October 6, 2008

Curriculum Committees
Ginn College of Engineering
Graduate School

Dear Colleagues:

The department of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISE) requests a change to their non thesis master’s program (the MISE degree) effective immediately. This change is to allow a non project completion of the MISE where a written final examination and a 3 credit hour elective course are substituted for the current 3 credit INSY 7980, MISE project, and final examination by committee. The policy is outlined in the attachment. There are several motivations for the change:

1. Allows students more flexibility in choosing a curriculum which best suits them (a project or an elective with comprehensive exam).

2. Utilizes faculty time more efficiently (we have over 60 MISE students with 10 faculty members and a number of those students are outreach (distance)). Students without research topics would opt for the examination while research involved students would opt for the project.

We also request a change to all of our graduate degrees (MISE, MS, PHD) which eliminates the mention of core course hours in the Bulletin. Currently, the Bulletin mentions 18 core course hours. The rationale for eliminating this specification is to allow the department / graduate committees to determine the appropriate set of core courses for students.

I can be reached on 844-1400 or at smithae@auburn.edu for any discussion.

Very truly yours,

Alice E. Smith, Ph.D., P.E.
Professor and Chair

Enclosure

CC: Dr. Jeff Smith
1. An MISE student may elect to include 3 credit hours of project (INSY 7980) supervised by an advisor and committee (total of at least three faculty members) and the final examination associated with the project and the rest of the student’s academic MISE program is administered by this committee. The student may pass or fail this examination. If the student fails, with the committee’s permission, the student may retake the examination one further time.

2. An MISE student may elect to omit the project and take a proctored written examination of approximately ½ day duration which covers the core ISE MISE course work. In this case, the student will include a 3 credit hour elective in his/her program instead of the 3 credit hour project. The examination would be administered (questions set and graded) by three or more ISE faculty members, who would determine the outcome (pass or fail). If a student fails the examination, he/she may retake the examination one further time at the next time it is offered. Outreach students can take their final examination on campus or at their location under the supervision of a proctor. The MISE final examinations for the non project option will be held at least twice a calendar year.

3. Dual degree students (MBA/MISE) must take option 1 above as the MBA degree requires a final project.