WCC Foundations Board Meeting
April 9, 2010
Minutes

Present: Robert Barclay, Patti Chong, Letty Colmenares, Kathleen French, Malia Lau Kong, Navtej (Johnny) Singh (proxy for Young-a Choi), and Jean Okumura.

Absent: Young-a Choi

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Jean Okumura at 1:46 pm in Akoakoa 236.

2. Minutes – The minutes for the March 12, 2010 meeting were accepted as circulated.

3. ICS 141 Foundations Proposal

   a. Hallmark 1 – Students will be exposed to the beauty, power, clarity, and precision of formal systems. How will the course meet this hallmark?

      (1) On page 4, there is still reference to “data will be collected.” It is unclear what data will be collected.
      (2) It is recommended that Dave Maxson look at the explanatory notes since it gives examples of beauty, power, etc.
      (3) There needs to be statements to preface what the examples are intended to show.
      (4) Images on the computer are represented by matrices. This could be an example of beauty.

   b. Hallmark 4 – Students will be required to use appropriate symbolic techniques in the context of problem solving, and in the presentation and critical evaluation of evidence. What symbolic techniques will be required and in what contexts? How will presentations and evaluations of evidence be incorporated into the course?

      (1) This section is better. It would have been helpful if in the discussion of word problems, Dave Maxson could have delineated how evidence is presented and evaluated.

   c. Hallmark 6 – Instructors will build a bridge from theory to practice and show students how to transverse this bridge. How will instructors help students make connections between theory and practice?

      (1) This section still needs work. Board members felt that students will probably be taught to create algorithms based on theories and that modeling would be used by the instructor. In other words, the instructor will probably model the creation of an algorithm for a problem using theories and most likely students will be given problems for homework and/or group work that students will have to solve by creating an algorithm using theories.
(2) Dave Maxson needs to write his responses to a larger audience, not to math or computer science faculty.

d. It was felt that Hallmark 1 and 6 needs revision before Board members will be ready to vote on the proposal.

e. For Hallmark 1, Board members felt that Dave Maxson needs to break it down and address each item (or combination of items). He needs to specify how exposure to each (or a combination) will be accomplished. For example, he should have sentences like “Students will be exposed to the beauty of formal systems by …” or “Students will be exposed to the power, clarify, and precision of formal systems by ….” Then, give examples.

f. For Hallmark 6, Board members felt that Dave Maxson needs to specify how the instructor will help students make connection between theory and practice. If it involves modeling by the instructor followed by homework where students must connect theory with practice, then he should state so.

g. The proposal mentions projects but the syllabus makes no mention of projects. There seems to be a disconnect between the syllabus and the information provided in the proposal.

h. Jean will inform David Maxson about the Foundations Board’s suggestions for improvement. Board members asked that Jean Okumura draft a letter to Dave with the suggestions and send it to the Board members for review before sending it to Dave.

i. If the revisions can be done quickly (within one week), the Board requested that Jean send out the proposal and conduct a vote via email to help expedite this item so that it could be included in the catalog.

k. Jean will also need to talk to Paul Field about catalog revisions since this proposal could not be approved today.

4. Area Meetings – Young-a, Robert, and Malia will be asked to present a summary of their meetings at the next Board meeting.

5. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 pm.