

School of Engineering and Technology
CE Committee Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2021
Virtual Zoom
12:20 pm – 1:20 pm

Attendees: Emese Hadnagy, Lorne Arnold, Jeffrey Walters, Angela Kitali

Non-voting members: Raj Katti, Kira King, David Ross, Beth Jeffrey, Joel Baker, Andrew Fry, Gabi Crosby,

Absent:

Minutes:

1. Update on CE position searches

The faculty search for Assistant Teaching Professor (non-tenure track) is now live, the ad is up and running. So far, we have received 8 applications. The priority application review is December 17, 2021. The position has no closing date, will stay open until filled.

In the meantime, we will also start a new search for a lab manager for the CE program. Joel Larson has submitted the ad proposal for approval. Once approved, we can move forward and post the ad for this other key position for our program.

2. Proposed CE Curriculum Changes

We are recommending some changes to the lab courses, because we are getting four labs in the new Milgard building. We are proposing to move the hydraulics and hydrology lab to that course instead of fluid mechanics, and the reason for that is that students will have more in depth knowledge of the topics that can be covered in that lab. So instead of having a fluid mechanics and then a hydraulic engineering lab, which is not typical in BS civil engineering programs, this would make things more efficient. We also would like to add a lab to environmental engineering, however, at the moment we have unconfirmed funds for that lab. We will add this lab once we have funds confirmed. We will add this in our plan but not in the curriculum at this time. At the moment, we have three labs in the course grid and this satisfies ABET requirements.

The new course that will be required is TCE 304 (Civil Engineering Systems-3cr) in the first quarter in the junior year. The main reason why we want to include a course like this is because we only have two years to make an impact on our students' experiences and this course is designed to capture their attention and make them curious about various civil engineering sub-fields right at the beginning. The addition of this new course made it necessary to move TCE 305 CAD for Civil Engers (VLPA) to a later quarter, which is not a problem as this course can be taken any time prior to senior design 2.

A new essential elective is TCE 436 (Foundation Design-4cr); adding this course to the curriculum is vital for senior design. This will result in the creation of a new Geotechnical Eng elective specialization that will replace the Construction Eng elective specialization. However, construction engineering is still represented in the curriculum in several required courses.

Course prerequisites: TCE 307 Construction Engineering – admission to CE program. David suggested to remove the prerequisites from the admission requirements and make it major requirements because of the high number of transfer students who face long processing times as their courses get transferred in to UWT. This way transfer students would not have any issues registering for classes in the first quarter. All the junior and senior level required courses should be major restricted anyway because they're only going to be available for students that are admitted into the major. It's important when TCE 488 (Senior Project I) is offered because students should have completed the vast majority of core classes in the junior years, so they can be useful in the Senior Project I course. CE faculty will come up with a set of foundational courses to add as prerequisites to Senior Project I. David also suggested not to add an elective course as a prerequisite to TCE 488.