

Department of Computer Science
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
Meeting Minutes 9/9/2020 11:00 AM

Present: Ann Tyson (UCC chair, voting member), David Gaitros, Sharanya Jayaraman, Melina Myers (voting member), David Whalley, Jiawei Zhang (voting member), Zhenghao Zhang (voting member)

Location: Zoom meeting

Discussion and Voting

The committee discussed the proposed revisions to the UCC Charter and Organization document. A few further agreed-upon revisions were made to the document during the meeting, and then the document was voted on. The vote was unanimous to accept the new document. The UCC chair will now discuss this with CS chair Xiuwen Liu, as the next step in the approval process must be a CS faculty vote.

David G. and several others discussed the situation that the PC member is non-voting. We noted that this was decided at some prior point and is part of the current CS Bylaws. Several committee members spoke in support of the PC member being able to vote on the CS UCC in future, but note that the Bylaws would have to change to do so.

Melina brought up the idea that computer fluency courses should be permanently moved to teaching all online only. Fluency is currently all online on both campuses due to the Covid-19 situation. This was discussed and a vote taken. The vote was unanimous to move that fluency courses be taught all online, on both campuses. David G. noted that this will involve distance learning fees being discussed by administration, and how they would be handled. UCC Chair will bring this up to Xiuwen.

Regarding the B.S. in CS program: there was a discussion of whether or not majors in this program need to take the "2-4 science for majors" courses shown on the current flowchart. The committee agreed these were not needed in the program, as there are already significant science course requirements. Since this may involve ABET requirements as well, UCC Chair will bring this up with Xiuwen.

Regarding the B.S. in CS program, Dave W. brought up the idea we may want to change the requirements for Discrete Math courses. Currently the requirement is Discrete I and Discrete II, taught by the Math department. A committee agreement was reached that we should explore the idea of having these majors take only one Discrete Math course, have it named something like Discrete Structures, and have it be taught by CS faculty instead of Math. It was agreed that there are many faculty in CS who are qualified to teach such a course. This is an item for future discussion.

Sharanya proposed a new course in Python and is working on a syllabus for it. This would be a follow up to CGS 3465 (which used to be numbered COP 3035). It would be intended for both nonmajors and majors. David G. noted that they do not have a faculty member on the PC campus to teach such a course. Sharanya will work up the syllabus and we will discuss this at a future UCC meeting.

The committee noted that in general the CS web site is out of date in terms of CS course descriptions. We agreed that perhaps the CS Webmaster could be involved in updating.

Meeting ended approximately 12:05 pm.