April 1, 2009

Dean Sally Francis, Graduate School and Graduate Council Members

Dear Dean Sally Francis and the Graduate Council Members,

We plan to introduce a 5-year B.S./M.S. program for top students entering our undergraduate programs (ECE and CS-Computer Systems), and we request that you allow students in these programs to reserve up to 21 graduate credits during their undergraduate study. At present, the graduate school allows students to reserve at most 15 graduate credits.

In the past few years, we have had many very strong students entering our undergraduate programs. For example, close to 30 Dean's Scholars joined our programs in Fall 2008. These students have a high school GPA close to 4.00 and a SAT Math/Verbal score of more than 1300 (out of 1600 possible).

Many of those students begin their freshman year with more than 20 college credit hours (advanced placement, IB, transfer) from high school. Because of the structure of our undergraduate and graduate programs, these students must start both their undergraduate and graduate studies in Fall term, so they easily run short of required undergraduate coursework during their senior year. (In Fall 2006, we reduced our B.S. requirements to 180 credits.)

The 5-year B.S./M.S. program is quite attractive to these students. When we mentioned it to some of our undergraduate students, they were quite interested in this option.

There are many benefits in offering this program:
1. The students will be involved in research even at the undergraduate level.
2. We can keep our top students in our graduate program and modestly
increase the graduate enrollment.

We believe that the increased graduate enrollment will likely offset the small amount of lost tuition that may result from having students take up to 6 extra graduate credits while they are undergraduates.

We sincerely request that you grant this request, to allow students pursuing the B.S./M.S. in ECE and CS-Computer Systems to reserve 21 credits of graduate coursework taken while they are completing their undergraduate programs.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Bella Bose
Professor and Associate Director