RYAN’S RULES
for being on a student’s committee

1. I am an Analytical Environmental Chemist, therefore I am primarily suited to be
on the committees of Analytical or Environmental Studies students. I may be
available to serve on Biochemistry, Inorganic Chemistry, Polymer Science
committees as well as Environmental Engineering and Environmental Biology
committees only if the area of research overlaps some area of my expertise.

2. If I agree to serve on a committee and a suitable date can be found, I must have
the next to last draft of your document (thesis, dissertation, proposal) a full two
(2) weeks in advance of the defense date. No changes should be made to the
document between the time it is distributed to the committee and the defense date.
I REQUIRE AN ELECTRONIC COPY ONLY, in MS Word format sent to my
email address (David_Ryan@uml.edu).

3. If the draft of the document is acceptable, the defense can go on as scheduled. If
the draft is not acceptable because of major deficiencies, the defense will be
canceled. Grounds for cancellation could include major problems with content,
format, insufficient depth or scope, excessive errors, lack of originality, excessive
length and the like.

4. After the defense, a marked draft of the document will be returned to you for
corrections. The marked draft and the final corrected version must be resubmitted
to me for evaluation which may take up to one (1) week.

5. If the corrections are satisfactory, then and only then will I sign off on the
document. If the corrections are not satisfactory then the draft will have to be
revised again and reviewed again. This is the process for any thesis or
dissertation. My signature will not be given in advance of the final revisions for
any reason including: University deadlines, pending employment or employer
deadlines, travel schedules, etc. This will require a minimum of three (3) weeks
lead time in scheduling a defense prior to a deadline.

6. I require a soft bound copy of the final draft of every research proposal, Master’s
thesis or doctoral dissertation for which I serve as a committee member.

David K. Ryan, Ph.D.
Professor of Chemistry

I have read and understand these rules and intend to abide by them with respect to my defense.

__________________________________
Student Signature