May 14, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nariman Farvardin  
    Dean, A James Clark School of Engineering

FROM: Phyllis Perez  
    Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to modify the curriculum in the M.S. in Telecommunications (PCC log 06064)

Your proposal to modify the M.S. in Telecommunications was administratively approved. A copy of the approved proposal is enclosed.

The changes are effective for Fall 2007. The College should ensure that the new requirements are fully described in the Graduate Catalog and in all relevant descriptive materials, and that all advisors are informed.

CWR/

Enclosure

cc: Sarah Bauder, Office of Student Financial Aid  
Mary Giles, University Senate  
Barbara Hope, Data Administration  
Anne Turkos, Archives  
Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar  
Gay Gulllickson, Graduate School  
Gary Pertmer, A. James Clark School of Engineering  
Asante Shakuur, Electrical and Computer Engineering
THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK
PROGRAM/CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

DIRECTIONS:
- Provide one form with original approval signatures in lines 1-4 for each proposed action. Keep this form to one page in length.
- Early consultation with the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning & Programs is strongly recommended if there are questions or concerns, particularly with new programs.
- Please submit the signed form to Claudia Rector, Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus.
- Please email the rest of the proposal as an MSWord attachment to pcc-submissions@umd.edu.

DATE SUBMITTED:

PCC LOG NO. 06064

COLLEGE/SCHOOL: Engineering

DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM: ECE/ENTS

PROPOSED ACTION (A separate form for each) ADD ___ DELETE ___ CHANGE ___

DESCRIPTION (Provide a succinct account of the proposed action. Details should be provided in an attachment. Provide old and new sample programs for curriculum changes.)

Please see attached

JUSTIFICATION/REASONS/RESOURCES (Briefly explain the reason for the proposed action. Identify the source of new resources that may be required. Details should be provided in an attachment.)

Please see attached

APPROVAL SIGNATURES - Please print name, sign, and date

1. Department Committee Chair

2. Department Chair

3. College/School PCC Chair

4. Dean

5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)

6. Chair, Senate PCC

7. Chair of Senate

8. Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost

VPAAP 8-05
Proposal to Remove the ENTS 608 Telecommunications Seminar Requirement

We propose removing the two credits for ENTS 608 Telecommunications Seminar from the Cross-Disciplinary Master of Science in Telecommunications Program (ENPM) requirements. The ENTS Program currently requires a total of 35 credits including 30 credits of regular coursework, 3 credits for ENTS 609 Telecommunications Project, and two semesters of the one credit ENTS 608 Telecommunications Seminar. We propose reducing the required number of credits from 35 to 33 by eliminating the two credits for ENTS 608. Justification for removing these credits follows.

1. Most other Master's programs in the sciences require only 30 credits. The requirements for nine different programs are listed in the table below. The programs with the non-thesis option require 30 credits of regular coursework and most require a scholarly paper. Some require a comprehensive exam. The thesis options require 24 credits of coursework and 6 credits of thesis research. Eliminating the 2 credits for ENTS 608 would bring the requirements more in line with other programs. The scholarly paper and comprehensive exam requirements of other programs are satisfied by the requirement of 3 credits for ENTS 609 Telecommunications Project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional Master of Engineering (ENPM)</td>
<td>30 credits for courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical and Computer Engineering (ENEE)</td>
<td>Non-Thesis Option: 30 credits for courses, scholarly paper.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thesis Option: 24 credits for courses, 6 credits thesis research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Engineering (ENCE)</td>
<td>30 credits for courses, scholarly paper, comprehensive exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical Engineering (ENCHE)</td>
<td>Thesis option only: 24 credits for courses, 6 credits thesis research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Engineering (ENME)</td>
<td>Thesis option only: 24 credits for courses, 6 credits thesis research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aerospace Engineering (ENAE)</td>
<td>Non-Thesis Option: 30 credits for courses, scholarly paper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thesis Option: 24 credits for courses, 6 credits thesis research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematical Statistics (STAT)</td>
<td>Non-Thesis Option: 30 credits for courses, comprehensive exam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thesis Option: 24 credits for classes, 6 credits thesis research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied Mathematics and Scientific Computation (AMSC)</td>
<td>Non-Thesis Option: 30 credits for courses, 1 credit for seminar, scholarly paper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thesis Option: 24 credits for courses, 6 credits thesis research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math (MATH)</td>
<td>Non-Thesis Option: 30 credits for courses, scholarly paper, comprehensive exam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thesis Option: 24 credits for classes, 6 credits thesis research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. There are many free talks open to the public relating to telecommunications given by students, faculty, and visitors in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Department of Computer Science, Institute for Systems Research, and College of Engineering. ENTS students attend these presentations in large numbers. They feel that having to pay for 2 credits of ENTS 608 which involves listening to at least six talks by invited speakers for this seminar is unfair since there are so many free presentations available to them. They have also arranged for presentations from speakers of interest on their own.

3. A more minor justification is administrative issues. Each semester we need to find a faculty member from the technical side and one from the business side to run the seminar. Faculty members are unwilling to do this more than a couple of times since they run out of candidates for speakers. Also it is difficult to schedule the presentations far in advance. Potential speakers working in industry are often not aware of their schedules far in advance and have emergency job commitments that arise suddenly and take precedence. Ideally, all talks ENTS 608 should be scheduled before the semester starts so students are aware of the dates and can plan their schedules. In practice, this rarely happens and creates scheduling and attendance difficulties for students and makes them very unhappy. Eliminating ENTS 608 would solve this problem.