3 December 2015

Professor Meg Daly

Chair, Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

Re: Approval of Revision to the CIS-BS Program

Dear Meg,

On Thursday 22 October, Prof. Neelam Soundarajan, the chair of the Undergrad Studies Committee in the Department of Computer Sciences & Engineering, presented a revision of the Bachelor in Computer & Information Science (CIS-BS) program to the the Natural and Mathematical Sciences panel.

The key reason for the revision was to reintroduce “Technical electives (TEs)” to the BS program, a component of the program that was introduced under quarters, but not under the semester version of the program. TEs are groupings of electives in particular areas, to help the students to build up a program involving a certain expertise (e.g., Computer Graphics and Game Design and Database systems and Data analytics). These TEs will appear on the transcript. TEs also simplify advising. The panel thought that the electives were well thought out, but did ask questions about the scope and availability of the non-CSE courses presented as part of the TEs.

Two supplementary revisions to the program include:

1. Based on student feedback, ECE 2000 (Introduction to the theory and practice of combinational and clocked sequential networks; 4 cr) will be replaced by ECE 2060 (Introduction to Digital Logic); 3 cr).
2. Phil 1338 (Computing Ethics and Effective Presentation; 4 cr)can be taken instead of both Phil 1337 (Ethics and the Professions: Introduction to Engineering Ethics; 3 cr) and CSE 2501 (Social, Ethical, and Professional Issues in Computing; 1 cr) – Phil 1337 and Phil 1338 are both in the GE Culture and Ideas category (Phil 1338 includes the presentations skills also taught in CSE 2501).

At that time the proposal was unanimously approved by the panel with two recommendations that came about during discussion:

1. To update program description to make clear where GE courses are, especially with regard to the Natural Science - Biological Science GE course.
2. To prepare a new assessment plan with a new curriculum map before major assessment in the Spring 2016 (We do not see this being a problem due to the department’s requirement to be accredited by ABET.)

A revised version of the proposal, addressing point 1, was received on Thursday 23 October.

Sincerely,



Peter F. Craigmile

Chair, ASCC NMS Panel