April 9, 2016

RE: recommendation to waive degree credit policy regarding online courses for CS 131

Dear A&S Faculty,

In the case of CS 131 as offered by the Washington University College of Engineering, the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee recommends waiving the A&S policy that denies degree credit for online courses.

Our rationale is as follows:

CS 131 is offered in both classroom and online versions. The online version, offered during the summer, concludes with a final exam administered in a proctored, in class context during the first days of the fall semester. During the 12-week summer term, students meet twice weekly online in groups of four with a TA. One of these online meetings is a “studio,” where students collaborate with the TA in directed learning. The other meeting is a “lab,” in which students get help and/or demo their work to the TA for credit. These mandatory, synchronous sessions recreate in an online context a single table of the physical lab environment utilized during the fall and spring semesters. Online sessions are scheduled by the TA and last 90 to 120 minutes. Summer students submit their responses to the coding exercises online, which is the method used during the academic year. Students enrolled in the summer version of CS 131 are full-time Washington University undergraduates who often continue their studies in other courses in the Computer Science department.

Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation, which we will put forward for a vote at the April 20 faculty meeting.

On Behalf of the A&S Curriculum Committee,

Todd Decker
Associate Professor and Chair, Music
Chair, ArtSci Curriculum Committee 2015-2016