Department of Computer Science
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
Meeting Minutes 10/7/2020 11:00 AM

Present: Xiuwen Liu (CS Dept Chair), 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

Re ongoing item: should fluency courses be modified to be all online delivery, both campuses; we had recently discussed this at a CS faculty meeting; this needs further investigation at department admin level including how to manage distance learning fees; at faculty meeting there was general agreement that if all online, a small section could be offered, taught by a TA, which would be in-person and could satisfy users such as Student Athlete Support. Xiuwen said the faculty who normally teach these courses should likely meet with him to discuss this further at a future point.

Re ongoing item: discussion that the "2-4 science for majors" requirement on current BS/CS flowchart be removed; this was approved by department earlier, however after talking with Lauren Higbee she said this could not be removed yet as there are approvals still needed at the Dean's office level, and those need to be looked into by CS Chair and whomever has replaced Lois Hawkes. It was brought up that this had already been changed in Bulletin. Xiuwen said he would talk to Lauren about this.

Re ongoing item: changing the Discrete Math I and II requirement into a single course Discrete Structures requirement: we discussed this at CS faculty meeting and there was general support for considering this. Xiuwen has met with Mio Washington in Math; latest from Xiuwen is that CS also needs to talk with Alec Kercheval in Math, this discussion will likely include Michael Mascagni; also Xiuwen suggested that someone (AFT suggested perhaps Michael) come up with a syllabus for the proposed new course. Xiuwen said that Math currently does not see a need for changes. Xiuwen also said that this proposed change would not affect department ABET requirements. Committee agreed that there would need to be at least 3 faculty available to teach a new discrete structures course.

Re ongoing item: noting that CS web site course descriptions are out of date; solution agreed on with CS advisors was to put a link from the CS web site to the FSU Bulletin for course descriptions, because the FSU Bulletin is nearly always up to date and it does not make sense to have duplicate data on 2 different sites. Concern was expressed that students will find this easy to use and also that if a course is revised in between FSU Bulletin updates, that there should be a way for students to know about it.

New item: Python course proposal from Sharanya; more advanced follow up to CGS 3465. Sharanya presented a proposed syllabus. Course number likely COP 4XXX. Pre-reqs likely to be any 3XXX programming I course. There was also discussion that this should have a crosslist of a 5XXX course so grad students on non-CS majors could feasibly take it. Sharanya will follow up with creating a new course request.

New item: how can the intro Python course, CGS 3465, be scaled up in the event that enrollment of

nonmajors becomes very high, e.g. ~500 students? There was generally agreement that this could be difficult, because a programming course by nature requires a lot of student help, which is typically in the form of office hours and recitation meetings. This is not like fluency courses for that reason so would be harder to scale than fluency. Generally we thought it would be possible but challenging, and could involve ideas like utilizing large numbers of TAs and/or mentors and/or autograding. There was also concern expressed about the number of honor code violations that might arise in a very large class in programming. It was pointed out that some nonmajors, e.g. in engineering, who currently take COP 3014, might want to take CGS 3465 instead if that was possible for them. That would likely require revision of CGS 3465 however as it has always been taught as geared for all majors, not just STEM majors.

New item: how would Python course(s) fit into the proposed Data Science MS program? It was generally thought that a new 4XXX course could be a good feeder into the Data Science program. It was also thought that the CGS 3465 course even be helpful in encouraging students to pursue data science.

<u>Final Notes</u>

No votes were held at this meeting
Meeting ended approximately 12:10 pm
Prepared by: AF Tyson 10/6/2020