Education Communication Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 16, 2020

The meeting was convened at 3:04 PM.

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 must be present. 38 people were needed to meet quorum. Quorum was met with 40 people. Quorum was met at 3:06 PM.

1. Add 472, 473, 476 into Area 2 (Information Processing): Mount presented the proposal to add CMSC 472 Introduction to Deep Learning, CMSC 473 Capstone in Machine Learning, and CMSC 476 Introduction to Robotics and Perception into Area 2 Information Processing. This proposal outline was sent via email prior to the meeting. Golub stated that adding CMSC 473 to Area 2 instead of keeping the course as an elective course is unusual. Mount reviewed the semester description in CourseLeaf and concluded additional investigation is needed for course placement.

Hajiaghayi questioned the topic of the course, and stated that any course that is introduced in the Education Committee meeting should include the course description. Mount agreed and provided an overview of CMSC472, explaining that since the course is continuously taught multiple times the course is required to be awarded a permanent course number per PCC course requirements. Ryan also provided clarification to the PCC permanent course number rule.

Levin shared his concerns about which classes are added to the CS Major Areas. Levin explains that the course addition process needs to be more bureaucratic; and that there needs to be more substantive, methodical, and informative discussions that should take place with the major area committee chairs before any class proposals are brought before the Educational Committee meetings. Levin provided an example on how CMSC 472 has coursework tailored to allow companies to have access to our students outside of a recruitment environment, and such coursework may be problematic to have in a major required course.

Mount agreed with Levin and acknowledged his and other instructor's concerns, and tabled the conversation at this meeting. Mount will discuss the placement for CMSC 472, CMSC 473 and CMSC 476 with the Area 2 committee chairs to confirm their approval.

No votes were taken on this discussion.

2. Create a permanent number and add CMSC 498X to Area 1 (Systems): B. Abhinav presented the proposal to create a permanent number for CMSC 498X Introduction to Parallel

Computing and add the course to Area 1 Systems. This proposal outline was sent via email prior to the meeting. B. Abhinav discussed the specifics of the course and Golub, Mamat, Pop, and B. Abhinav discussed the differences between CMSC 498X and CMSC 433 and the merits of having similar courses under the same major area. Several other committee members shared their concerns with having similar courses competing with each other, but other committee members explained that CMSC 414 and CMSC 417 have similar, overlapping coursework and both are offered without issue each semester.

Katz and Levin brought up their concerns about voting for course area placement without confirming that area chair committees have approved of the course being placed. Mount acknowledged their concerns, and requested the committee vote on two issues. Should the department give CMSC 498X a permanent number? And should we allow the course to be placed in Area 1?

Mount moved to vote on the first question of the proposal. This proposal will be effective immediately.

42 yes, 0 no, 0 abstained. Quorum was met and the proposal was approved.

Mount moved to vote on the second question of the proposal. This proposal will be effective with the approval of the Area 1 Committee Chairs.

34 yes, 0 no, 0 abstained. Quorum was met and the proposal was approved.

3. Permanent number for CMSC 4XX (Robotic Perception and Planning): Yiannis presented the proposal to request a permanent course number for the Robotic Perception and Planning course for the Robotics and Autonomous Systems Minor. This proposal outline was sent via email prior to the meeting. Mount explained that our joint minor in Robotics and Autonomous Systems Minor with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering was rejected because the minor has a lack of permanent courses. The committee was asked to approve a permanent number for a course that will be taught for the first time in the Spring 2022 semester. Yiannis and Mount both provided a course description for the future course, and explained how this course will be one out four courses offered as an elective course for this minor. Both Yiannis also explained that the minor will attract top high school students from the area that are interested in robotics but attend other technical institutions like MIT and Georgia Tech for their robotics program. The minor needs at least 200 students from each department to be able to offer it, and the CS Department is allowed to have more students accepted into the minor due to our enrollment size.

Plane requested a confirmation of the prerequisites, as the prerequisites in the proposal listed MATH240 and CMSC131 only. Yiannis confirmed that only students in the minor would be able to take the course, but Plane and other committee members expressed concerns that a 400-

level CS course with only MATH240 and CMSC131 as prerequisites may be too accessible to less experienced students. Ryan and Plane asked Yiannis and Mount if CMSC 330 CMSC 351 be prerequisite for the course, and require permission from the department to take?
Mount agreed and asked Ryan and Plane to continue the discussion electronically.

Mount moved to vote on the proposal. This proposal will be effective immediately.

37 yes, 0 no, 0 abstained. Quorum was met and the proposal was approved.

4. Graduate Affairs [Presentation/Discussion]: Duraiswami and Hurst presented updates for Graduate Affairs. This discussion outline was sent via email prior to the meeting. Duraiswami and Hurst discussed the graduate student intake process and survey of faculty. CS graduate admissions will be using a new system due to a security issue with the old system. The TE/SAL-based new system is being tested by Duraiswami and Hurst to make sure it functions and looks the same as the old system. Elman asked if we can keep the data from the old system? Duraiswami explained that the new platform has a separate database, and student demographic data cannot be pulled easily from the old system.

Duraiswami and Hurst also discussed changes to the admissions process for students who applied for spring admission. Duraiswami explained how the old process worked for spring admits who were CS BS/MS students or MS Computer Engineering or Electrical Engineering students working with CS faculty while applying to the CS PHD program. These students were never subjected to the same comparative admissions process as outside applicants, and this imposed a burden on graduate admissions. The new process will not allow non-BS/MS students to apply for the CS graduate program in the spring. Duraiswami answered questions regarding guaranteed support for teaching and funding for 5 years and requested CS faculty members must offer strong support for any student requesting an exception to apply for the CS PhD program in the spring semester.

No votes were taken on this discussion.

5. Undergraduate Affairs [Presentation/Discussion]: Atchison and Plane presented updates for Undergraduate Affairs. This discussion outline was sent via email prior to the meeting. Atchison discussed the Class Concerns / Incident Reporting process. The program was slowly launched this summer but went out to all students the week of October 12. The reporting tool is is for reporting instructor issues not for reporting hate bias and sexual harassment. Atchison also discussed Disability Awareness Month and UMD Accommodations Faculty Resources; and asked instructors to encourage students to complete the incoming CS survey. Atchison provided data to the Entry Survey.

- Over 60% of non-majors are in CMSC 131
- High percentage of students who passed AP CS A but are still taking CMSC 131
- 30% women in CMSC 131
- 15% Black/Latinx in CMSC 131
- Online learning in CMSC131- most reported the online learning experience was "okay" but students asked for more flexibility on attendance, having a video on in zoom, and being able to submit work late.

Plane discussed curriculum based grants in progress. The CS Department is In final round approval for the Breakthrough tech grant; the department has been asked to put in a formal proposal with Information Science. The grant may lead to a more formal process to be implemented to choose between CS and Information Science. Both departments may develop a class on career and academic options in the CS and Information Science fields. The course would be taught by the ISchool and cross-listed with CS. The grant will provide pathways to train more high school CS teachers and have a placement test for incoming students (akin to Math Department's placement exams)

No votes were taken on this discussion.

6. IMDM (Immersive Media Design) Major Updates: Eastman and Ryan provided updates for the new IMDM (Immersive Media Design) major. This discussion outline was not sent via email prior to the meeting. Eastman stated IMDM courses will start being offered in the spring, with IMDM 498A being the first course being taught. Eastman expects that the major will start receiving more questions regarding the differences between CS and IMDM and a pathways plan will need to be implemented.

No votes were taken on this discussion.

The meeting ended at 4:30 PM.