions.

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Eytan Ruppin’s proposal was pushed to a later email vote which passed the following week.

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At 2:40 pm, Foster took the floor to propose the reduction of the number of courses that PhD students have to take from 9 to 8. This generated a live discussion in which current and former PhD students dissented claiming that they learned a great deal from the addition courses that they took. Others claimed that it was more important for students to progress to research and get moving into more academic settings.

The conversation regarding this meeting continued until the end of the meeting and then Mohammad Hajighayhi called for a vote.

In favor: 25

Opposed: 11

Abstentions: 6

The proposal to change the number of PhD courses passed.

The other issues to be covered were pushed to the December meeting.

Sussman adjourned the meeting at 3:02pm