

Proposal from the Teaching Initiatives Committee and the Curriculum Committee
Short- medium- and long-term planning for curriculum revision and maintenance
to the Head and the EOS Department, April 2008

Background, rationale, and goals:

- Program level curriculum revision is not happening within EOS' current committee structure.
- Curriculum questions are intimately tied with the EOS-SEI effort to improve teaching and learning in EOS.
- During the EOS-SEI project (next four years), we have the opportunity to complete much of the needed groundwork on curriculum, while we have the human resources.
- The faculty members who teach in the program streams are the right people to receive data from the EOS-SEI project and make curricular decisions.
- The goals for the next four years are to
 - examine (and potentially revise) all EOS curricula, and
 - set up a process by which examination and maintenance of curricula can be ongoing indefinitely, after the EOS-SEI project ends.
- The long-term goal is to have a formal structure to promote ongoing curricular revision at the program level.

Recommendations:

- Set up a formal, rotating schedule for curriculum revision, whereby each of 9 streams/programs/course categories would be considered every few years.
- Set up a formal Curriculum Subcommittee, with rotating membership each year, depending on which course category or stream is designated for curriculum considerations in that year.
 - The subcommittee membership would include a few key faculty members from the relevant stream, plus an SLTF (for the next four years only).
 - One member of the subcommittee (not necessarily the chair), should also be a member of the Curriculum Committee.
 - The subcommittee's mandate would be to help guide data collection and receive data (initially from EOS-SEI), articulate program-level goals, make curricular recommendations, including recommendations about course and program enrolments, and pass those to the Curriculum Committee.

Schedule Recommendations for the next 3 years:

The joint committee has the following recommendations for ensuring that all 9 streams/programs/categories are examined during the remainder of the EOS-SEI project. These two committees can take on primary responsibility for service courses and "broad" courses, and thus minimize the need for extra subcommittees. EOS-SEI has already begun collecting data about the service courses and the work done there can serve as a model for the other categories to follow.

YEAR	WHAT	WHO
2008-2009	Service courses – already underway	Teaching Initiatives Committee
	"Broad" courses (e.g. 211, 212, others)	Main Curriculum Committee
	ENSC program	New subcommittee, July 2008
	Geology Stream	New subcommittee, July 2008
2009-2010	ATSC program	New subcommittee, July 2009
	OCGY stream	New subcommittee, July 2009
	Geophysics stream	New subcommittee, July 2009
	Geological Engineering	New subcommittee, July 2009
2010-2011	EOS majors program	New subcommittee, July 2010

It's possible that some of these categories could take more than one year to complete work. After 2011, the idea is that ~1-2 streams/programs/categories would be designated to be examined each year, using a process set up during the EOS-SEI project.