

ASACR 4

Office of the President
June 19, 2015

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACADEMIC DEGREE RECOMMENDATION:
GATTON COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Master of Science in Finance degree with a major in Finance in the Department of Finance and Quantitative Methods, within the Gatton College of Business and Economics, beginning in the Fall 2016 Semester.

Background: There is increasing demand for specialized professional master's programs in business and economics. The proposed Master of Science in Finance (MSF) degree consists of an eight week summer session followed by the regular fall and winter semesters for a total of ten months. The relatively short program length is consistent with an intensive finance focus and also helps to distinguish the MSF degree from a more traditional two-year MBA. Starting the program in the summer allows students to get critical, intensive background courses before the start of the regular academic year and also allows them to graduate at the most opportune time from an employment perspective.

Students with MSF degrees are highly desired in finance-specialized industries, particularly investment banking and asset management. Graduates will have strong, focused training in finance, particularly on the quantitative modeling side, and most will have undergraduate degrees in accounting, economics, or finance.

The MSF program will launch in the Fall Semester 2016 with 20 students, growing to a steady cohort of 40 students. The program will be priced based on national and international benchmarks and as a result, there will be a significant market-based differential tuition (this is similar to other professional degree programs).

This program has the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate and has completed the 45 day review process of the Council on Postsecondary Education. The Provost of the University supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____