Undergraduate Program Review  
Computer Science  
2001-2002

I. Strengths:

1. The continuous review process
2. Employer satisfaction of graduates
3. Faculty willingness to accommodate needs of students (i.e. courses, etc.)

II. Weaknesses:

1. Need for more funding
2. Low number of faculty which limits the program from seeking accreditation
3. Need for more lab and software

III. Recommendations:

1. Hiring of more faculty to seek accreditation
2. Continue to increase the number of majors with an aggressive recruitment strategy
3. New computer lab
4. More formal measures of evaluating programs

1-Year Follow-Up:

1. Hiring of more faculty to seek accreditation

Dr. Varvel joined the faculty in Fall 2003 as a permanent replacement for Dr. Wang. We are currently in the process of hiring an additional faculty member to start Fall 2004. For the current academic year, we have a part-time visiting instructor teaching two graduate courses and a lecturer teaching two of the introductory undergraduate courses. The addition of these two have allowed us to offer more elective courses at the graduate level. With the addition of this fourth faculty member, we will be in a position to start the accreditation process.
2. Increase the number of majors with an aggressive recruitment strategy

The amount of teaching has kept us from an aggressive recruitment strategy. We have been able to make progress on the 2+2 program with South Texas Community College which has a large number of computer science students. This program was the only 2+2 program that was never completed under the previous Dean. Until this program is actually in place, we have a signed agreement with STCC to accept certain courses from their curriculum as part of our degree recruitment.

3. Start a computer lab

We have had three sun workstations donated to the program and these are the first computers in the CS Lab. Dr. Heenan has ordered 5 new Dell computers for this lab.

4. Use formal measures of evaluating program

The CS Faculty has started to evaluate the program in the same way that the Electrical Engineering program is being evaluated each semester. This includes an assessment report for each class taught every semester. This will help in the accreditation process with ABET.

5. Review of degree program

During the 2002 school year, we went over the undergraduate degree program and revised the required courses. This change went into effect for Fall 2003. This change introduced more courses in the computer engineering area and a sequence of courses in software engineering.