

SCHOOL OF COMPUTING SCIENCE

UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING  
November 23rd, 1999

Present : Ramesh Krishnamurti (Chair), Wo-Shun Luk, Mike Pede, Rob Cameron, Tony Dixon, Russ Tront, Michael Monagan, Alistair Lachlan, Wilma Davis.

No objections to the minutes of the previous UCC meeting.

AGENDA:

- 1) The Industrial Math Program - Alistair Lachlan
- 2) Social aspects of computing requirement for MACM program - Mike Monagan
- 3) MACM 316 - Mike Monagan
- 4) Course on Distributed Objects - Russ Tront

Agenda Item 1

See [www.math.sfu.ca/~ugsc](http://www.math.sfu.ca/~ugsc) for details. Alistair Lachlan and Mike Monagan were present to address issues involving the programme. One issue to think about is the CMPT 305 offering (it is required in the proposed course.) Discussion followed which included the following comments:

Alistair Lachlan : Many Math majors who eventually work in industry wish they had a broader spectrum of courses in computing and feel that this programme could serve them well. If CMPT 305 disappeared, Math could still modify their programme but would very much like to use the course if it still existed. Alistair asked if the package would make a good academic package.

Michael Monagan: Read part of a Siam article on "Mathematics in Industry - Credentials and Skills" Industry are demanding that Math students have computing training and Math has to address this issue. While it is difficult to estimate how many students would take the programme, an estimate of 10 was given. The programme would attract new students and develop gradually. Noted: MACM 316, CMPT 307 could also be used for the programme.

Wo-shun Luk: Does not believe we have instructors for CMPT 305 with the profile that Math is looking for. Wo-shun would like to know how the new programme would affect the MSSC students and asked how many Math students do a minor in computing.

Tony Dixon: Enrollment problems in CMPT are always present and Tony feels we do not have to worry too much about the students getting into lower level courses but this new programme would require extra resources to offset the demand.

Ramesh Krishnamurti: The department would have to examine all the curriculum issues this new programme would bring about, including the strain on our own courses. In favour of keeping CMPT 305, perhaps with modification. The CMPT 305 issue has to be addressed - to keep or not.

Rob Cameron: Questioned the resources for the programme - where are they coming from? Suggested that Faculty of Science take resources from a



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Ramesh Krishnamurti: The department would have to examine all the curriculum issues this new programme would bring about, including the strain on our own courses. In favour of keeping CMPT 305, perhaps with modification. The CMPT 305 issue has to be addressed - to keep or not.

Rob Cameron: Questioned the resources for the programme - where are they coming from? Suggested that Faculty of Science take resources from a retiring faculty member and have joint MATH/CMPT appointment which could help get the programme off the ground. Assuming that the resources are coming, approves of keeping cmpt CMPT 305 and offering regularly. Would like School's approval and that all fits with the Schools' view.

Conclusion : Rob noted " Provided resources are available, the School supports the new programme and also to keep CMPT 305. 3 approved.

#### Agenda Item 2

Mike Monagan noted that he had met with Pavol re the changes to CMPT and Math programmes. Why do MACM majors have to take CMPT 320. Discussion followed. Rob feels that CMPT 320 is critical to force students to look at such things as responsibilities of poorly designed systems. Wo-shun feels there is a difference between social implication and social aspect. Mike Monagan noted that MACM students have to take 25 credits in Math and 25 in



should CMPT 320 be compulsory. Both Russ and Wo-shun agree that it should be.

Conclusion: As this was discussed at the last UCC meeting, Steve Pearce is working on the CMPT 320 course and will report back to Ramesh on this.

#### Agenda Item 3

Ramesh noted that he had received an email from Bob Russell, Bob was unable to be at the meeting but indicated that he is keenly interested in this course. Ramesh also noted that our students tend to avoid the course perhaps because they get low grades (which is no reason). Perhaps if it were not taught by sessionals they would like the course better, given that our students have said that it was poorly motivated and they could see little relation to computing. Alistair Lachlan would like to talk to our students to better understand why they do not like MACM 316. Russ suggested that Alistair email the students and ask them to see him re MACM 316. It was noted that in the past the course was not offered each semester, Mike Monagan noted that it will be offered in the spring and summer during the day and in the evening for the fall. It was suggested at a UCC meeting last year that a three course option be used, Math 308, Math 343 and MACM 316. The students could take one of the above three courses depending on the stream - e.g. Graphics would require CMPT 316, whereas Database would require MATH 308, etc.

Mike Monagan feels we should have some numerical computation. Rob feels an alternative would be to repackage the courses. He likes the idea of giving students a choice of math courses. Russ suggested it could be worded appropriately in the calendar and Mike Monagan would like to keep MACM 316 as a requirement for CMPT majors. Ramesh noted that Binay is willing to teach MACM 316 but Wo-shun questioned this when we need so many sessionals to teach our own courses.

Conclusion - Wo-shun will address the CMPT 316 issue in the broader context of streamlining the courses for the undergraduate program. Wo-shun will also talk to Bob Russell and others to factor in their views.

#### Agenda Item 4

Russ opened the discussion of offering a course in Distributed Objects. Wo-shun likes the course and feels employers would agree, he would also like a small self contained course giving students sound footing in low level programming, but suggests we do the course as CMPT 318 special topics first. Rob would look at the outline and comment later. Rob mentioned that there may be some overlap with other courses. Wo-shun agreed but said it is not necessarily bad. Prerequisites were discussed and would stay as indicated in the current calendar - CMPT 201 with the recommendations of 300, 371 and a O/O Programming course. These would be changed if the course were taught as a regular course. Wo-shun requested that the course include COM+.

Conclusion. Russ teach the course as CMPT 318 special topics with the prereq as CMPT 201, CMPT 300, CMPT 371 and a O/O Programming course as recommended.

Meeting adjourned at 4.15pm.

Subsequent to this meeting, Stella Atkins pointed out in an email that there was overlap of the proposed CMPT 318 material with CMPT 401, as taught by her and Tiko Kameda. Ramesh talked to Russ, and it was agreed that Russ will talk to Tiko and Stella revise the proposal. Ramesh will examine the revised proposal before approval.



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