Curriculum Committee Meeting 3/4/2011

# Announcements and Brief Items

## New IT Minor Tracking Form for Students

We have a new IT Minor Tacking Form to better communicate requirements to students and to allow them to track their progress through the minor. IT is provided as an excel spreadsheet and can be downloaded from the IT Minor web site (<http://umass.edu/itprogram/documents/IT_Minor_Tracking_Form.xls>)

# Major Curriculum Business

## Course Approval Process

We have a “Course Proposal Form” (available from the IT Minor web site at [http://umass.edu/itprogram/program\_documents/IT%20Minor%20Course%20Proposal%20Form.doc)](http://umass.edu/itprogram/program_documents/IT%20Minor%20Course%20Proposal%20Form.doc%29) that requests information from the instructor as well as the approval of the department curriculum committee. The actual process seems to have been less formal: (1) The instructor contacts us or we contact them; (2) If they are interested, they submit a syllabus and a brief statement of the relationship of the course to the IT Minor goals and requirements; and (3) the curriculum committee approves or not. Does the course proposal form reflect official policy and is this the process we should be using, or is the less formal process sufficient? Should we distinguish between electives and broadened inquiry courses, on the one hand, and foundation and technical courses, on the other, in the type of approval that is needed?

## Proposed Courses

See “Criteria for IT Minor Courses” (attached) for guidelines drawn from the originating proposal for the IT Minor and some discussion on the curriculum committee on April 16, 2010. These guidelines are a work in progress; the issue that is most relevant to this discussion is the distinction between electives and broadened inquiry courses. The first pages of the syllabi for these courses are attached and the full syllabi will be available at the meeting.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Course | Course Name | Proposer | Category | Status/Notes |
| FINOPMGT 397E | Business Processes & Enterprise Systems | Traci Hess | Elective | Provisionally approved for Spring, 2011 |
| SCH-MGMT 397BI | Business Intelligence and Analytics | Traci Hess | Elective | Provisionally approved for Spring, 2011 |
| COMM  497UA | ST-Future/Information Society | Jarice Hansen | Broadened Inquiry | Provisionally approved for Spring, 2011, offered online Summer 2011 |
| EDUC 5XX | Introduction to Learning Media and Technologies | Flavio Azevedo | Elective or BI? | New proposal, to be taught online in Summer 2011 |
| EDUC 5XX | Online Tools for Learning and Instruction | Flavio Azevedo | Elective or BI? | New proposal, to be taught online in Summer 2011 |

Are there other courses we should consider for approval?

## Course Needs: Technical Course Access and Options

Students report difficulty getting into some technical courses (especially Accounting 312), and a desire for additional options. For most students, the technical course options boil down to the following:

**Technical/A. Principles of Object Oriented Programming.** CmpSci 121: Introduction to Problem Solving with Computers (4 credits, introduction to JAVA, required for CmpSci Majors) or CmpSci 191P: Introduction to Programming (3 credits, taught for non-majors; python, focused on manipulation of graphical objects).

**Technical/B. Representing, Storing, Retrieving Information.** Accountg 312: Systems Analysis and Design (3 credits). Some students take CmpSci 187: Programming with Data Structures, but describe it as more theoretical and focused on programming, and less practical with respect to databases.

**Technical/C. Internet Technology and Multimedia Systems.** CmpSci 120: Problem Solving with the Internet (3 credits, the only course in this category).

Are there significant “bottlenecks” or insufficient choices in this set of courses, and if so what should we do about them?

## Should there be a Curriculum Subcommittee?

Would it be more efficient to delegate some details of curriculum development and approval to a small subcommittee?

**Attachments:**

Criteria for IT Minor Courses

First Page of Syllabi for 5 Proposed Courses