MEMORANDUM

October 17, 2011

To: Ann Wylie
    Provost and Senior Vice-President
    Eric Kasischke
    Chair, University Senate

From: Charles Caramello
    Associate Provost and Dean

Re: Implementation of Graduate Plus/Minus Grading

At the request of the Senate Executive Committee, the Office of the Provost forwarded an “Implementation Plan for Plus/Minus Grading” to the Chair of the Senate on September 1, 2011. This plan was copied to the Council of Deans, who discussed it at the Council of Deans meeting of September 19, 2011. Focused largely on undergraduate education, the Provost’s Plan also makes four explicit references to graduate education.

The Provost’s Implementation Plan explains that previous policies on plus/minus grading approved by the Senate have included undergraduate and graduate grades. It encourages the Graduate Council to analyze the impact of plus/minus grading on graduate students, and, via the Dean of the Graduate School, to forward recommendations to the Senate.

The Graduate Council endorsed the following recommendations regarding Implementation of Plus/Minus Grading at its meeting of September 28, 2011. I am pleased to forward these recommendations, together with supporting data, to the Provost and the Senate.

Recommendations

1. The minimum grade stipulated by the Graduate School for graduate degree credit for individual courses, currently established as C, should remain as C (or 2.0). The grade of C- (or 1.7) will not count for graduate degree credit.
2. The minimum grade for individual course requirements currently specified in *Graduate School Policies* as B should continue to be specified as B (or 3.0). The grade of B- (or 2.7) will not suffice as minimum grade in these instances, which include, but are not limited to, courses being used for transfer credit and courses at the 600 level or above being double-counted for the Individual Student Bachelor’s/Master’s Program.

3. Any minimum requirements for overall GPA established in *Graduate School Policies* as 3.0 should remain as 3.0.

4. The minimum requirement stipulated by the Graduate School for *Good Standing* will not change: “In order to maintain good academic standing, every graduate student must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 for all courses taken at the University.”

5. Individual programs, using approved processes, can continue to establish requirements that exceed or augment those set by the Graduate School.

6. Policies for *Academic Probation and Dismissal* will be revised as follows: a student whose cumulative grade point average falls below 3.0 will not be placed on probation until s/he completes 12 credits or two semesters, whichever comes first.

7. Transition policies proposed in the Provost’s Implementation Plan should apply to graduate students as well as to undergraduates.