

UW Tacoma CTC Committee
Autumn 2015
Oct 30th 2015
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Ravi Gandham (South Seattle), Richard Hoagland (South Puget Sound), Dan Achman (Bates), Amelia (Olympic), David Schroyer (TCC), Alan Fowler (UWT), Donald Chinn (UWT), David Ross (UWT), Beth Jeffrey (UWT), Ankur Suri (UWT), David Schuessler (UWT), Monika Sobolewska (UWT), Menaka Abraham (UWT)

The AP CS Principles course is a nationwide effort to have a standardized way of introducing computer science. The idea is that the course could be taught in high school, at a community college, or at a university. Students would get college credit for passing the AP CS Principles test (just like how they can credit for Calculus, etc. by taking the AP exam for it). This session will discuss what the course is, how we have taught it at UW Tacoma, and whether UW Tacoma's community college partners are interested in offering such a course.

Here is a web site that describes the course and nationwide effort:

<https://advancesinap.collegeboard.org/stem/computer-science-principles>

TCSS 101 is based on AP CS Principles course that is currently taught to the freshman core at UW Tacoma. Alan Fowler developed this course and presented information about this course.

2. Discussion of CS 1 and the new TCSS 142 (at UW Tacoma).

(David Schuessler & Monika Sobolewska)

- a. The idea behind the new TCSS 142
- b. Experiences with teaching the class
- c. Experiences teaching TCSS 143 with students from different backgrounds

In academic year 2014-2015, UW Tacoma taught TCSS 142 differently than

in the past. Instead of teaching programming using Java, the course uses a much less syntax-heavy language, Python. The guiding principle is that the first programming course should be primarily about programming, rather than learning a programming language. The approach has its advantages, but it also has its challenges. UW Tacoma instructors who have taught the 142 and 143 course will share their experiences from this past year. We hope that community college instructors can share their experiences with students making the transition from one programming language to another (and in particular to/from Python).

3. Discussion of topics for Winter and Spring meetings.

List of possible topics:

- 1) Transfer student data (Beth)
- 2) Textbooks
- 3) Grading Assignments/ Database
- 4) Classroom technology
- 5) Teaching tips
- 6) Women In Computer Science (WiCS): hurdles for students in CS

Menaka Abraham will coordinate the winter meeting and Ankur Suri will coordinate spring meeting. Looking for CTC counterparts to assist in the planning!