CCGB Meeting Agenda, September 2, 2005

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Introductions
3. Review of Committee Membership
4. Review of Last Year’s CCGB Activities (motions passed)
5. ABET, Syllabets & Post-course Assessments
6. Discussion of CCGB on the Intranet
7. Open Discussion of Agenda Items
   a. 3-4 credit issue for ENGRD courses
   b. Chem 207/211 issue
   c. Discussion of minor situation
   d. New ENGRI course from BME
   e. ROTC
   f. Other topics from the floor

CCGB Minutes, May 20, 2005

Ex-Officio: B. East, D. Maloney Hahn, R. Robbins, L. Schneider, M. Spencer
Other: S. Coldren, C. Pakkala

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the May 6, 2005 CCGB Meeting were approved as written.

Undergraduate Announcements: None

Math 190/191 Safety Net: B. East spoke about the spreadsheet that was distributed in which the data indicated that students are completing high levels of math at their high schools. Some schools do not give their students a strong background in math, and they arrive at Cornell ill-equipped to do well with the math sequence.

R. Robbins stated that 13 students were eligible to take the math makeup exam, with 6 of the 13 students being underrepresented minorities. Eight of the students moved on to Math 192 after taking the exam. Five of those students who took the exam have passed Math 192. C. Pollock asked what the median score was. D. Maloney Hahn replied that it was likely a B-.

There is currently a safety net of sectioning students into Math 190, and there are two prelims, so there weren’t big numbers of students on the spreadsheet. A good basis of math is essential. If in Math 190, they have until the 12th week to drop the course, it would save their GPA. Many minorities take advantage of a Learning Center scholarship, which gets them back on track. B. East wondered how to get students into Math 190, if it is appropriate for them. D. Maloney Hahn said that the first step is pre-sectioning. If they took AB calculus and received a low score, they would get placed into Math 190. The math exam will also help place students. After the first prelim there is an opportunity to appropriately place students. There will be a math class at 8:00 or 9:00, which will not conflict with many other classes.

B. East stated that almost all of the students had A’s in their pre-calculus class, and it is nice to give the students the option of moving into Math 190 after the first exam. D. Maloney Hahn said that it is easiest if the students move into or out of classes early, so it is good to have an early prelim. D. Grubb added that the students’ test scores look as good as expected, with a significant fraction of the students moving ahead. This safety net does help the students. B. East stated that the issue is whether the number of students requiring the safety net is worth giving the exam in January. She recommended that we try this again. A. Zehnder said that the CCGB (or Advising) has to organize the tutorial session. D. Gries replied that Tim Healey found a grad student to do the tutorial. B. East suggested that Advising track the students and see how they do as they move through Cornell.
Alan Zehnder presented a motion on transferring students from Math 191 to Math 190. A. Center asked if Math 191 has a different content than Math 190. A. Zehnder replied that both courses end up at the same spot in principal. The students are prepared for Math 192 after either course. The courses are done in small sections and are student-friendly. Any grade a student received would remain on his/her transcript. If an F were received, this option would not be available to them. W. Philpot wondered if a student received a D, whether it would count toward graduation. A. Zehnder replied that a D would count as credit hours toward the degree but wouldn’t satisfy the college requirement because the student wouldn’t pass the course. D. Gries said that last fall one student received an F, but all the rest of the students received D’s. A. Zehnder stated that the Math Liaison Committee is in favor of the motion.

**Motion:** Students who perform below a C- level on the first prelim in the Fall Math 191 course will be transferred to Math 190. Students who earn a grade of D-, D, or D+ in Math 190 or Math 191 will have the option to (1) return to Cornell a week before the start of Spring classes, (2) take a 3-4 day tutorial, and then (3) take a Math Department placement exam. Students who pass this exam will be allowed (by the Engineering College) to continue to Math 192 and will have satisfied the College graduation requirement for Math 190/191. Successful completion of the placement exam will be noted on the student’s transcript by posting CASE Math Exam credit under an AP header where all non-course exams are recorded. Majors will need to be mindful of this when considering affiliation applications.

**Vote:** 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

**Math Courses for ISST Majors:** A. Zehnder stated that David Shmoys requested that the ISST course sequence be the same as that of CS and ORIE: Math 191, Math 192, Math 294, and (Math 293 or Math 304 or CS280).

**Vote on motion 9, 1 abstention, 0 against.**

**Membership and Committees:** D. Gries said that the Bylaws require the CCGB Chair to write an annual report. The CCGB committees will likely remain the same next year. He will discuss the issue of Chair with Kent Fuchs. Hopefully it will be resolved by the end of May. He stated that the future curriculum would be worked on this summer by a curriculum committee consisting of P. Clancy, S. Liebovich, D. Gries, and C. Pollack. The committee might ask the CCGB to do something.

R. Robbins said that 35% of the student satisfaction survey was completed. He mentioned that he, Y. Miller, L. Schneider and B. East would meet to go over the data.

**ROTC Courses:** M. Louge stated that giving credit for ROTC courses may be considered as trumping the prerogatives of advisors in giving credit for advisor-approved electives. Some advisors approve things that other advisors don’t. This is the most contentious issue of advising with the MAE students, due to issues of fairness. D. Gries suggested that the restriction be removed that ROTC courses can’t be taken. M. Louge suggested that the time is right to reconsider what the college means by advisor-approved electives in order to eliminate inequities that have arisen. We have been placating people who believe that the curriculum has shrunk, and students don’t have an opportunity to take more free electives. There have been a large number of complaints about approved electives. The college should take hard look at approved electives. The more material we offer to students in courses has increased, with credits rising. Students are taking more credits in order to graduate. Some advisors are hard and some are very liberal.

L. Trotter said that ORIE would like to see advisor-approved things, and some courses are never advisor-approved (i.e. wines). Wines would be acceptable with the implementation of free electives. A. Center said that in CBE they meet with students, they aren’t shy about bringing up points of contention, and their dissatisfaction hasn’t been expressed. W. Philpot stated that the issue hasn’t come up in CEE; he is unaware of bad feelings about electives. J. Bartsch said that BEE has one of the more flexible policies about this issue, and he hopes that fields could have more autonomy. They allow their students to take the wines course. D. Maloney Hahn said that he finds that students in MAE are having trouble with this than those students in the other majors. M. Louge
responded that this issue was discussed at faculty meetings. If MAE were allowed to revisit the issue on their own, they would like to have an MAE specific rule. D. Gries said that there would be nothing wrong with MAE faculty coming to some agreement. They are supposed to be advisor-approved electives, so they could impose some rules for advisors.

A. Zehnder stated that it is not really an issue for the CGGB to decide; it is an issue for the entire college. The intention is that electives are up to the advisors. He was told that he could approve almost anything as an advisor-approved elective. The free electives option would have to go before the entire college. D. Grubb added that a real survey would be required to determine if this is a real problem across the college prior to bringing the issue to the entire faculty.

R. Robbins agreed to ask the ROTC instructors for course paperwork. They will be asked to produce a syllabus, which will list their objectives. D. Grubb said that the college should find out whether the courses are available to other students, for equity purposes. ROTC courses will be discussed next fall.

**Other Business:**

A. Center stated that he was in the first class to go through the common curriculum many years ago and wondered if it remained a good idea. In ChemE they say some courses are in the common curriculum. He questioned whether we are best served by having CS100 for everyone. He wondered if we should say that the first year is common and then diverges, thus allowing majors more freedom. He requested that it be put on the agenda for the fall semester.

M. Louge said that it was great to bring this issue up. If we look at the curriculum, we could look at minutiae and converge from detail to general or begin by looking broadly at principals we want to accomplish. We should ask ourselves what constitutes uniqueness at Cornell. If we come up with curriculum reform that loses track of the broad principal, we have a greater chance of being a collection of trade schools. It is easier to recommend certain things that might be painful. We would need to make room for some things.

A. Center said that we currently satisfy the communications requirement by having that component in several courses, and we could satisfy the math requirement the same way. Students are coming to Cornell better prepared. Some things considered important 15 years ago might be obsolete now.

D. Gries said that the Engineering College will be looking at the common curriculum next year.

Gries thanked W. Philpot, B. Kusse, M. Louge and D. Grubb for their contributions to the CCGB meetings throughout the academic year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 a.m.