CCGB Motions dealing with Intro-to-Engineering Courses
David Gries, September 2007

February 1981. The report of the “Dean’s Special Committee for Evaluation of the Core Curriculum in the College of Engineering”, dated February 1981, stated the following regarding introduction to engineering courses.

A. Group 7 of the core curriculum was to contain “A group of appropriate courses approved by the CCGB that illustrate the nature of engineering”. Appendix III elaborated: “In the recommended curriculum Introduction to Engineering has been included with the six areas identified in the previous report as being the major common engineering science to form seven Engineering Distribution areas [scientific computing, materials science, mechanics, probability & statistics, thermodynamics and energy balances, and Introduction to Engineering]. All engineering students will complete one three-credit course from each of four of the Engineering Distribution areas. It is intended that the number of courses in each Engineering Distribution area except Introduction to Engineering will be restricted to one or two.

“Small class sizes, close association with an engineering professor, and a significant amount of writing should be features of Introduction to Engineering courses. Course that illustrate the systematic engineering approach to problem solving in the absence of adequate information or develop skills (e.g. with microprocessors or computer graphics) in the context of an engineering application are illustrative of Introduction to Engineering offerings. Specific Introduction to Engineering courses may not be required by a field program nor serve as a prerequisite to another course. Recommendations on the nature of Introduction to Engineering courses have not changed since the June 1970 report was prepared. See pages 4-5 and 14 of that report for elaboration on the nature of the courses."

[Note; We have not been able to locate a copy of the June 1970 report, and we are still looking.]

19 June 1981. Courses 106A–106H described in the DBS write-up of June 1081 were approved as ENGRI courses for fall 1981. After guidelines are established by the CCGB, these courses will be reviewed again. Geology 101 was also approved subject to a similar review. [Gries: I have not found anything that established guidelines.]

Throughout the past 26-odd years, there have been motions to approve courses as ENGRI courses. All of these motions are not listed here.

15 December 1995. The following motion was carried by a show of hands, 6-1.

WHEREAS, in 1994 the College Faculty revised the College Curriculum (Common Curriculum prior to 1994) to read:

“The category and requirement of Engineering Distribution is reduced from 12 credits to 9 credits, 3 of which are an Introduction to Engineering Course or equivalent (note 1 below) described in paragraph c [which reads:] (c) A three credit Introductory Engineering Course is required.
- This must be taken during the Freshman Year.
- The purpose of this course is to introduces students to the engineering process and provide them with a substantive experience in open ended problem solving context. In the interest of providing high quality courses, each course of this nature must be approved by the Introductory Engineering Committee of the CCSB and must involve an approved syllabus and course structure

And

WHEREAS, it was the belief and intent of the faculty, when the curriculum was designed, that all beginning engineering students take at Cornell an engineering course that broadens their view of engineering as a methodology and profession as well as provides “hand-on” engineering experience,

Therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the CCGB reaffirms the principles that every student who matriculates as a first-year engineering student must take an Introduction to Engineering course, according to the legislation. Petitions to substitute other courses for the Introduction to Engineering course will typically be denied. Further, it is understood that the review of Introduction to Engineering courses is the responsibility of the CCGB Standing Committee on Engineering Distribution.

(Note 1. ABEN satisfies the requirement through a sequence of courses (The Committee interprets this to mean that the footnote —and the “equivalence” option— refers only to students in ABEN.)