University of British Columbia (Vancouver)
Department of Computer Science
BCCEC Institutional Report, October 2011

Enrollment

This year we decided to expand the capacity of CPSC 110 to determine if there was demand for the course that we were not previously meeting. The additional 100 seats made available in the course this fall were all taken and, so far, we have not observed a decline in demand for the spring sections.

The number of students in our programs has also increased from 872 to 924. About half of this increase can be attributed to our Bachelor of Computer Science (Integrated Computer Science) second degree program, whose enrollment went up from 67 to 96.

Curriculum

We are currently investigating the possibly of creating *mini-streams*: small sets of course that will allow students not in our programs to learn about Computer Science topics that are of interest and relevant to them. We have started talking to people in other departments in order to learn what they believe their students would be interested in. One major obstacle to creating these mini-streams is our current pre-requisite structure, and so we are at the same time reviewing pre-requisites to our third year courses, in order to remove those that are not strictly required. We hope to be able to provide more details about the mini-streams in a subsequent report.

A current proposal by the Faculty of Arts would have BA students requiring at least 72 credits of Arts courses, except for a small number of exceptions. The BA in Computer Science would require 57 credits (all the electives) to be in Arts. This may be relevant to students who are planning to transfer to our BA program from another institution. This proposal has not yet been approved by the UBC Senate. We will provide an update on this proposal in our May 2012 institutional report.

Dr. Paul Carter will be handling articulation requests for the next twelve months.

Other news

Effective July 1st, 2011, the instructors ranks now include a third level, called *Professor of Teaching*, comparable to that of full professor. Appointment at or promotion to the rank of Professor of Teaching requires:

> ... evidence of outstanding achievement in teaching and educational leadership, distinction in the field of teaching and learning, sustained and innovative contributions to curriculum development, course design and other initiatives that

advance the Universitys ability to excel in its teaching and learning mandate.
(Art. 3.05 of the Agreement on Condition of Appointment for Faculty).

The first appointments at this new rank are expected to be effective on July 1st, 2012.

Arnaud Doucet has moved on to a new position at the University of Oxford. Kurt Eiselt started a twelve month study leave in July 2011. We will soon be hiring for a position in the Systems area.

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