

CES/EE Committee – Minutes

February 17, 2022

CP 303 / Zoom

Attendance

Voting Faculty: Max Laddomada, Orlando Baiocchi, Vahid Dargahi, Debasis Dawn, Thillainathan Logenthiran, Michael McCourt, Jie Sheng, Nafiul Siddique, Matthew Tolentino

Non-Voting Faculty and Staff: Hossein Pedram, Bob Landowski, Don McLane Rachel Long, Beth Jeffrey, Kira King, David Ross, Noelle Wilson

Items

1) Approve the minutes of our last meeting held on January 13, 2022

Moved: M. McCourt

Seconded: O. Baiocchi

Eligible to vote: 9

9 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain

2) Remove TEE 463 Systems Science & Engineering from the list of elective courses for our B.S. EE

This course was developed for EE many years ago when these topics were more necessary for computer engineering *and* systems. This course is an elective, and is more of a science class than an engineering class. As the Chair has been preparing for the ABET review to make sure everything is in order, he noticed that this course hasn't been offered in some time, and there are currently no instructors who are able to teach it.

Motion: To remove TEE 463 Systems Science & Engineering from the list of elective courses for B.S. EE

Moved: V. Dargahi

Seconded: M. Tolentino

Eligible to vote: 9

8 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstain

3) Remove TCES 491 Digital Signal Processing from the list of elective courses for our B.S. CES and replace it with TEE 453 DSP we already have for EE students

This course hasn't been offered in about 4-5 years. Since there is already a developed Digital Signal Processing course developed in the EE degree, it could be helpful to clean up the CES curriculum by replacing TCES 491 with TEE 453.

Motion: To remove TCES 491 from the list of elective courses for our B.S. CES and replace it with TEE 453.

Moved: J. Sheng

Seconded: O. Baiocchi

Eligible to vote: 9

9 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain

4) ABET is planning to update criteria 5 and 6 based on open comments received

<https://www.abet.org/accreditation/accreditation-criteria/accreditation-changes/>

These changes will not impact our upcoming accreditation this fall, but will impact all future accreditation. The first change is with Criteria 5, where they have added extra requirements for a program, including a "professional education component that is consistent with the institution's mission and the program educational objectives, and promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion awareness for career success." This means that there has to be a professional education component that promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) awareness for students in our curriculum. Since this criteria is for any engineering degree (such as Mechanical and Civil), it might be a good idea for us to speak with the Chair for SET's DEI council (Heather Dillon) about different ways we can meet this criterion. It is important that we make our students aware of these issues for their future careers, and we need to interpret as a committee what ABET means with this statement, and come up with a solution to satisfy this new requirement. One of the advisors mentioned that they are on the tri campus task force to

review the diversity requirements for UW, and recommended developing a course that students could take where they can learn the various elements of DEI in a few different, lower credit courses so they can have a lighter course load over a few quarters. This is something that the committee would like to add to the agenda in future meetings.

The second update from ABET is in Criteria 6, where they have added a new statement: “the program faculty must demonstrate awareness and abilities appropriate to providing an equitable and inclusive environment for its students, and knowledge of appropriate institutional policies on DEI.” It would also be helpful to set up a meeting with the DEI council to provide some guidance on how to meet this new requirement. If we could find/create a DEI focused workshop, that would be a great way to show ABET that our faculty have participated in something to meet their new requirement.

5) ABET

a. Assessment plan for winter 2022

The Chair shared the assessment plan, which was shared with the committee last quarter. This committee will be assessing outcomes for TCES 312, TCES 372, TEE 431, TCES 460, and TCES 481. The committee was reminded that they will need to provide assessment data at the end of this quarter. All of our assessment data will be discussed in early June.

b. Data collection on Google shared drive

There are still missing items from Autumn quarter – as a reminder, everyone needs to upload sample course work and exams, including the best, intermediate, and worst grades (just 3 samples total). If you teach a class for both EE and CE students, the sample course work has to be separate (meaning 3 samples from EE students, 3 from CE students).

6) Update on open assistant professor position

The committee will conduct Zoom interviews for finalists soon. The Chair reminded the committee that it’s important for everyone to attend since they will be faculty in CE. Interviews will start next week/towards the end of February.

7) SET Research Showcase

Everyone should have received an email with information on how to upload a research project. If you are currently working on any research (either independent or with students) please consider

participating in this showcase. If your project is approved, you will create a poster (cost of printing covered by SET) and present in the showcase. This will help students, community members, other faculty in other departments, etc. to learn more about what research is happening within SET. The deadline to submit is March 11th. Students are also encouraged to participate. The date of the Research Showcase is April 22nd.

8) Increase class cap to 45

The administration wants to increase the cap of the courses to 45. There has been a long discussion about this in CS, and many CS faculty seem to be against it. However, the other engineering programs like Civil and Mechanical are planning to increase their cap. As a reminder, the cap we proposed in the past was 40 for EE and 40 for CE. Some committee members mentioned that even if we accept more students, it doesn't guarantee that they will be successful in the major. Another potential issue is that we currently don't have classrooms large enough to accommodate this increase in students per class. This is something this committee needs to discuss further in future meetings, since this change could create stress for faculty.

9) Updates from the advisors

The committee was introduced to our new advisor, Noelle Wilson. Noelle's main focus will be on recruiting and advising our prospective students – over the past 2 weeks, she has been making connections with the Committee Chairs in each degree and attending several SET open houses at local community colleges, alongside the other SET undergraduate advisors.

The application for CES/EE opened last week, and we have received 7 applications so far. It's important to remember that a lot of students wait to apply after receiving their winter quarter grades.

10) Updates from the Faculty Council

The council met in January and discussed details of the budget and space allocation issues. This discussion will continue in next week's meeting.