MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Mark Wasiczko, Acting Provost
FROM: Dr. Judy Short, Graduate Council Chair
RE: Motion from Graduate Council regarding Graduate Record Exam changes

The Graduate Council passed two motions yesterday to address the changes in reporting of scores on the Graduate Record Examination General Test effective October 1, 2002.

The first motion calls for a change in the 2001-2003 Graduate Catalog, p. 20, item C, as follows:

Current: C. Satisfactory scores on the GRE (minimum 1000 verbal, quantitative, and analytic combined) or on an approved alternate examination.
Change to: C. Submission of official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test Scores, or an approved alternative examination. (Consult with program department.)

The second motion is as follows:

The change in item C will be effective for all Graduate Record Examination scores received after October 1, 2002.

The Council is sending these motions to you to take forward to the Provost’s Council, the Council on Academic Affairs, and any other bodies that should be included in the process. Please also see the attached rationale.
Rationale for Graduate Council recommendations:

The Council expressed concern about implementing a required score cut off score for the whole University without adequate data about our students' scores on this new section of the exam and how they will subsequently perform in graduate studies. In addition, Educational Testing Service states “A cutoff score based only on GRE scores should never be used as a sole criterion for denial of admission.” ETS also advises that verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing scores should be considered as “three separate and independent measures” and “should not be combined.” A further recommendation states “departments may wish to establish weights for the three measures, given the program’s emphasis on particular skills”. Complete information is available in the gre.org web site publication Guidelines for the Use of GRE Scores, revised and approved by the GRE Executive Committee in June 2002 for implementation in October 2002. The specific web site for this publication is http://www.gre.org/scoreuse.html

The Council suggests that each program review its own admissions’ policies, and also review future data regarding the students' success in graduate studies.