

Structured electives in Civil Engineering

Project aims

To assess the feasibility of developing a suite of related electives for Civil Engineering undergraduate students and which might also be attractive to a wider student audience.

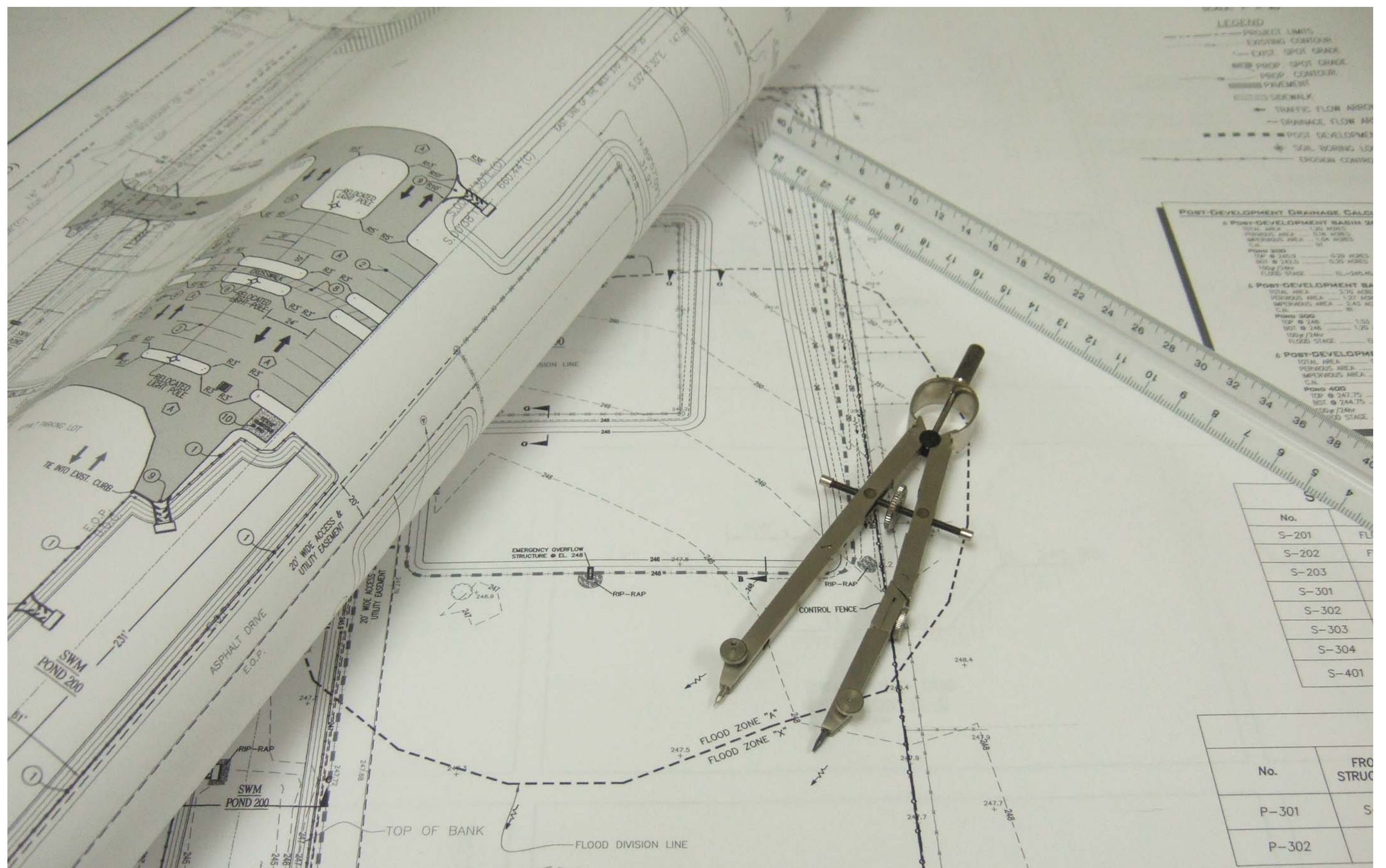
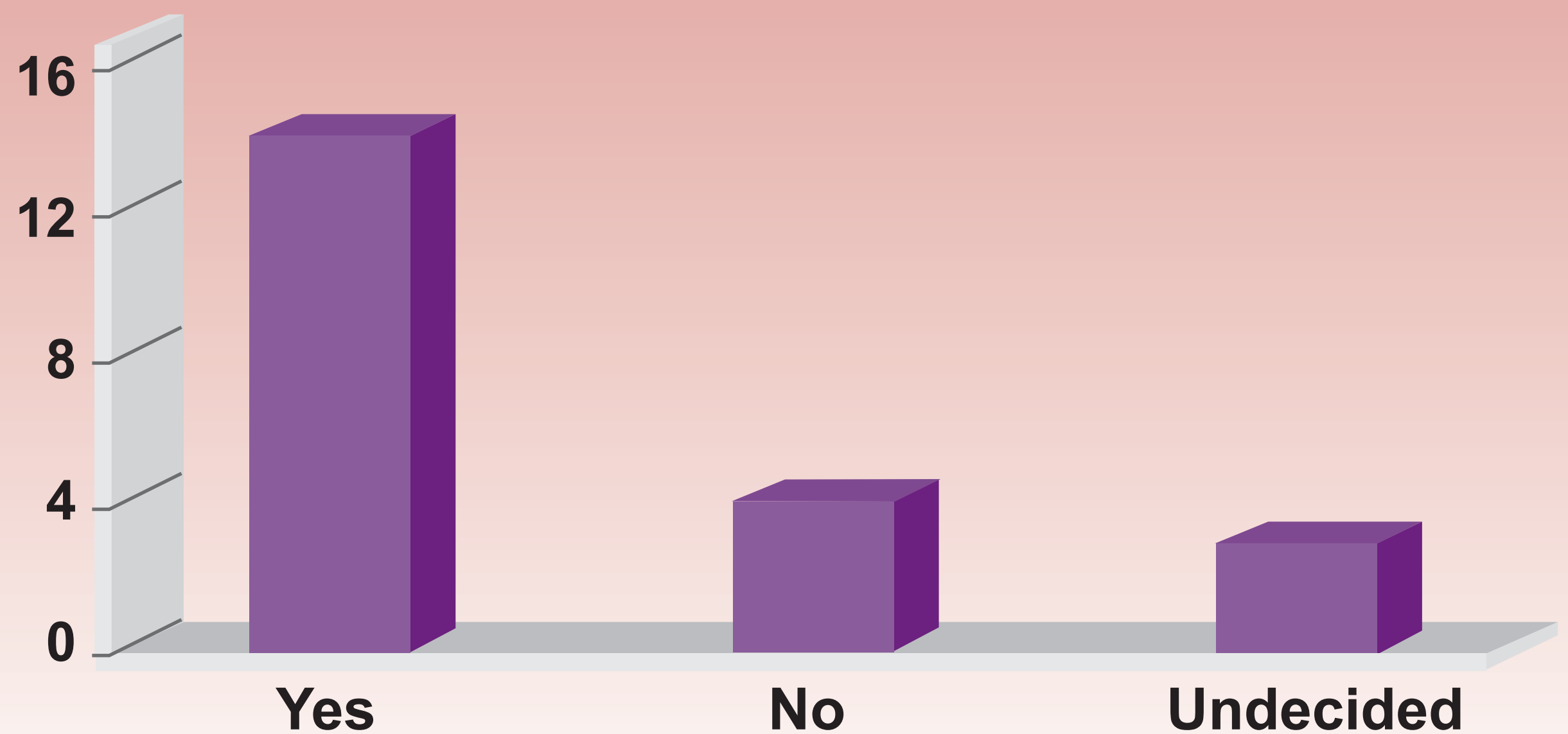
Background

Arising from group project on General Electives and from a preliminary survey of Final Year Civil Engineering students (see Figure), there would appear to be interest amongst students in the concept of structured electives (minor) being made available as part of the Horizons system.

Methodology

- I intend having discussion with the following key personnel on the feasibility/desirability of developing structured electives for Civil Engineering:
 - Dr. Mark Richardson, Head of School ALCE
 - Professor Eugene O' Brien, Professor of Civil Engineering
 - Dr. William Magette, Head of Teaching and Learning ALCE
 - Dr. Amanda Gibney, Head of Teaching and Learning, EMPS
 - Dr. David Timoney, Dean of Engineering
 - Dr. Philip Nolan, Registrar
- A more detailed questionnaire of Civil Engineering students will be undertaken to explore further the preliminary findings of the initial small survey group and to examine what model of structured electives would best suit. For example, one

Would a suite of related electives be more useful?



elective per year in each of 1st, 2nd and 3rd year. Possible suites of electives might include: (a) energy, (b) environment.

- It is anticipated that any developments in this area should, as far as possible, be resource neutral i.e. utilisation/packaging of existing modules. Issues such as timetabling, communication of the availability of suites of structured electives, incentives for students to undertake a minor will be explored.

Potential Applications

While Civil Engineering undergraduate students would be the focus of the project in its initial phase, it is my intention to examine the feasibility of making the proposed suite of electives attractive to students across the School, to cognate Engineering disciplines and to the wider University student population.