PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

GRADUATE COURSE APPROVALS

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

1. That Section SX 4.6.2 of the Senate Charter pertaining to the review of new graduate courses and revision of existing graduate courses by the Committee on Curriculum and Instruction of the Graduate Academic Council be amended as follows.

Original Text:

SX.4.6.2  The [Committee on Curriculum and Instruction] shall review new graduate courses and substantive changes to existing graduate courses, as approved within the schools and colleges, subject to final review by the Council.

Revised Text:

SX.4.6.2 New graduate courses and changes to existing graduate courses receive final approval from the schools and colleges, subject to appropriate notification, but the Graduate Academic Council shall have the power to review new courses and changes to existing courses and require reconsideration by the schools and colleges. Notification should be made to the Graduate Academic Council, to the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies, the Office of the Vice President or Dean of the affected college or school, and to all other interested parties.

3. That this be forwarded to the President for approval.

4. That this change take effect immediately upon approval.
Background and Rationale:

Senate legislation in the Fall of 2004 created a joint working group with representatives from the Governance Council and the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE) to address issues surrounding governance procedures for CNSE, including procedures for approval of new graduate course and revisions of existing courses. The working group considered the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on University-Wide Faculty Governance and solicited input from the Governance Council and from the Graduate Academic Council.

The report of the Ad Hoc Committee on University-Wide Faculty Governance recommends the following.

“Senate Charter section SX.4.6.2 (which presently reads, ‘The [Committee on Curriculum and Instruction] shall review new graduate courses and substantive changes to existing graduate courses, as approved within the schools and colleges, subject to final review by the Council.’) should be amended as follows: ‘Following appropriate notice, Schools and Colleges shall have the authority to approve new graduate courses and approve changes to existing graduate courses.’ (See pp. 5-6, 12);” Summary Recommendation #6 regarding Graduate Curriculum and Academic Standing (passed unanimously by the Committee).

The proposed amendment for Section SX4.6.2 from the Governance Council follows in the spirit of this recommendation but retains an explicit role for the Graduate Academic Council as needed. The amendment incorporates similar language to that for the role of the Undergraduate Council in the review of new undergraduate courses (Section SX.3.4.3).

The Governance Council has unanimously approved this amendment.