



**Department of Computer
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December 7, 2007

Prof. David Andereck
Chair, MPS Curriculum Committee

Dear Prof. Andereck:

The Undergraduate Studies Committee of the CSE Department, which I chair, discussed at several of its recent meetings, some possible changes, following the recently approved changes in the GEC component of all BS and BA programs in MPS/ASC, in the BS-CIS and BA-CIS programs. All of our faculty as well as student representatives were part of these discussions. The process we followed in arriving at these changes is described on page 2 of the attachment. Our faculty approved the changes unanimously at its meeting of Nov. 19, 2007. As you recall, the changes were presented to the MPS CC at its meeting of December 5. The feedback from the committee has been incorporated into the attached document. In particular, we have prepared a table (see page 6) which shows how a student can complete the program in four years; one of the committee members wished to see such a table.

We considered two sets of changes for the BS-CIS program, these being changes in the GEC component of the program following the recently approved GEC revisions, and in the technical portion of the program. The reason for the changes in the technical portion of the program are to make the program comparable to our BS-CSE degree. Currently, the BS-CIS program is somewhat weaker since students in this program are not required to take a *capstone design course* which students in the BS-CSE program are required to take. This makes BS-CIS students rather less attractive than BS-CSE students to employers since the capstone design course provides considerable practical experience in building large computing applications and also develops such important skills as team-working and communication abilities. Further, BS-CIS students are not required to take CSE 601, the one credit course on Social and Ethical Issues in Computing, which BS-CSE students are required to take. We feel this is a weakness, given the importance of such matters as privacy issues and copyright protection. In the proposed revision, BS-CIS students would be required to take both of these. In terms of the total number of hours in the program, the net result of the GEC changes and the changes in the technical portion of the program is that the the minimum number of credit hours for BS-CIS degree will be reduced from 191 hours currently to 181 hours under the revised program.

In the case of the BA-CIS program, the main changes are in the GEC component. The GEC hours are somewhat reduced while providing some added flexibility. This would reduce the program size from a total minimum of 191 credit hours to a minimum of 181 hours. In addition, we propose adding CSE 601 (the one credit course on Social and Ethical Issues in Computing) to the *core* portion of the program and reducing the number of elective hours correspondingly by one hour.

The details of the proposed changes appear in the attachment. We hope this proposal is acceptable to the MPS CC and request you to forward it to the ASC CCI. If you have any questions or comments,

please email me.

Thank you and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Neelam Soundarajan
Chair, Undergrad Studies Committee, CSE Dept.

cc: Prof. Bruce Weide, Assoc. Chair, CSE Dept.

Attachment: Detailed proposal.