September 1, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Jeannine Blackwell
    Dean, UK Graduate School

FROM: G. T. Lineberry
    Associate Dean for Commonwealth & International Programs

RE: Request for Change in the Master of Engineering Program – MODIFIED

Based upon discussion at the August 25 meeting, at which we (Blackwell, Lester, Grulke, Huang, Bettez, and Lineberry) met with CYCU Dean, Dr. J.T. Teng, to discuss the next step in implementing the recently-signed MOU between UK and CYCU, this memorandum supersedes the one dated June 6, 2005.

Thank you for withdrawing the College’s request for termination of the Master of Engineering program (ENG1), pending the outcome of the initiative originated by Dr. George Huang in Mechanical Engineering, aimed at serving the non-thesis graduate education needs of students from Chung Yuan Christian University and possibly Southern Taiwan University of Technology, Taiwan. It is understood that any changes that ultimately are approved would apply to all students who may enter the degree program, not just the international students that we expect to form the first cohort in 2006. I have enclosed a draft of the “Request for Change” form, which will be routed via normal processes this fall.

In short, for the first pilot cohort only (from CYCU), the College is requesting a lowering of the TOEFL score on the computerized TOEFL from the current 213 to 197 (527 paper). For those students below TOEFL 197, we propose conditional admission for this first cohort only, with a requirement of a passing score on the Cambridge University’s First Certificate Examination (FCE) by the end of the first semester of UK study. This will provide us an opportunity to assess students’ ability to succeed in this coursework-only program of study. It is understood that this is a one-time exception and therefore will not be included in the program-change paperwork.

In addition, we will be requesting that the GRE requirement be dropped. The Master of Engineering degree is not research-oriented and can be considered a terminal degree in Engineering and is not a gateway into an American doctoral program, hence, the GRE is of rather minor significance. Furthermore, since the Master of Engineering is a coursework-based credential, its graduates will not be involved in competitions for Ph.D. fellowship awards. While most College of Engineering programs have retained a GRE requirement for admission, Chemical Engineering, for example, does not require it, but rather relies on other metrics for admission. For the Master of Engineering program, only domestic graduates from ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology)-accredited universities or international graduates from institutions with programs deemed to be “substantially equivalent” (by ABET) or are otherwise known by the College’s DGIs as having strong engineering programs are admitted. The latter is the case for the Taiwanese institutions with which we are developing the current relationship. It
should be pointed out, however, that since the envisioned program with CYCU is basically a “4 + 1” program, under which students would concurrently earn a BS from CYCU and a Master’s from UK, we will need to develop a process of degree certification such that verification of an earned baccalaureate is obtained by UK prior to the award of the UK credential.

When the program change is presented to the College Graduate Team, a very important point of discussion will be the potential impact upon the graduate offerings and advising within such disciplines as Mechanical, Electrical, Computer Science, Manufacturing Systems, and Computer Engineering. Dr. Huang and I will be prepared to address this issue during the consideration process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Should you need additional information or clarification, I can be reached at gti@engr.uky.edu or 7-2833. The College of Engineering remains very much behind the rejuvenation of the Master of Engineering program through this pilot approach.

Cc  E. Grolke, Associate Dean for Research & Graduate Studies
   T. Lester, Dean, Engineering
   G. Huang, DGS, Mechanical Engineering
   K. Rouch, Chair, Mechanical Engineering
   D. Bettez, Director, Office of International Affairs
**REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAM**

Program: Master of Engineering

Department/Division: Engr.

College: Engineering

Degree Title (Old): Master of Engineering, ENGI


Degree Title (New): unchanged

CIP Code: 14.9999.03

Major (New): unchanged

HEGIS Code: N/A

Accrediting Agency (if applicable): N/A

**I. CHANGE(S) IN PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

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<th>Current</th>
<th>Proposed</th>
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1. Number of transfer credits allowed  
   (Graduate School limit: 9 hours or 25% of coursework)

2. Residence requirement (if applicable)

3. Language(s) and/or skill(s) required

4. Termination criteria

5. Plan A requirements*

6. Plan B requirements*

7. Distribution of course levels required  
   (At least one half must be at 600+ level & two thirds must be in organized courses)

8. Required courses (if applicable)

9. Required distribution of courses within program  
   (if applicable)

10. Final examination requirements

* If there is only one plan for the degree, plans involving a thesis (or the equivalent in studio work, etc.) should be discussed under Plan A and those not involving a thesis should be discussed under Plan B.

NOTE: To the extent that proposed changes in 5, 6 or 8 above involve the addition of courses in other programs, please submit correspondence from the other program(s) pertaining to the availability of such courses to your students.
II. RATIONALE FOR CHANGE(S)
If the rationale involves accreditation requirements, please include specific references to those requirements.

* In reference to #11, propose dropping GRE requirement for this terminal degree program, as it does not serve as a gateway to a doctoral program in Engr. And, since the ENGI program is a coursework-only degree program, the GRE should not be required for program admission. While the majority of programs in Engr do require the GRE, Chemical Engineering does not, so the request for the ENGI program is not unprecedented.

* Lastly, since the ENGI program is planned to be used to accommodate international students (beginning with a Taiwanese cohort), all instruction, apart from one or two courses delivered by distance means from UK to Taiwan (hybrid delivery), will be live, on campus, and not by interactive television, as described in the latest edition of the Graduate Bulletin. If approved, this will be corrected in the next revision of the Bulletin. Admission to the program, however, will not be limited to international students but might be used to accommodate other non-thesis master's students interested in pursuing an interdisciplinary, terminal master's degree in Engineering.

* No changes in requirements for the degree are being requested.

Signatures of Approval:

G. J. Linbury
Department Chair Program DGS

9/2/05
Date

Dean of the College

Date

*Undergraduate Council

Date

*University Studies

Date

*Graduate Council

Date

Academic Council for the Medical Center

Date

Senate Council

Date of Notice to University Senate

*If applicable, as provided by the Rules of the University Senate

ACTION OTHER THAN APPROVAL

Rev 11/98