From: Johnson, Jay

Sent: Monday, October 31, 2011 4:38 PM ))) To: Mark Feldman

Subject: RE: Math 217

Thank you, Mark.

We are hoping the additional- TA sessions, and letting students use the Calc Help Room as an additional resource, will increase their understanding and confidence with the material. The math and science courses are crucial for student retention in engineering. It pains us to see students give up engineering due to lack of confidence in math and science before they get into the meat of engineering coursework.

Jay

Jay Johnson wrote:

Mark,

An engineering faculty advisor just contacted me and said that a number of her students are giving serious consideration to withdrawing from Math 217. This will- totally throw their course sequence out of whack if they drop Math 217.

Instead of communicating a message to the advisors, it might be better for you to send an email to the students outlining all of the extra options that are now avail-able to them, and to please encourage them to stay enrolled in Math 217.

Thank you,

Jay

On Nov 1, 2077, at 10:59 AM, Mark Feldman wrote:

Jay,

I will write the students as soon as I have the tine to compose an appropriate email. I am sure I will be ab1e to get to it no Later than tomorrow. l will send you a copy. I do still think it is important for the advisors to understand what I am doing and to encourage the students, especially, if anyone followed Harry’s advice, which seems to me could indicate to the students that there is something wrong with the materials I use in the course. While I 'm on that topic , I also received an email from Rob that started , 'I was able to speak if to several more students today about difficulties they are having in your 217 course." I cannot tell for certain what Rob meant, but, if he meant what it sounds like on the face of it, I think that would also not instill confidence in the students about the course which I think would not be in their interest.

In any case, I’lI write the students what I believe will, be a very encouraging email. I think if we all work together, they will get through this and ma.ke great engineerinq students for you.

Mark