

To: Dr. Umar Al-Turki, Dean of College of Computer Sciences & Engineering
From: CCSE Ad-hoc Committee to Review Merger of Two Labs
Subject: Final Report
Date: 5th January 2008

The committee members (Dr. Marwan Abu-Amara, Dr. El-Sayed El-Alfy, Mr. Hakim Adiche, and Mr. Bashir Ghandi) have met with the dean on Wednesday 5/12/2007 to get more clarifications about the committee's mandate. Subsequently, the committee has met on Tuesday 11/12/2007 to review the possibility of the merger between the COE network lab and the ICS network lab. The following facts about the two labs were presented:

	<i>COE</i>		<i>ICS/SWE</i>	
Courses requiring use of lab	COE 344		ICS 343, SWE 344	
Courses that use lab occasionally	COE 444, 445, 446, and Short courses		ICS 436, 441, 442, 443, 444	
Number of lab sections	1st term	2nd term	1st term	2nd term
Current (T071 & T062)	2	3	2	4
Future/Expected	4	4	4	8
Number of students per section	Max	Optimal	Max	Optimal
	20	18	20	16
Maximum lab's capacity	20 students		20 students	
Reasons for maximum lab capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safety hazard ▪ Equipment maintenance 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safety hazard ▪ Space/reachability ▪ Equipment maintenance 	

As evident from the table, the total expected number of lab sections in the 2nd term is 12 sections (4 COE lab sections and 8 ICS lab sections). As such, merging the two labs will cause a very serious and limiting course offerings problem for the students. To clarify, many of the core and elective courses offered at the junior and senior levels are offered with only one section. Accordingly, the single offered sections, whether for a core course or an elective course, must be scheduled in the morning, the early afternoon, or the late afternoon. With merging the two labs, the 12 sections must be also scheduled at the same time as the single offered sections (i.e. morning, early afternoon, or late afternoon). Thus, the students will have a conflict between the time of the lab and the time of the single offered sections.

Therefore, it is the committee's recommendation to leave the two labs separated to eliminate any possible course offerings problems, and to allow for the opportunity of further utilization of each lab in additional courses in the near future.