IU Bloomington School of Education
Policy Regarding Appointment to Graduate Faculty Status and Endorsement to Direct and/or Chair Dissertations

Approved by Policy Council on March 23, 2005

Note about this proposed revision: This policy was initially reviewed by the Graduate Studies Committee in 2018, and it was flagged as needing further review. Specifically, the original 2005 policy states that each department will develop and approve their own criteria for recommending pre-tenured faculty and non tenure-track faculty (e.g., research scientists) for graduate faculty status and endorsement to chair committees. However, over the past 14 years, it does not seem as if departments have developed such criteria. Additionally, requests to the Graduate School for various things typically come through the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies. For the sake of promoting consistent standards across SOE departments, as well as for streamlining our communication with UGS, this proposal provides basic criteria for graduate faculty status, and the specific process by which these requests can be made.

Revision Proposed March 18, 2019

Recently, the University Graduate School revised the rules regarding Graduate School Faculty membership. Henceforth, all tenure-track faculty members are now automatically awarded graduate faculty status. Non-tenure-track faculty and research scientists also may be appointed to the Graduate School Faculty. However, directing dissertations and/or chairing dissertation committees now requires a formal endorsement by the School.

The Graduate Studies Committee is fully aware of the benefits and concerns related to directing and/or chairing Ph.D. and Ed.D. dissertations, especially for untenured faculty and for appointments that do not specifically address the effect such work would have on faculty load considerations (i.e., clinical, visiting, research scientist-appointments). Given the wide diversity of interests, expectations, and conditions inherent in individual, program, and department needs and interests, the GSC believes that the process for making such appointments and endorsements must be as flexible and adaptive as possible while still assuring the appropriateness of such decisions. Consequently, the process needs to reflect and respect the reality of these conditions as they pertain to specific cases.

Per the request of Policy Council, the following process to make such appointments and endorsements is therefore recommended by the Graduate Studies Committee:

1. All faculty currently holding full membership status on the Graduate School Faculty will retain full status and automatically qualify for the endorsement.
All newly tenured faculty who have achieved the rank of associate or full professor are automatically recommended for the endorsement. The assumption is that all tenured faculty are fully capable of chairing and directing dissertation committees.

All untenured, tenure-track faculty during their first three years will be considered ineligible for the endorsement to chair and direct dissertations, in order to ensure that their time is protected. Under extraordinary circumstances, a faculty member may be recommended for endorsement prior to the third year review or as untenured faculty hired at advanced career stages. Normally, however, if the faculty member agrees, and the department’s tenured faculty may review the scholar’s CV and vote to recommend endorsement any time after the third year review. If an affirmative majority vote is obtained and the department chair is supportive of the endorsement, the department chair may forward the request with a brief rationale, the vote tally, and the scholar’s CV upon the recommendation of the department chair and an affirmative majority vote of the department faculty. Endorsement may be recommended to the Graduate School of Education Office of Associate Dean of Graduate Studies for review, and copied to the School of Education School of Education Office of the Executive Associate Dean at any time after the
4.2 Third year review. The Associate Dean of Graduate Studies may then recommend endorsement to the University Graduate School. Criteria for recommending and approving such an endorsement for untenured faculty will be determined by each department.

For non-tenure-track faculty and/or research scientists, appointment to graduate faculty status and/or endorsement to direct or chair dissertations would follow may be granted for those who have a terminal degree and demonstrated scholarly expertise within their field that positions them to contribute to students’ dissertation research. If the scholar is willing, upon a recommendation of the department chair and an affirmative majority vote of department faculty. Criteria for making such recommendations should be established by the respective departments within the School of Education.

5. The department’s tenured faculty may review the scholar’s CV and vote to recommend appointment to the graduate faculty. If an affirmative majority vote is obtained and the department chair is supportive, the department chair may forward the request with a brief rationale, the vote tally, and the scholar’s CV to the School of Education Associate Dean of Graduate Studies for review, and copy the School of Education Executive Associate Dean. The Associate Dean of Graduate Studies may then recommend the appointment to the University Graduate School. Once a department determines and approves appropriate policies for making recommendations under the process noted above, the department will submit its policies for review by the Graduate Studies Committee, which will then forward them to Policy Council for formal approval.

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This policy replaces policy 05.32R