

Report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee 11.28.2016

In the 11.8.2016 UGSC meeting, the following item was presented and is forwarded to the University Faculty Council for consideration as an information item:

Revisions to the Biomedical Engineering Curriculum – Neural Engineering and Imaging Tracks: Presented by Georgia Papavasiliou from Biomedical Engineering; it is available at http://www.iit.edu/~ugsc/documents/BME%20320-325%20revision%20Letter_signed.pdf and http://www.iit.edu/~ugsc/documents/Course%20AddChangeDelete%20Request%201478%20BME%20325%20IS_SUE76999%20PROJ17.pdf

In this revision of the Neural Engineering and Imaging Tracks tracks of the B.S. in Biomedical Engineering degree, a Fluids Lab is replaced by a Bioelectronics Lab to make courses in these tracks more relevant.

In the 11.8.16 UGSC meeting, the following items were presented and in the 11.22.16 UGSC meeting were approved by unanimous votes with one exception as noted. These are forwarded to the University Faculty Council for approval:

B.S. in Molecular Biochemistry and Biophysics (MBB) Co-Terminal degree with the M.S. in Molecular Biochemistry and Biophysics: Presented by Nick Menhart from Biology; it is available at

<http://www.iit.edu/~ugsc/documents/Form%20802%20sections%20BSMS%20MBB.pdf>
<http://www.iit.edu/~ugsc/documents/MBB%20BS%20MS%20coterminal%20v2.4.pdf>

The Biology department proposed new co-terminal degrees for the B.S. in Molecular Biochemistry and Biophysics (MBB) and the M.S. in Molecular Biochemistry and Biophysics.

New Bachelor of Science degrees in Chemistry: Presented by Braja Mandal from Chemistry; these are available at

http://www.iit.edu/~ugsc/documents/Proposal%20for%20NEW%20BS%20Degree%20Program_IIT%20Chemistry%20Dept_Nov%202%202016.pdf

The Chemistry department proposed the following new Bachelor of Science degrees in Chemistry:

- B.S. in Bioanalytical Chemistry
- B.S. in Environmental Chemistry
- B.S. in Forensic Chemistry
- B.S. in Medicinal Chemistry
- B.S. in Computational Chemistry and Biochemistry

Multiple departments raised concerns about computing courses in the computational chemistry degree and asked for more coordination with CS, Math and ITM. A motion to vote on other four degrees and defer a vote for the computational degree passed. The following degrees were approved unanimously: B.S. in Bioanalytical Chemistry, B.S. in Environmental Chemistry, B.S. in Forensic Chemistry, B.S. in Medicinal Chemistry. The B.S. in Computational Chemistry and Biochemistry was returned for further review.

In the 11.8.16 UGSC meeting, the following proposed policy changes were presented and in the 11.22.16 meeting, the UGSC voted to make no change to the policy (Proposal 1). This is forwarded to the University Faculty Council as an information item.

The current academic policy for receiving the honors designation at graduation states “a student must complete a minimum of 60 graded hours at IIT.” This policy does not include P/F hours.

- Proposal 1: make no change to the existing statement; requires no action or motion
- Proposal 2: remove the word “graded” from the current statement
- Proposal 3: For purposes of Honors or High Honors designation, PASS/FAIL courses are considered graded courses. However, if the student has elected PASS/FAIL grading, a lower bound on GPA will be calculated utilizing the lowest letter grade qualifying as PASS for those courses, and this lower bound on GPA will be used to determine eligibility for honors designations. If the course is only offered as PASS/FAIL (i.e. not student elected) it will not be included in this minimum bound calculation. [N. Menhart – Biology]

Discussion focused on the merits of allowing a transfer student to gain the honors distinction with only 51 graded hours. A motion to vote on Proposal 1 was called and seconded. Proposal 1 passed with 15 favorable votes. At the conclusion of the discussion, Greg Pulliam offered the following proposal to be discussed on 1.24.17:

- Proposal: To be eligible for the high honors designation at graduation, undergraduate students must have completed at least 100 hours at IIT.

In the 11.22.16 UGSC meeting, volunteers were solicited for a University Faculty Council subcommittee on Co-Terminal Degrees. The following volunteer names for this subcommittee are forwarded for approval:

Nick Menhart
Ray Trygstad
John Twombly

Minutes of all UGSC meetings are available at <http://www.iit.edu/~ugsc/>