

# Undergraduate Matters

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# UG Studies Committee Updates

- CS 112 will have a separate section for CVPA BFA Game majors in Fall 2011
- Subcommittee is working to contact other departments (Sean, Ric, w/ Huzefa's assistance)
  - Goal: to determine if we can split out CS/ACS majors and offer other “flavors” of CS 112 for different audiences
  - Identified areas: engr; sciences/math; arts/avt; finance/business
- Outgrowth
  - CCS 605 => SWE 510 ??
  - CCS 605 projects have the flavor of agent-based models
- Subcommittee working on a new Gen Ed “Computational Thinking” course (Dana, Ric, Pearl)
  - CS 123 denied Gen Ed for second time, but CDS 130 (Computing for Scientists) made it through (see next slide)

# CDS 130

- Students in this course will:
  - Learn the fundamentals of a computer including how numbers are stored, transistors, logic gates, and binary addition.
  - Learn basic programming concepts including assignment, iteration, arrays, matrices, and if statements.
  - Develop simple simulations using high-level programming languages such as MATLAB.
  - Develop algorithms frequently encountered in scientific computing including numerical integration and pattern identification.
  - Understand how the concepts of verification and validation are applied in scientific computing.
  - Understand several important concepts related to IT security and Ethics.
  - Use on-line scientific collaboration tools to work on group projects and contribute to class discussions.

# UG Studies Committee Updates (continued)

- Subcommittee (Liz, Sanjeev, Dave) working to define content of CS 262-L: proposed new zero credit lab to be added to CS 262 in Spring 12
- CS Senior elective list augmented:
  - 425, 440, 444, 445, 450, 451, 455, 468, 471, 475, 480, 482, 484, 499\*
  - CS 444: (BINF 401) Intro to Computational Biology
  - CS 445: (BINF 402) Computational Methods for Genomics
- IT 315 – Mobile Development course proposal deferred
- Undergraduate Student Advisory Board met last Friday – minutes to come

# ABET & Advising



# Student Advising Survey - Fall 2010

- Upside
  - more of our students are aware of who their faculty advisor is than in the past
  - almost twice as many students have been seeking advising from our faculty as compared with two semesters ago
  - many are consulting the Undergraduate Administrative Advisor who was put in place in January of 2010
  - close to twice as many students (100) compared with two semesters ago indicated that they met with an advisor who was able to answer all their questions;
  - more than half of the advisors who could not answer a student's questions followed up with a response
- Downside
  - increase in the number of students who reported difficulties contacting their advisor (9 students as opposed to 4 students last Spring term)
  - However, the students named far fewer faculty (only 3 faculty in Fall 2010) as advisors they could not reach or who did not help them sufficiently

# Advising Survey Data Comparison

Question	Fall 2010			Spring 2009			Fall 2009	
	Total responses = 236			Total responses = 254			Total responses = 199	
	Yes	No	NR	Yes	No	NR	Yes	No
<b>Q2.</b> Did you meet with or contact (e.g., via email) your faculty advisor during the [current] term [or before registration]?	115/236 = <b>48.7%</b>	120/236 = 50.8%	1/236 = 0.4%	105/242 = <b>43.4%</b>	137/242 = 55.6%	12/254 = 4.7%	59/166 = <b>35.5%</b>	107/166 = 64.5%
<b>Q3a.</b> If you contacted your faculty advisor this semester [or before registration], was your advisor able to answer all of your questions	100/111 = <b>90.1%</b>	11/111 = 9.9%	4/115 = 3.5%	94/100 = <b>94%</b>	6/100 = 6%	5/105 = 4.8%	52/59 = <b>88%</b>	7/59 = 12%
<b>Q3b.</b> If your advisor was not able to answer all of your questions, did he/she follow up and contact someone who could provide the information that you needed?	5/8 = <b>62.5%</b>	3/8 = 37.5%	3/11 = 27.3%	2/6 = <b>33.3%</b>	4/6 = 67.7%			
<b>Q3c.</b> Did you have any difficulty getting in touch with your advisor?	9/106 = <b>8.5%</b>	97/106 = 91.5%	9/115 = 7.8%	4/96 = <b>4.2%</b>	93/96 = 95.8%	8/105 = 7.6%	10/59 = <b>16.9%</b>	40/59 = 83.1%

# Δ - Comments from students

- There is a wide range in the quality of advisors based on how well they know the curriculum (and how much they care, but you can't fix that.) Perhaps there could be an orientation for faculty to familiarize them with the full curriculum and options for students.
- When I talk with my advisor I feel like I am just a number and that they don't care about how I progress. I feel like I am bothering them with stupid questions.
- The advisors should keep in touch with the students and respond to emails faster. It might also help to mandate students to meet with an advisor before signing up for classes.
- Have advisor reach out to student once a semester/year via email.

**NOTE: the full Summary Report will be on the CS Faculty Wiki shortly**



# What's Next?

- Dean Griffiths is closely monitoring our advising situation.
- Another Advising Survey will be given to students at the end of April (i.e. in about 7 weeks).
- Fall 2011 schedule should be visible March 15 – please be prepared to be contacted by students who will request advising from you.