

CSS Curriculum Committee Minutes  
February 8, 2013

Attendance: Donald Chinn (co-chair), John Mayer (co-chair), Matt Alden, Ling Ding, Allison Elliot Tew, Alan Fowler, Bryan Goda, George Mobus, Josh Tenenberg, Ryan Card, Julie Eaton, Ruth Vanderpool, Zaide Chavez, Beth Jeffrey

1. Approval of minutes of Jan. 11, 2013.

2.

D TCSS 321

There was a discussion about the prerequisites to TCSS 321. For Institute majors, there is a desire to have students have a programming experience before the course but also to let math minors take the course without special advisor permission.

After discussion here & in the Moodle forum, the consensus was that computing background is preferred but not essential for success in TCSS 321.

Josh suggested integrating programming into TCSS 321.

Motion:

Change the prerequisite for TCSS 321 to TCSS 142 or TMATH 124.

Unanimous approval.

Action item: modify the 321 syllabus

- a) content
- b) audience

A Changes to the Intro Sequence

John, Alan, and Matt summarized their proposal to adopt Python in a new version of TCSS 142 that presents procedural programming only. They believe that python will be a more effective tool for introducing procedural programming concepts due to its simpler syntax. The current proposal is to end the new TCSS 142 class with a two week transition from Python to Java so that students are ready to take the next class (TCSS 143) in Java.

Vote: there was a unanimous vote to implement this proposal.

Action Items:

We need to revise TCSS 142 as outlined above. This is a substantial revision.

We also need to make fairly minor revisions to allow topic migration across some or all of TCSS 143, TCSS 305, and TCSS 342. For example, we currently cover an introduction to user-defined objects at the end of TCSS 142 (Chapter 8 in Reges & Stepp). This topic will now be presented for the first time in TCSS 143 where it will presumably require more time

causing current TCSS 143 topics (like stacks and queues) to shift to either TCSS 305 or TCSS 342.

#### B Changes to the System Track

We resumed discussion of a recent proposal to put TCSS 371 in the inner core while moving TCSS 372 to the outer core. In this context, we began discussing the next version of TCSS 371. George suggested that we might revert to the old 372 (pre-2005) which was a course about architecture as opposed to creating/designing/building architecture. He recommended against that and believes that course was ineffective. He also suggested that every CS course should include a programming component and that study of architecture requires software simulation. John asked if it is essential that 371 be taught by creating a software simulation of selected parts of the architecture. George is currently teaching 372 and including interrupt handling routines in assembly.

There was not agreement on the content of the new 371. To resolve this issue, it was suggested that various groups of people might be consulted, including the whole CSS program, or people who teach the relevant courses. This question was sent back to the systems subcommittee consisting of George, Matt, and John.

#### C 342 integration

George summarized the new CES intro sequence and proposed equivalences and migration path between the sequences TCES 201 /202 / 203 and TCSS 142 / 143 / 305. The discussion turned toward the question of whether TCSS 342 should be language independent.

Question that arose:

For assignments that involve initial code in a particular language, must the instructor provide multiple versions?

May text and slides be committed to a particular language? After some discuss, the consensus was yes.

Must instructors accept homeworks written in multiple languages? After some discuss, the consensus was no.

The general consensus was that no changes to the 342 master syllabus were needed with respect to language independence.

VOTE: change current 342 pre-req to TCSS 305 OR CES 203.

7 for, 1 against, motion passed.

3.

Action item:

Based on our discussions from last meeting, the following course need to have syllabus modificatons:

TCSS 142, 143, 305, 321, 342, 371, 372, 333, 422

4 Assessment

According to the CSS assessment cycle, TCSS 360 & 325 are scheduled for CSS assessment this year. Orlando could do 325 in Spring. Josh suggested that since SLO c (<http://depts.washington.edu/techdocs/programs/CSS/CSS-SLO.html>) is so integral to the CSS program, it makes more sense to assess that SLO in a class other than 360. This

Action item: discuss on moodle.

Bryan will coordinate our assessment efforts (ABET & CSS) so that they are consistent with the assessment bodies involved and require little duplication of effort.

5. Donald said that the spring schedule is now online and asked faculty to check their assignments.

6. Teaching assignments for AY 2013-14.  
Donald suggested using the wiki to express teaching preferences for next academic year.