CCGB Minutes  
December 10, 1999

Members:  J. Bartsch, R. Cleary, M. Duncan, F. Gouldin, J. Jenkins, R. Kay, P. Kintner, L. Lion, M. Thompson, C. Van Loan, F. Wise

Absent:  D. Cox, B. East, J. Herrera, J. Hopcroft, D. Maloney-Hahn

Ex-Officio:  M. Fish, T. Healey, M. Miller, F. Shumway, S. Youra

Other:  C. Pakkala, A. Ruina

Approval of Minutes:  The minutes of December 3, 1999 were approved as written.

Undergraduate Announcements:  M. Fish (Women’s Programs) stated that the Student Experience Committee will e-mail surveys to faculty in January, obtain the results, and present their findings and concerns to the CCGB.  A notebook with COFHE surveys and results will be located in each departmental office.  The COFHE surveys indicated that the quality of teaching/instruction was the area in which the most improvement was seen.  The grades at Cornell are lower than those of other schools, and students note excessive workloads, competition and pressure.  P. Kintner (EE) suggested that a residency requirement might ease the pressure on students to finish sooner.  The residency requirement vs. 136 credit hours will be brought up in the spring semester.

CS 100 Proposal:  C. Van Loan (CS) stated that, while working on the CS100 proposal, the CPC looked at the CS standing in Engineering and the major expectations of CS at 15 other schools.  Each of the 15 schools has a core requirement.  Preparing students for higher problem-solving levels is key, and computer-based problem-solving is pivotal in the CS100 course.  Two weeks is not sufficient for MatLab because they don’t learn it; seven weeks gives the students a better timeframe in which to grasp MatLab.  The CS100 expectations need to be precise and enforced.  Although staffing continues to be a concern among those faculty outside of CS, the CS faculty feel that they can manage the 100’s without any changes in staffing.  A. Ruina (T&AM) said that he joined the CPC 6 years ago to help get this CS100 structure in place and believes this to be a great proposal.  Math has typically been taught as a tool for engineers without computational support.  MatLab is more widely accepted now as a tool for upper-level courses.  M. Thompson (MS&E) stated that the engineering students don’t have programming skills in upper-level courses, which is a pedagogical problem.  The courses should include programming; it shouldn’t be a separate course.  Perhaps a tools course should be offered, containing language programming and skill sets.  Currently Excel and MatLab are considered sufficient by students to solve their problem sets.  P. Kintner (EE) suggested that this discussion be considered at a retreat in January, before classes resume for the spring semester.  Both C. Van Loan’s and M. Thompson’s proposals are to be considered at that time.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 a.m.