Graduate Committee Items for 15/16

A) PhD program:
-- Re-organization of the PhD program, following the new NRT policy. It would make sense to have the
normative time to candidacy set to 2 years. Students would take their Oral qualifier then, and we can do
away with the proposal exam.

-- Minimum unit requirements for the PhD program: last year’s BOA meeting was very surprised that no
minimum-unit requirements exist, and questioned whether this is a good idea.
   Get comparison data from other top ECE programs. Discuss.

-- Professional development: we should introduce a minimum requirement for PD units, which may
come from several different classes/seminars students attend.

B) MS program:
-- Minimum units: do we want to increase the minimum unit requirements so that students need more
than a year to finish?
   Get Comparison data from other top ECE programs
   Discuss pros and cons
   Would this affect the MS+BS program?

-- MS exam: currently students have to take courses in 3 specialization areas in their Comp. exam,
making things unnecessarily complicated. Also, this does not require MS students to take any
advanced courses. Should we make the requirements for the MS exam the same as those for the
PhD exam (3 basic, 2 advanced).

C) Exam scheduling:
-- How many times do we want to offer the Comp/Prelim exam per year? Two main options are: 1) Offer
it once at the beginning of summer, with a make-up exam at the end of summer. 2) Offer it once in
summer and once in December, with make-up exams at the end of summer and the end of Winter.
   In the first case, it makes it easy on the faculty, but MS students who would like to graduate in 1.5
   years would not be able to take the exam in December.
   In the second case, the main issue is that faculty may have to prepare questions for four
   exams/year, which will certainly cause complaints.

-- A sub-issue here is the exact timing of the exam, with respect to the end of the quarter. It
would make more sense to schedule the exam after grades are posted, so that people who got "A" know
they don't need to take the exam. However, this may cause issues with students leaving for
internships (?). Also, we should think about synchronizing our prelim with other departments (e.g.,
MSE).

   Look at how other programs/departments implement this exam. Compare. Discuss.