September 3, 2002

MEMORANDUM

TO: Institute Graduate Committee, Charles Liotta, and Maureen Kilroy
FROM: J. Jagoda, Associate Chair for Graduate Studies and Research, AE
SUBJECT: Request for Approval of an Honors BS/MS Program in Aerospace Engineering

The faculty of the School of Aerospace Engineering has approved the following and asks the Institute Graduate Committee for its approval:

1. Admission of Georgia Tech Aerospace Engineering undergraduate students into the graduate program upon completion of 48 semester credit hours at Georgia Tech with a GPA of at least 3.5. The applicant must submit an application (draft attached) and one letter of recommendation from a Georgia Tech faculty member. Students must maintain a GPA of at least 3.5 to continue in the program.

2. Students who participate in the Honors BS/MS Program and maintain eligibility in this program (GPA of 3.5 or higher) automatically qualify for the 6 semester-hour “Graduate Course” option.

Recommended:

R. G. Loewy, Chair  
School of Aerospace Engineering  
Date

Don Giddens, Dean, College of Engineering  
Date

Jean-Lou Chameau, Provost  
Date

xc: GT Undergraduate Committee
Proposed Aerospace Engineering Honors BS/MS Program

Goals:
1. Attract and retain outstanding AE students
2. Encourage our top graduates to enter our graduate program.
3. Increase professional contact between faculty and top students in our School.
4. Instill in our best students a desire for life-long learning and research.

Summary of Program:
Provide a joint B.S./M.S. program with a strong research component and attract top level participants by providing incentives, such as counting of graduate classes towards both degrees and preference in the assignment of Undergraduate Research Fellowships. This program is similar to those already adopted in other schools on campus. However, AE’s requirements are more stringent including the need to maintain a higher GPA and to participate in research.

Eligibility:
1. Regular students who entered the School of Aerospace Engineering during their freshman year (thirty hours or less of AP and/or transfer credit) are eligible to join the program as long as they have completed no less than forty eight hours total [i.e., typically mid sophomore year] with an overall GPA of no less than 3.5 at GT.
2. Transfer students with more than thirty hours of credit must complete at least fourteen hours, including at least 12 hours in technical subjects at Georgia Tech with a GPA of at least 3.5.
3. Students can not generally be admitted to the program once they have completed more than 80 hours (mid-junior year) towards their degree program.
4. A student’s admission must be recommended by a faculty member (generally the advisor) and approved by the chairs of the AE Undergraduate and Graduate committees. The full committees may approve exceptional admissions.
5. Students will be permitted to remain in the program as long as their overall GPA as undergraduates does not drop below 3.5 for any two consecutive terms.

6. Students must satisfactorily (with grade S) complete the undergraduate research component of their degree (see 3 in the next section) to remain in the program.

7. During the spring term before the student has completed his/her B.S. requirement the Graduate Admission and Enrollment Services (GAES) will process a streamlined application (no GRE, waiver application fee, single recommendation from an AE faculty member).

Main Features of Program:
1. Participants will be assigned to academic advisors who are active in research in the student’s area of interest.

2. Participants will be given preference in the assignment of Undergraduate Research Fellowships controlled by the School (UTC, Mark Dash, etc.), although no financial support can be guaranteed.

3. Participants will be expected to participate in research and sign up for at least one hour of Special Problem (AE 490X) pass/fail during at least three terms before completing the BS component of their degree.

4. Participants will make at least one presentation on their research work at a national conference, a student conference, a design seminar, or a brown bag lunch before completing their BS degree.

5. Participants will receive their BS degree as soon as they have completed the requirements for this degree.

6. Participants will be automatically admitted to the AE graduate program without the need to take the GRE.

7. The graduate coordinator will do his/her utmost to secure funding for participants who have completed their BS degree, although no financial support can be guaranteed.

8. Participants may use up to six hours of graduate level course work in the major discipline towards both the undergraduate and the graduate degrees as provided for under the title “Graduate Course Option” in the GT catalog.
9. Participants who do not plan to continue on for the Ph.D. degree are encouraged (but not required) to complete an MS degree with thesis. The ultimate decision on this matter lies between the student and his/her advisor.

The reduction in total number of required hours plus the early start in research should reduce the time required for the two degrees by about one term.