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**To:** Associate Dean Renate Lux  
Graduate Division

**Via:** Samueli School of Engineering Faculty Executive Committee

**From:** Lieven Vandenberghe, Graduate Vice Chair  
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

**Subject:** ECE MS Degree Requirement Change (22-23 AY)

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The ECE Department proposes the following change in the ECE MS degree requirements.

Current:

"Students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.00 each quarter and a grade of B or better in all graduate courses."

Proposed:

"Students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.00 each quarter."

The motivation for the change is as follows:

1. The proposal removes a discrepancy between the published program requirements and the practice followed by the Department. In the past, students have been allowed to advance to candidacy when their grade point average meets the 3.0 minimum GPA requirement.
2. We have observed that many MS students enroll in graduate courses only to drop one or more courses in the last week of the quarter. The current program requirement may have indirectly contributed to this practice. The proposed change will give an incentive for students to complete courses, even when they expect their grade may be below B.
3. The change will improve time-to-degree in the MS program.

Following a discussion in a faculty meeting of June 9, 2021, 30/45 ECE faculty voted on the proposed change. The results of the ballot were:

30 approve, 0 disapprove, 0 abstain.