Minutes for Computer Science Discipline Meeting

September 9, 2005
Clarkston Campus

Members in Attendance: Ashraf Chowdhury, Anant Honkan, Julia Benson, Priscilla Dodds, Nat Kumaresan

Items Discussed:

1) Anant presented the need for introduction of MatLab into the engineering curriculum to service students transferring to GaTech under the GPC-RETP program. We agreed to explore the possibility of including it in one of the CSCI courses.

2) The major thrust of this meeting was to discuss our growing concern about inconsistent quality in adjunct instruction in the 1300, 1301, 1302 course sequence. The group made the following recommendations to be presented to the math discipline department chairs:

i) Adjuncts teaching the CSCI classes need to be closely mentored by a full-time instructor. Adjunct instructors need to submit not only their syllabus, but copies of their assignments and exams to their mentor. Mentors need to perform a minimum of one classroom observation each year. Mentors will be encouraged to stay in close contact with their mentees. Chairs and/or mentors should monitor grades disseminated to students as well as student evaluations and comments.

ii) The resume and transcripts of prospective adjunct hirees should be approved by at least one full-time CS faculty before they are hired.

iii) It is our strongest recommendation that only full-time CS faculty should be teaching the CSCI 1301-1302 course sequence. This course sequence is so central to the foundation of a CS major that we cannot risk it being inadequately taught. These two courses are incredibly time-consuming to teach properly and require a lot of interaction with students. Since adjuncts generally maintain full-time jobs and are not responsible for holding office hours, it is unlikely that they can commit the time necessary to helping students with program construction and debugging.