

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee 2014 – 2015 Minutes

2014, October 3, Committee Meeting

Present: Sudhir Aggarwal, David Gaitros, Chris Lacher, Randolph Langley

Absent: Bob Myers, Melina Vastola

The committee discussed the proposal by Chris Lacher to offer a course tentatively entitled “Top 10 Algorithms” as a new elective offering at the 400 level. The course has been previously taught as a CIS 4930 course. See the new course proposal information attached. The committee discussed various aspects of the course and unanimously voted in favor of approving this request for a new course. The course will be an elective course and will potentially be offered both as a regular course as well as a distance learning course. The following are additional aspects of the course as approved by the committee.

- Designated "Project" course - meaning a project or paper may be used in place of a final exam, as long as in-term exams account for 40% of grade. This was passed by the department a couple of years ago as available for elective courses.
- Pre-requisite: COP 4530 (Data Structures).
- Suitable for BA and CE students, as well as BS students. Does not have significant overlap with COP4531. A few topics are in common, but the emphasis on theory in 4531 and on applications and impact in this class makes a small overlap acceptable. Also, the fact that algorithms can be looked at here without as much mathematical rigor means we can go much wider, as in Google, Metropolis, and others that even our BS students don't have the background to study from a theory perspective.

The committee also discussed potential revision of the discrete math sequence. For example, a possibility is to make this a single semester course, retaining much of what is of interest to Computer Science but perhaps eliminating other aspects. A second course could possibly include primarily material in Linear Algebra. It was decided that a department subcommittee should be appointed to look into this issue as it could have fairly broad ramifications.