

Minutes of the meeting (CSE Teaching Committee Meeting 14/1) of the **COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING TEACHING COMMITTEE** held at 1:00pm on **Friday, 14 February 2014**, in Room 103 (HoS Meeting Room), Computer Science Building.

The meeting was moved from Room 103 to Room 501-M (Level 5 meeting room) because of the noise from the building works in J17.

Present

Prof J Xue
AProfs R Buckland, M Pagnucco, F Rabhi
Drs A Blair, B Gaeta, H Guo, E Martin, M Ryan, J Shepherd
Messrs S Harris, B Lorge

Absent with Apologies Prof A Sowmya**In Attendance**

Drs K Engelhardt, S Venugopal
Mr B Hall
Miss C Nock
Prof S Parameswaran

Present / Quorum: 12 / 6
Attendance Rate: 17 / 18

1 APOLOGIES AND WELCOME

Apologies from Sowmya. Fethi Rabhi had to leave at 2:15pm. Cassandra Nock had to leave at 1:45pm. Richard Buckland arrived at 2:00pm and Sri Parameswaran at 2:30pm.

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of CSE TC 9 held on 29 November 2013 were confirmed and signed.

3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

There was some further discussion on the Computer Science Honours proposal, particularly the 18UOC thesis requirement, with Maurice noting that it had been discussed at the previous Faculty Standing Committee meeting where that committee had made some suggestions for how to proceed. It appears that the Faculty has no objections to the proposal, and have it scheduled to pass at the next Standing Committee meeting. Sowmya may need to do some work (persuasion) to get it through the Undergraduate Studies Committee of the Academic Board.

4 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

Two working groups out of four have made recommendations.

Jingling now chairs the working group formerly chaired by Manuel, with the first meeting supposed to take place not before session starts.

Fethi: It would be better to move quickly and implement the general recommendations. We know what are the key changes we need to do and there is real need to go through a second round.

Alan: Because of accreditation in 2016, changes should be made in 2015 or 2017.

Malcolm: COMP1400 should be a separate course with html5, javascript and not so daunting languages, and focus more on meaningful tasks for students doing architecture, etc.

Kai: Manuel's group has already done *some* work

14/1/1. Action required by AProf. Maurice Pagnucco

Prioritise the recommendations in the Teaching Practices report and allocate implementation to appropriate academic staff.

14/1/2. Action required by AProf. Maurice Pagnucco

Allocate staff to implement the recommendations (mostly course revisions) of the Service Teaching working group

14/1/3. Action required by Dr. Manuel Chakravarty

Pass material collected by Manuel on to Jingling to take into consideration during meetings of the Core Curriculum working group

5 ELITE STUDENT PROGRAM

There was some discussion around the Elite Student Program document table in the Agenda, with general agreement that the proposal was satisfactory.

Alan: all variations to enrolment must be consistent with students satisfying accreditation requirements (e.g. can't substitute the Ethics course).

Conclusion:

- devise a standard procedure for students to apply for enrolment variations under the scheme
- maintain an on-line record of previously approved variations
- students initially contact CSE Office with variation proposals
- if variation already in on-line record, then CSE Office can record and approve the variation
- if previously unseen variation, refer to program director for a ruling
- if approved by the program director, add to the on-line variations record

14/1/4. Action required by Miss. Cassandra Nock

Modify the document to reflect the above procedure and implement an online record-keeping system to support it.

6 ADVANCED MASTERS DEGREE

Eric Martin points out that when it comes to an Advanced master degree, it is often said we had one before: it was the former MIT (1 year), with MCIT (2 years) playing the role of a retraining degree. But students would often transfer from MIT to MCIT, as MIT was essentially the second year of MCIT. (The current MIT combined both degrees into one, making it flexible enough to "mimic" both.) MIT has essentially the same specialisations as our Bachelor of computer science, with each specialisation consisting of the same set of advanced courses. This says that we have a pool of courses that we put together in slightly different ways in the second half the Master degree or in the second half of the Bachelor degree. Essentially, we have been creating Bachelor degrees, retraining Masters or Advanced Masters with the same pool of advanced courses, which is a questionable approach. A genuine (advanced) Master degree would have to consist of courses most of which could not be taken in the first three years of study at University. When our students go on an exchange program, we can only be struck by the fact that they can chose many very specialised courses for which what we have to propose as an equivalent is only a rather generic course. Putting together a genuinely advanced Master degree requires offering more specialised courses, courses that go deep into a subject whereas most of our courses go more for breadth. One way to achieve this aim would be to expect every academic to design some course material based on his or her own research. Academics could team up in pairs, and offer such a course once a year, maybe even less, which would still be enough for students to have enough courses to choose from, all the more so that we already have a few suitable courses, such as COMP4121 Advanced & Parallel Algorithms, COMP6741 Parameterized and Exact Computation, COMP9242 Advanced Operating Systems. Of course the availability of the new courses would also be of great value to our PhD students. It is clear that it would take time for the new degree to build up its reputation, but over time it would certainly be attractive to both local and international students looking for increased expertise at the frontier of our field.

Alan: The students who would best most interested and capable are our undergrads, hence these courses should be made available to them, and it is not clear whether there would be enough demand for this degree to be viable.

Bruno: Such courses often have the structure of a seminar, and are not as demanding in terms of preparation as our foundation courses.

Bruno: courses should typically be of the "Topics in <<Some Area>>" variety, to allow for flexibility in precisely what is delivered.

Maurice: We should probably not go for a Masters but experiment on a smaller scale, e.g. start with a Certificate.

Maurice: Would this fit in with a scheme like EET's BE/ME program?

Maurice: could some courses be industry-relevant and/or offered in compressed mode (e.g. 2-week intensive short-course)

14/1/5. Action required by Dr. Eric Martin

Prepare a document to explain the justification for the new program (much of which is above) and how it might be implemented.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. MATH1081 enrolments seem to have filled, and this is precluding some of our students from enrolling in a core course during this semester; do we have any leverage to request Maths to increase the enrolments?
2. Students do not think there are enough CSE course offerings in summer semester (currently only COMP1927 on a regular basis); student reps should liaise with the student body to find out what courses would be most in demand for a summer offering and the school should consider offering at least some of them.
3. Brad tabled a list of courses and their relationships to our programs, to identify critical courses (those offered in all programs) and to identify programs that might be missing out on some courses; the table also indicated which courses had sponsored prizes.
4. Kai noted that some dual award programs (e.g. SENG/Commerce) have a requirement that students maintain a minimum WAM to remain in the dual award; at least one student in SENG/Commerce appears not to meet this requirement, yet is still enrolled in the dual award