Dear Colleagues,

It has come to the attention of Graduate Council that the ASE graduate program has been operating under non-approved degree requirements. Students cannot be held to requirements not approved by the Graduate Council; additionally, students are "grandfathered" into newly instituted requirements. The last approved requirements are from 2006\(^1\); we understand that substantial revisions were made since that approval, including: removing the preliminary exam requirement; revising the coursework; instituting a minimum 3.5 GPA requirement in core coursework; and a requirement to take the qualifying exam early in the third year.

Due to the circumstances surrounding the recommended disestablishment of the Applied Science Engineering department, Council is willing to allow a case-by-case consideration regarding the requirements to which each remaining student will be held. Therefore, as ASE advises the remaining students in the program, the primary consideration should be what will advantage the student while still adhering as closely as possible to the approved 2006 requirements.

Advantage to the student is illustrated in the following scenarios:

- For a student who has not been required to take a preliminary exam, and who is ready to schedule the qualifying exam: that student shall not be required to take the preliminary exam (as it does not advantage them) and can proceed directly to the qualifying exam, although the 2006 requirements include the prelim.

- For a student has not earned a 3.5 GPA in core coursework, but has earned a cumulative 3.5 GPA overall: that student is still eligible to continue in the PhD program and may schedule their qualifying exam (as is stated in the approved 2006 requirements). A student who has not earned at least an overall 3.5 GPA will be ineligible to continue in the PhD and take their qualifying exam, as the overall 3.5 GPA requirement is in the approved 2006 requirements.

- For a student who has completed their course requirements: that student may schedule their qualifying exam to be held by the end of the third year as is stated in the 2006 requirements (instead of the beginning of the third year which appears in later non-approved revisions).

- If there are currently students in the master’s program who were admitted to the PhD but were later disqualified from the PhD and allowed to finish their master’s: if any of these students were disadvantaged by the program not following the 2006 requirements and that disadvantage resulted in their disqualification from the PhD program, such students currently enrolled in the program must be given an opportunity to continue in the PhD program.

Council is willing to assist the program in reviewing individual student issues and determining the appropriate course of action forward, as needed.

c: Jeffery Gibeling
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