Engineering Research and Graduate Studies Committee
College of Engineering
Report for 2008-2009 Academic Year

Committee Members: Venkatesh Kodur (CEE, Chair), Hassan Khalil (ECE), Kris Chan (CHEMS), Sakti Pramanik (CSE), Indrek Wichman (ME), Wei Liao (ABE), Graduate Student representatives A. Ball (ECE), S. Frangakis (ME)
Ex Officio: Manooch Koochesfahani, Kathy Kreh (DE/URC), Peggy Wade (DER)

COMMITTEE ACTIONS
The committee met nine times during the year, four times in the Fall and five times in the Spring, and acted on the following issues related to College Research and Graduate Studies activities.

Course Change Requests
The committee acted on numerous course change requests. Some courses were approved at the first review, while others were approved after seeking further explanation/justification on various items from the host department. The courses that were approved included CE 821, CE 822, CE 823, CE 829, CE 861, CE 862, CE 863, ME 854, ME 859, ME 892, NSC 816, CSE 835, CSE 848, CSE 914, ECE 836, ECE 960C, BE 845, ECE 837, ECE 929D, ENE 890 and CEE 891.

Fitch Beach Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award
The committee reviewed the guidelines for the Fitch Beach Outstanding Graduate Student Research Awards with the goal of improving the recognition and morale of our outstanding graduate students. The committee after significant deliberations revised some aspects of the award, including issuing "merit certificates" to all six nominees (not just the top three).

The committee evaluated the nominations from six departments and ranked candidates for 2008-2009 Fitch H. Beach Outstanding Research Graduate Student Awards.

Fast Track MS program
The committee invited Dr. Radcliffe to present his discussions with Dr. Karen Klomparens on the Fast Track MS program. Also, after reviewing, BS/MS Programs in Mechanics, Biosystems, CEE, and Electrical Engineering have been approved.

Proposed SIRS forms revision
The committee discussed proposed SIRS form revision and offered a number of suggestions, specially with respect to graduate course evaluations.

Withrow Awards
The Withrow nominations for the Junior and Senior Scholar Award were reviewed and the committee rankings were forwarded to Dean's office.

Recruitment of Graduate Students
The committee discussed on the ways to improve our recruitment of graduate students. The discussion focused on early notification to successful applicants, creation of a Center at the graduate level (similar to undergraduate Center), establishing a large fellowship program to attract better quality students.