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Re: Evaluation of DM203:

The course, DM203, Cryptology, was offered for the first time, the third and fourth quarters of the 2007–2008 academic year. Since this was the first time it was offered, a course evaluation was performed at the end of the course. Four of the nine students were present and filled out evaluation forms. A summary of the responses has been prepared and is attached.

This course is officially a computer science course, but it contains much mathematics and probability also. There were both computer science and mathematics students in the course. One of the mathematics students was a Ph.D. student. From discussions with the students, it appears that the computer science students thought it was a mathematics course and the mathematics students thought it was a computer science course. This would indicate that the balance was fairly good, but if I have the same balance of students next time, I think it would be appropriate to assign a few more problems which involved programming and fewer which involved proofs.

The evaluation of DM203, shows that most of the students thought that the course was large and difficult. My feeling was also that the course was large for 10 ECTS, since it included some required assignments. The course description should be revised so that there are 36 (instead of 42) hours of lecture and 34 (instead of 42) hours of problem sessions and some topics, probably including quantum cryptography and computation, should be cut. I would also like to change the course descriptions so that the approval of the assignments was necessary to take the exam, but did not give 3 ECTS credit.

In addition, one student pointed out that meeting three days in a row every week (it was Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during the fourth quarter) was not optimal. When a course meets six hours in a week, this should be

avoided. It made the course even more intense.

Sincerely,

Joan Boyar

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