M e m o r a n d u m

To: University Senate

From: E. Kay Halasek, Chair
Council on Academic Affairs

Date: November 2, 2007

A PROPOSAL FROM THE COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH THE MASTERS OF PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION

WHEREAS as a result of the merger of two units that produced the School of Communication in the mid-1990s, and the different approaches to research and teaching related to that merger, three Master of Arts (M.A.) programs have existed that create confusing terminology for students, and do not reflect the coherence of the existing program; and

WHEREAS the School’s Graduate Studies Committee proposes the elimination of the non-thesis option of the Communication M.A. program, the elimination of the Journalism M.A. program, and the elimination of the thesis option of the Journalism and Communication M.A. program with a new designation as a Master’s of Professional Communication; and

WHEREAS the proposal was approved by the Council on Research and Graduate Studies on May 17, 2006, with follow-up action on May 22, 2007; and

WHEREAS the Council on Academic Affairs approved the proposal in two stages, programmatic changes on November 15, 2006, and the new tagged degree designation on May 30, 2007;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University Senate approve the proposal to establish the Master’s of Professional Communication and respectfully request concurrence from the Board of Trustees.