

Cormier, J. Briggs

From: D. A. Mendelsohn [mendelsohn.1@osu.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2008 1:19 PM
To: Richard Hughes
Cc: Smith, Randy; Cormier, J. Briggs
Subject: Re: Proposal to revise Physics Major

Richard,

That explains everything quite well. I will add this transmittal to the record and will go ahead and present your proposal to the full Council at it's meeting this afternoon.

Thanks,

Dan

At 11:33 AM 10/22/2008, you wrote:

>HI Dan

>

>The reason we have not added to hours to graduation, is that our
>curriculum was below the minimum number of hours required for
>graduation, including all requirements (major, GEC, prereqs). There is
>a cost of course - which is a reduction in the number of free
>electives.

>

>The argument is the following:

>1) We have 6 options we provide to students to get an ASC Physics
>degree. These range from "Option A" also known as the "grad school
>option" which has the most physics and Math required, to "Option F"
>(also known as "personalized") which has the minimum Math and Physics
>required.

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>2) With the addition of CSE 202, Option A would have only 2 free
>elective hours (this was only 6 previous to this change) , while Option
>F would have the most free electives (17). Both of these are
>accomplished under the minimum number of hours, which is 181.

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>3) The vast majority of our students take many more courses than the
>minimum anyway, the average is something like 225 hrs. (This includes
>some EM credit , transfer credit, etc, as well as courses taken only at
>OSU.)

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>4) Finally, 70% of our students (prior to this change) were already
>taking CSE 202 or an equivalent/harder CSE class. The logic of
>requiring the course for everyone is both for the value of the skills
>in the future of the students, as well as strengthening the academic
>program for the students. Once we can ensure all of our students
>actually have C++ experiance, we can modify our Physics curriculum to
>take advantage of this.

>

>Does this help? I can call you, if you give me a time/number to call.

> I have to meet at student at 12:30pm (for about 30 minutes), and I
>have another meeting from 2:30-3:30pm, but I can call outside of these
>times.

>
>Richard
>
>On Wed, Oct 22, 2008 at 11:01 AM, D. A. Mendelsohn
><mendelsohn.1@osu.edu> wrote:
>> Hi Richard,
>> Rather than trying to chase each down by phone (I tried yesterday
>> and this
>> morning) I will ask my question here. You are proposing to add CSE
>> 202 to your curriculum and add it as a pre-req for 416 and then make
>> 416 a pre-req for some 600 level courses in the curriculum. That is
>> all fine and makes sense since you acknowledge a need for a formal
>> programming course (despite the fact that it is a C++ course, which
>> you appear not to use later - this is generally OK given the
>> argument that basic programming skills translate from one language
>> to another). However you state that there is
> no change in
>> hours to graduation and show a new course checklist. I don't see
>> how you can add a course and still have the same hours to graduation
>> without taking something out of the curriculum. Please explain.
>> Thanks,
>> Dan Mendelsohn
>> Chair, Council on Academic Affairs
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