Engineering Research and Graduate Studies Committee  
College of Engineering  
Report for 2007-2008 Academic Year

Committee Members: Venkatesh Kodur (CEE, Chair), Hassan Khalil (ECE), Kris Chan (CHEMS), Sakti Pramanik (CSE), Brian Feeny (ME), James Steffe (ABE), Graduate Student representatives Brian Connelly (CSE) and Nizar Lajnef (CEE).

Ex Officio: Ron Rosenberg (DE/URC), Charles Petty, Peggy Wade (DER)

COMMITTEE ACTIONS DURING 2007-2008  
The committee met nine times during the year, five times in the Fall and four 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 some items from the host department. The courses that were approved included ECE 836, ECE 960C, BE 845, ECE 837, ECE 929D, ENE 890 and CEE 891.

Fitch Beach Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award  
The committee, with the goal of improving the recognition and morale of our outstanding graduate students, initiated a set of graduate student research awards. Ron Rosenberg was successful in finding needed funds for the new Fitch Beach Outstanding Graduate Student Research Awards. The committee after significant deliberations developed a frame work for the selection of nominees for the award. Accordingly:

- Each department (6) nominates one candidate.
- ERGSC (including Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies) ranks each candidate 1-5 (1 = best) based on the nomination package (record). The ERGSC department representatives do not rank the candidate from their own department.
- ERGSC (including ADRGS) ranks each candidate 1-5 (1 = best) based on presentation at a Noontime Research seminar. The format is three presentations per meeting (10 minutes plus 5 minutes Q&A). ERGSC representatives do not rank the candidate from their own department.
- A composite ranking is generated by weighting the record (research) ranking 60% and the presentation ranking 40%. Current funds permit awards to #1, #2, and #3.

The committee evaluated the nominations from six departments and ranked the candidates for 2007-2008 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 in Mechanical Engineering. After reviewing the revised proposal, on the minimum number of credits required for a master's degree the program, the committee approved the program change. The committee also recommended the approval for similar programs proposed by ECE and CEE.

Graduate Student Survey  
The committee discussed the proposed "Graduate Survey" and offered suggestions to enhance the scope of the survey.
Withrow Awards
The committee reviewed the applications and selected the winners for the Withrow distinguished scholar Awards.

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, possible recruitment fair, panel sessions for outgoing (MSU) senior students.