To: Graduate Academic Council

From: Sally Friedman, Chair
GAC Committee on Curriculum & Instruction (CC&I)

Date: April 20, 2009

Subject: Report and Recommendations

CC&I Members: J. Champagne, S. Friedman, A. Pomerantz, J. Rivera-Wilson and F. Bolton (staff) were present. G. Denbeaux, S. Newman and B. Thié were unable to attend.

Three items of business were considered.

1. School of Business – Addition of elective track in Nano Technology to its Evening MBA program

   Presently six elective tracks are available within the Evening MBA program: Marketing, Finance, Change Management, Information Technology Management, Taxation, and New Venture Development. The School of Business in conjunction with the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering proposes to add a seventh track in Nano Technology. The track is to consist of six faculty designated appropriate CNSE business, economics or technology based credits and a six credit research project to be jointly supervised by faculty members of the School of Business and CNSE.

   The proposal received the approval of the Committee on Curriculum and Instruction by a 4-0-0 vote.

2. College of Arts and Sciences – Revision to MS Atmospheric Science Program

   The Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences seeks to expand the topic areas and course choices from which students are to pick their four required core courses for the MS Atmospheric Science degree. Currently two of the four courses are to be chosen from the Synoptic and Climate Dynamics area and two from the Atmospheric Physics and Chemistry area. The proposed curriculum revision allows students to choose their four courses from at least two of the following three areas: Synoptic and Climate Dynamics, Atmospheric Physics and Chemistry and Climate and Environmental Systems. Course Action Forms were also submitted with the proposal to add and delete the courses involved.

   Within the proposal an effective date of Fall 2008 was requested. The CC&I Committee could not honor this request as the proposal just arrived late in this Spring 2009 term for consideration and approval. Therefore, an effective date of Fall 2008 was considered to reasonable for full implementation.

   According to the narrative and rationale provided in this revised proposal, these changes allow students greater flexibility in meeting their individual interests, provide for greater program breadth and enable the department to incorporate related courses from the suspended geology graduate program. The overall number of credits needed to complete the program remained the same. Therefore, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to endorse the changes requested.

3. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy – Modification of its MPA Program

   MPA degree students need to complete 11 semester length courses, two Professional Application modules and fulfill a work experience requirement. Six of the 11 courses are core courses. The remaining five courses complete a specialization chosen from one cluster or a combination of two clusters specified as Policy Analysis and Information Systems; Politics, Policy and Instructions; Public Economics and Finance and Public Management. Public Administration now asks to add a new cluster with a concentration in Substantive Public Policy Areas.

   Minor changes to the descriptive text of the program were also presented. As stated in the document, these changes did “not in any way alter its structure or composition”.

   The proposal was well explained and the rationale provided was clear. The Committee voted unanimously (4-0-0) to endorse the revisions and to move the proposal forward to GAC for further action.