



**AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE FACULTY OF ENGINEERING
OF THE UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE OCCIDENTE (UAO) AND
THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO (UNM)
THROUGH ITS SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING**

The Faculty of Engineering (FOE) of UAO and the Regents of the University of New Mexico through its School of Engineering (SOE) of UNM agree to establish a Joint Graduate Degree Program ("Joint Graduate Degree Program") as described in the present document through the following clauses and conditions:

CLAUSE 1: OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this agreement is to establish Joint Master's Programs that facilitate students that are registered on a full-time basis at the FOE of UAO or the SOE of UNM to jointly pursue Master's Degrees. The objectives of the joint program are:

- 1.1 To encourage collaborative research and intellectual interaction between FOE-UAO and SOE-UNM through the activities of the participating students and their advisors; and
- 1.2 To enhance human-resource development at both institutions through sharing the strengths and resources available at SOE-UNM and FOE-UAO.

CLAUSE 2: STUDENT STATUS

- 2.1 Students who participate in the Joint Graduate Degree Program must be registered at their home universities on a full-time basis and must complete a minimum number of credit hours before they may apply to the partner university (see details below).
- 2.2 Students applying to the partner university must apply as international students and must be admitted under the generally applicable academic requirements, financial standards, application deadlines, and language requirements established for international students at each respective university and within each College or Department.
- 2.3 Students applying to the partner university shall abide by the immigration regulations of the country of the host university.
- 2.4 Students applying to the partner university shall be responsible for their own tuition at that university, and will have the same options of applying for graduate assistantships or financial assistance, as do resident graduate students, subject to applicable laws and policies governing the partner university.
- 2.5 Students applying to the partner university shall be responsible for any special course, recreation, or lab fees at the partner university.



- 2.6 Students applying to the partner university shall be responsible for necessary health insurance and medical costs, as required by the partner university for its international students.
- 2.7 Students applying to the partner university shall be responsible for their own living, travel, and personal expenses.
- 2.8 Students seeking award of a Master's or PhD degree must meet or be in compliance with all of the generally applicable rules and regulations for degree recipients of each institution, in addition to the Joint Graduate Degree Program specific requirements.

CLAUSE 3: MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM

The Master's Degree Program at the SOE of UNM and FOE of UAO are offered as part of the Joint Graduate Degree Program between UNM and UAO.

Academic Requirements

The following requirements apply for a student wishing to jointly pursue Master's Degrees at SOE-UNM and at FOE-UAO:

Only Category: the Joint Master's Degree with Thesis Option:

- 3.1 A minimum of 12 credit hours (equivalently, four 3-credit courses in the Thesis option) at UNM. These may include a maximum of 3 hours of 400-level SOE-UNM courses or 3 hours of 400-level Non-SOE-UNM courses (as long as they are approved for graduate credit by UNM).
- 3.2 A maximum of 3 credit hours in "Graduate Problems" courses at SOE-UNM.
- 3.3 A minimum of 18 credits of course work at FOE-UAO (equivalently, three 4-credit graduate courses plus two 3-credit graduate courses)
- 3.4 No more than 50% of the required course credits at UNM may be taken with a single faculty member.
- 3.5 Completion of a 6-credit Master's Thesis (including thesis defense) is required. Students from UNM will write their theses in English, and UAO will be responsible for generating a Spanish translation of an English original. Students from UAO will write their theses in both Spanish and English.
- 3.6 On-line courses offered for graduate credit by either UNM or UAO will be accepted toward the Joint Graduate Degree Program subject to the policies and procedures of the university which is providing the on-line courses.



Notes and clarifications:

- a. Satisfying requirements 3.1 to 3.5 will automatically satisfy UNM's Plan-I Master's requirements (e.g., 24 credit hours of courses plus six thesis hours) and UAO's Master's program (36 credit hours of courses plus thesis)
- b. Students are required to have in place a thesis committee that complies with the requirements of SOE-UNM. Additionally, the thesis committee must include at least one faculty member from SOE-UNM and at least one faculty member from FOE-UAO.
- c. Each student must fulfill the TOEFL and GRE requirements mandated by the UNM Admissions Office and the SOE, respectively, prior to admission to UNM.
- d. Each Department in SOE may elect, upon request by the student, to offer financial aid to an admitted student on a case-by-case basis and according to each department's merit selection criteria for offering financial aid.

CLAUSE 4: CREDIT-HOUR EQUIVALENCE


1 credit hour at UNM is equivalent to 1.5 credit hours at UAO.

CLAUSE 5: PHD DEGREES SOE-UNM

Students that are registered on a full-time basis at FOE-UAO who have completed the Joint Master's Program and wish to pursue PhD degrees at SOE-UNM must fulfill the PhD-degree requirements at UNM. These requirements include but are not limited to the following:

- 5.1 Students must possess a Master's Degree in a Science, Technology, Engineering or Math (STEM) discipline.
- 5.2 Completion of the PhD-degree's credit-hour requirements at SOE-UNM.
- 5.3 Passing the PhD qualifying exams taken at SOE-UNM.
- 5.4 Completion of an 18-credit-hour PhD dissertation (including dissertation defense).

Notes and clarifications:

- a. Each student must fulfill the TOEFL and GRE requirements mandated by the UNM Admissions Office and the SOE-UNM, respectively, prior to admission to the PhD program.
 - b. Each Department may elect, upon request by the student, to offer financial aid to an admitted student on a case-by-case basis and according to department's merit selection criteria for offering financial aid.
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CLAUSE 6: PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

This program will be administered by a permanent, joint management committee, whose members are selected from the participating faculty from SOE-UNM and FOE-UAO.

CLAUSE 7: PROGRAM REVIEW

SOE-UNM and FOE-UAO agree to review the progress of this Joint Graduate Degree Program and suggest modifications to this agreement (if needed) 2 years from the date of signing this agreement. Such review shall be repeated periodically every two years thereafter.

CLAUSE 8: ADDITIONAL TERMS

- 8.1 This agreement shall be signed in duplicate. Each institution will keep a copy of the document.
- 8.2 This agreement will become effective upon signing by both parties and shall automatically renew for successive terms of five (5) years each, unless terminated in writing as provided for in this agreement.
- 8.3 Any one of the parties may terminate this agreement, advising the other institution in writing six (6) months prior to the agreement's cancellation. In this case, the students who have already been accepted at the partner university will not be affected and will be allowed to complete their studies, subject to any applicable institutional policies governing the time period for degree completion.
- 8.4 This agreement shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New Mexico.
- 8.5 Nothing in this agreement, express or implied, is intended to confer any rights, remedies, claims or interests upon a person not a party to this agreement.

Both institutions declare the following addresses and contact persons for the purposes of the present agreement:

UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE OCCIDENTE

Dr. Freddy Naranjo Pérez
Dean of Faculty of Engineering
Calle 25 No. 115 – 85 Km 2 vía a Jamundí
Santiago de Cali – Valle
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FOR THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

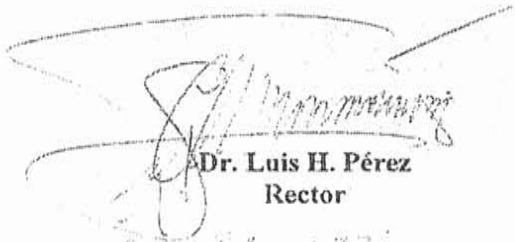
Dr. Gruia-Catalin Roman
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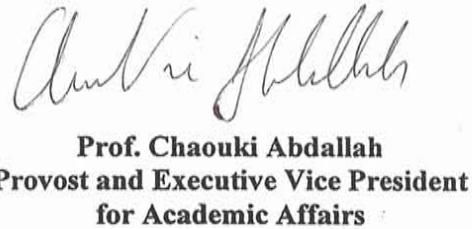


In accordance, we sign two (2) copies of this Agreement, all contents being identical and equally valid. Both parties shall retain one copy of each.

UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE OCCIDENTE

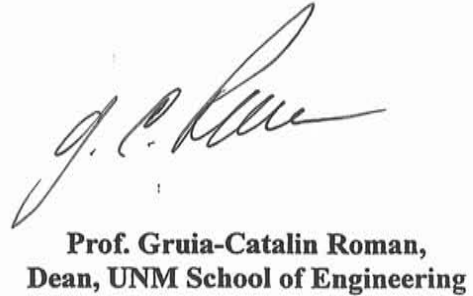
UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO


Dr. Luis H. Pérez
Rector

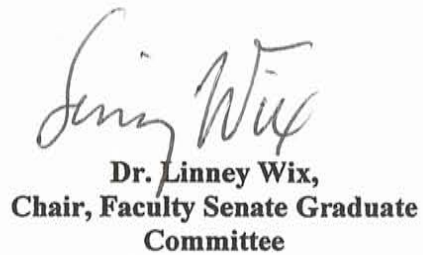

Prof. Chaouki Abdallah
Provost and Executive Vice President
for Academic Affairs

Date: *April 24, 2012*

Date: *4/24/2012*


Prof. Gruia-Catalin Roman,
Dean, UNM School of Engineering

Date: *25 Apr 2012*


Dr. Linney Wix,
Chair, Faculty Senate Graduate
Committee

Date: *9/6/2012*