Mays Business School (change in graduation requirement)
B.B.A. in Business
October 8, 2004

TO: University Curriculum Committee

FROM: Clair Nixon  
       Associate Dean, Mays Business School

SUBJECT: A proposed change in graduation requirements for a B.B.A. degree in Business from 128 to 120 semester credit hours.

Texas A&M University has approved a change to allow baccalaureate degrees to be granted with a minimum of 120 credit hours of coursework. This is a change from a minimum of 128 hours required in the current Undergraduate Catalog, edition 127, for the academic year 2004-05. The Mays Business School is proposing that candidates for the undergraduate degree of Bachelor of Business Administration with majors in Accounting (ACCT), Finance (FINC), Information and Operations Management (INFO), Management (MGMT), and Marketing (MKTG) be allowed to graduate with the new minimum of 120 credit hours beginning with Undergraduate Catalog, edition 128, for the academic year 2005-06.

Having reviewed the graduation requirements at many of this nation's major universities, the 120 hour graduation requirement is not unusual. Some of our peer and aspirant institutions which have a 120 hour graduation requirement include: University of Texas-Austin, University of California-Berkeley, University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Rice, Arizona State University, University of Missouri, University of Minnesota, University of Virginia, and University of Florida.

There are several benefits that will accrue both to students and the university as a result of this proposed change. For a number of years the State of Texas has promulgated several initiatives to move students faster through the pipeline of higher education. Recently, for example, the State of Texas instituted a $1,000 tuition rebate program to encourage prompt graduation. Our proposed change will allow more Aggies (and their families) to receive the tuition rebate and achieve other reductions in the cost of an education at Texas A&M University. The ability of students to more expeditiously
complete the degree requirements will also enable them to reach the workplace faster or move more quickly into graduate or professional studies.

Accompanying this change is the addition of a new one-hour senior level course, Ethics in Business, ACCT467. This course will be required for all undergraduate business majors.

You will find enclosed several items for this change:

- Proposed changes in catalog disclosures for 2005-06 Undergraduate Catalog, edition 128.

- Copies of “informing letters” to each department in which courses are being dropped.

- New Course Request for ACCT467, Ethics in Business; a 1-hour course that will be required for all undergraduate business majors.

One additional note for your information: The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, in cooperation with Mays Business School, offers a degree with a major in Agribusiness. We have been working with COALS on a plan to drop the required minimum coursework for that major as well to 120-credit hours. Details on that proposal will come to the UCC from COALS. Since the vast majority of students in the Agribusiness program are students matriculated in COALS, we have not included the proposed change in the Agribusiness degree herein.

xc: J. Strawser, Dean, Mays Business School  
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