

CSS Curriculum Meeting
May 10, 2013
10:30am-12noon
CP 206C

Attendance: Donald Chinn (co-chair), John Mayer (co-chair), Matt Alden, Ling Ding, Alan Fowler, Bryan Goda, George Mobus, Zaide Chavez, Beth Jeffrey

Excused absence: Dan Zimmerman

1. The minutes from the April 10, 2013 meeting were approved.
2. Mobus and Fowler updated the committee on the CSS lecturer search. Three candidates were on the short list (an additional candidate withdrew from consideration). The candidates will be visiting for a campus interview in the coming weeks.

3. New curriculum updates

The intro subcommittee (Alden, Fowler, Mayer) submitted updated syllabi for TCSS 142, 143, 305, and 342 to reflect the new content of TCSS 142 (Python).

Some issues that were raised/discussed include:

- + Equivalencies for 142. The concern here is that UWT's 142 would be in Python, but other institutions might teach other languages. In general, we expect all first courses in programming to cover similar concepts, and so the exam used for self-placement, along with advising, would determine credit and placement into the 142/143/305 sequence.
- + Transfer student issues. The catalog will need to be changed so that those admitted into the major need two quarters of programming, at least one of which is object-oriented.
- + TCSS 142 and TCES 201 would be considered equivalent.
- + Since TCSS 142 will not have any substantial elements of object-oriented programming, the title of the course should be "Introduction to Programming."

TCSS 321: Chinn met with the math faculty to discuss the content of the course as expressed through the master syllabus. As a way to facilitate discussion, Chinn will set up a thread on the CSS committee Moodle course site. An "annotated" TCSS 321 master syllabus will be posted there to start the discussion.

Placement exam. There was a discussion of the programming placement exam. It was unclear whether students in general were using the placement exam as a way to self-place. Some ideas for how to encourage/enforce students to take the exam include:

- + Use Practce It, which is a web-based site run by UW Seattle's CSE department that allows students who take CSE 142 and CSE 143 to practice programming concepts in those courses. There was a concern that the site would be operational for only a little while longer, to be replaced by another similar site. Someone needs to inquire about this.

- + Other options include: a proctored exam, using the GPA at a student's community college as a mechanism to exempt a (transfer) student from taking the placement exam. Another issue if this exemption mechanism is used: would students who take TCSS 142/143 at UWT be required to take the exam (or would a passing grade be sufficient).
- + Another idea is that the placement exam is required but it is part of the advising process (i.e., a student has to take it before talking to the advisor about what course to take).
- + Yet another idea is that the placement exam is proctored in the first week of classes, early enough so that students can switch sections if necessary.

4. Admissions

The committee discussed some ideas for how to predict and/or control the number of students into the program, which has implications for course scheduling and hiring. Some mechanisms discussed include:

- + A threshold criteria model. Once a certain number of students are admitted into the program, then any further applicants would be admitted as a group when a new section(s) of 142/143/305 is warranted.
- + Early priority deadlines for applicants so that the number of seats we need to provide can be predicted.
- + Use an application form (similar to what ITS uses) so that we can gather information from all native (students admitted to UWT as a freshman/sophomore) and transfer students ahead of scheduling classes.