Finance Department
Proposal for Modification to MBA Specialization in Finance

Current Catalog Description:
MBA students who want to specialize in Finance must complete the following courses. (Finance 503 is a prerequisite for each of these courses).
FIN535 – Investment Concepts (students who took FIN435 as undergraduates must substitute another 500 level finance course for FIN 535)
FIN545 – Money and Capital Markets
FIN555 – Derivative Markets and Securities
FIN566 – Advanced Financial Management

Proposed Catalog Description:
MBA students who want to specialize in Finance must complete 3 of the following 4 courses plus 1 elective course in Finance numbered 500 or higher. (Finance 503 is a prerequisite for each of the courses listed below). Students who took FIN435 as undergraduates must substitute another 500 level finance course for FIN 535 and thus are required to take only 2 of the remaining 3 listed courses (FIN545, FIN555, and FIN566).
FIN535 – Investment Concepts
FIN545 – Money and Capital Markets
FIN555 – Derivative Markets and Securities
FIN566 – Advanced Financial Management

Rationale: The proposal retains the core of the current specialization in that students will be exposed to important topics in the finance area while increasing student flexibility with respect to two important issues that have surfaced since the original specification of the specialization:

(1) Student ability to take courses that meet their personal professional goals particularly with respect to recently developed Finance courses: FIN521 – Personal Financial Planning for Professionals and FIN536 – Applied Security Analysis and Portfolio Management, and

(2) Student ability to schedule courses and complete the specialization in a timely manner.