



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Executive Committee of Faculty Council

**From:** Dr. Graeme Norval  
Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

**Date:** January 27, 2014 for February 25, 2014 Faculty Council Meeting

**Re:** Minor Curriculum Changes for the 2014-15 Academic Year

## REPORT CLASSIFICATION

This is a routine or minor policy matter that will be considered by the Executive Committee for approving and forwarding to Faculty Council for information.

## BACKGROUND

The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee is tasked with managing the undergraduate curriculum change process for the Faculty. This report summarizes the program course changes for the upcoming academic year.

## STRUCTURE

Several programs have requested to make curriculum changes for the upcoming academic year; these did not meet the deadline for governance cycle 2. The changes are minor in the sense that they relate mostly to elective courses, rather than core courses.

### *Cross-Disciplinary Programs*

The course GGR221 "New Economic Spaces" is an allowable HSS elective, and an allowable course in the Engineering Business Minor. The Geography department has requested that the course be delisted from the minor, but that it remain an allowable HSS elective. The Geography Department is looking to create a more business-focused course that would be relevant to students wishing to complete a business minor.

### *Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Currently, the courses ECE512F "Analog Signal Processing Circuits" and ECE530S "Analog Integrated Circuits" are taught one before the other. The Analog Electronics professors have discussed the course and topic order, and recommend that the order be reversed. This reflects a bottom-up pedagogy, where the circuit-level electronic design is taught first (ECE530) followed by the integration into the larger systems (ECE512). It also ensures that students have an understanding of thermal noise, prior to taking ECE512. It also

allows incoming graduate students to take ECE530 in their first semester. The proposal is to reverse the term order of the courses, and to adjust the name of ECE512 to “Analog Integrated Systems”, with minor changes to the course descriptions. Given the structure of the upper year ECE curriculum, there should be no negative student impacts.

It is proposed to create a course, ECE201F “Seminar Course: Electrical and Computer Engineering” as 1/0/0 0.15 wt. ECE has offered voluntary seminars in the second year to introduce students to the various topic levels; the goal of the seminars is to assist students to better choose courses in the entirely elective 3rd and 4th years of ECE. Students will receive credit for attending 70+% of the seminars. Students who do not achieve credit must retake the course in a later year.

### ***Materials Science and Engineering***

The course MSE431S “Forensics” is an elective offered in the winter. The instructor will be on sabbatical in winter 2015. The proposal is to shift the course to the fall term, so that the students could take course. It is a one academic year switch only.

### ***Mechanical and Industrial Engineering***

Currently, the course MIE345F “Case Studies in Ergonomics” is followed by the course MIE344S “Ergonomics of Information Systems”; these courses are electives in MIE. By running the courses in the reverse order, the students start with the broader subject matter and then move to specific examples.

## **PROCESS**

The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee is composed of representatives from each undergraduate program; the Vice-Dean, Undergraduate Studies; the Chair, First Year; the Associate Dean, Cross-Disciplinary Programs; and the Registrar’s Office. The Committee meets regularly, and reviews changes to the curriculum.

These changes conform with common practice in most programs in the Faculty, and thereby bring the calendar in-line with practice.

## **PROGRAM**

All relevant programs are involved in these changes, and the impact on students in the various programs has been considered.

## **RECOMMENDATION AND MOTION FOR FACULTY COUNCIL**

THAT the proposed curriculum changes for the 2014-15 academic year be approved.