Education Committee Agenda

Fall'19 first meeting, Oct 4, 2019

1. [Mike] Change requirements -- decouple 216 and 250 so they are not co-reqs. Limit elective credits to only allow one 499A. Limit elective credits to at most 3 credits of 388/389X courses.

2. [Evan] Update https://undergrad.cs.umd.edu/computer-requirements -- we should expect students to have a laptop if they are majors. But keep in mind that more non-majors will take 131 and 132. What should we do, here? Note survey on the use of laptop carts.

3. [Ramani] Codify the informal rules for grad committees: How external members are decided/approved, and what percentage of a committee must be CS faculty. Both are informal / unwritten right now, and the result is a bit of wasted work (and frustration) for students and CS faculty. More details below.

4. [Mike] STICs taught by grad students: Any policy here? They cost a lot, so is it worth it for us to allow them to offer these courses?

5. [AP] Re-consider approach to granting permission for 400-level courses. Right now, the course permission process for all 400 level courses is as follows:
    A. Undergrad CS and CE students, grad CS students get first pick at courses at the time of registration - grad students get permission from Tom.
    B. All non-majors fill out a form to request courses and are granted permission on or around the first day of the semester. Undergrads must meet prereqs, and grad students take the course at their own risk. The undergrad office administers the stamps.

6. [Tom, Mike] Change TA allocation policy; Proposal:
    - Change to 40 students = 1 (grad, full-time) TA, for 400-700-level classes.
    - Policy stays as is for 100-300 level, and 800-level classes

7. [Mike] STIC course code listing: It would say "Special Topics in Computer Science Student Initiated Courses; *Course Name*" instead of what's there now, which is shown below

CMSC389C *(Perm Req)* Special Topics in Computer Science; Bitcoin and Other Cryptocurrencies ▸ Syllabus Repository
Credits: 1   Grading Method: Regular

Prerequisites: CMSC216 and CMSC250 with a grade of C- or better; and permission of the Computer Science Department. This course provides a comprehensive, practical introduction to the technology behind cryptocur rency and the economy surrounding it. This course will have a heavy emphasis on Bitcoin, but will dive into other types of cryptocurrency as well, such as Ethereum. This course is primarily intended to focus on the technological aspect of cryptocurrency, but we will also spend time discussing the economics of cryptocurrency.

A student-led course through Student-Initiated Courses (STICs) @ UMD: http://stics.umd.edu/ Please click here for more information.

▾ Hide Sections

| 0101 | Jonathan Katz | Seats (Total: 30, **Open: 7**, Waitlist: 0) | |
| | F 12:00pm - 12:50pm | CSI 2118 | |

There the course name doesn't make clear it's a STIC, but rather explains it after. What we are requesting is how BSCI has it, e.g.,

BSCI238A   Special Topics in Biology Student Initiated Courses; Ornithology
Credits: 1   Grading Method: Regular

8. [Dave Mount] Discussion of teaching evaluation strategy. Student evaluations are suspect: https://www.asanet.org/press-center/press-releases/reconsidering-student-evaluations-teaching Peer evaluations should be better/helpful. What should we do? Why should we care? We need a more rigorous process than we have right now. For example: Potentially what we need are two teams - one for coaches to act as resource, the other the evaluators.

9. [Pete, Mike] Can we schedule classes in IRB conference rooms? What should be the policy be? When we were in AVW we would sometimes have grad seminars, or one-day-per-week classes in AVW 4172 or AVW 3258. We controlled those rooms so it was up to CS. Have things changed in IRB?

Grad committee requirements proposal

Background: There were two issues to which some of our senior faculty complained about.

i) Perceived committee packing: Where the majority of the committee was involved in the research (e.g., two advisors and a research scientist/junior mentor at a company where the student worked)

ii) Too many non UMD CS members.

In these cases, the Grad Chair worked with the student and the committee chair, and anonymously conveyed the feedback. This lead to a reconstituted committee (usually by adding an extra local member). The current rules make this clear to students:

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Dissertation Committee. Once your advisor is satisfied with your dissertation, you and your advisor must set up a dissertation committee. The purpose of this committee is to give you an oral examination called the dissertation defense.

The dissertation committee must consist of at least five members, including your advisor. All must be regular, adjunct, or special members of the UMCP Graduate Faculty. At least three must be Regular Members of the Graduate Faculty, and at least two must be regular members of the CS faculty (i.e. non-affiliate members). One committee member, the Dean's Representative, must be a *tenured* Regular Member of the Graduate Faculty from a department other than Computer Science. (Unless your dissertation chair is an affiliate faculty member, in which case the Dean's Representative may be from Computer Science.) All regular (tenure-track and above) professors in the Computer Science Department are Regular Members of the Graduate Faculty.

One or more members of the committee may be distinguished scholars from other institutions or appointed as research faculty on this campus; these members fall under the category of "Special Members", and you should check with the Computer Science Graduate Office about the procedures to be followed. Requests for external commitee members (those from outside UMD or who are not members of the graduate faculty) should include a brief justification, a list of other members of the commitee, and the proposed external commitee member's CV. Requests should be made at least *two weeks* before the scheduling form is due. Currently the grad school asks to receive the scheduling form at least six weeks in advance of the exam. For further information about nominating faculty for dissertation committeesand due dates for the nomination form, see the Graduate Faculty Policy.

Some other considerations:

- At most one faculty member may attend the exam via videoconference. The Dean's representative or Chair of the Committee must be physically present. Permission for remote participation must be received from the graduate school before the exam.
- The majority of the committee should be unaffiliated with the research in the thesis. You may add an extra member to the committee to achieve this balance.
- The dissertation must be sent to the committee at least 10 working days in advance of the defense. The committee may also request more time at its discretion.
- Your preliminary oral exam and dissertation defense must be publicly announced five working days in advance of the exam. So be sure to submit your scheduling form early! Exams/defenses without a public announcement far enough in advance may not be accepted.

To request creation of the dissertation committee, you should fill out the dissertation committee nomination form with the help of your advisor, have your advisor sign it, and submit the completed form to the Computer Science Graduate Office. You must do this by about the third week of the semester in which you expect to complete the requirements for your degree. Each semester, the deadline for filing the committee nomination is published by the Graduate School; the Grad Office will send a reminder. If you do not complete the degree in the semester in which you file the committee nomination, it will remain on file in the Graduate School and you are not required to re-submit the form.

Laptop requirements

Laptop carts:
CMSC131: Evan and Fawzi use them
CMSC132: Larry and Fawzi use them
CMSC216: Larry uses them

Survey (of instructors):
"I think all CS majors should be required to have a laptop" polled instructors. The results were:

    Strongly Disagree: 1
                0
                0
    Neutral: 1
                2
                2
    Strongly Agree: 3