

Graduate Council Resolution in support of a Reasonable and Moderate  
Extension for addition of a Non-Thesis Master of Science Option in Physics

RATIONALE

**Whereas**, the Department of Physics in the College of Sciences has proposed the addition of a Non-Thesis MS degree in Physics; and

**Whereas**, the non-thesis option is designed to cater to the needs of students who are interested in careers in science or technology-related fields such as academia (teaching at a university, college, or high school level), industry, national laboratories, etc., but who do not want to pursue a hardcore research-oriented academic/corporate scientific career; and

**Whereas**, an enrollment of 3 – 4 students is projected in the first year of the program, increasing to 12 – 15 by the fifth year; and

**Whereas**, faculty to student ratio will be maintained at 1:4 to 1:5 for a total of 35 – 40 graduate students across all degree options; and

**Whereas**, no significant increase in expense is anticipated from the addition of the non-thesis option;

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**Therefore**, be it resolved that the Graduate Council approves the proposed RME for the addition of a **Non-Thesis Option for the MS Degree in Physics**.