

Regarding Appointment to Graduate Faculty Status and Endorsement to Direct and/or Chair Dissertations

Approved by Policy Council on March 23, 2005

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.
2. 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.
3. 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 upon the recommendation of the department chair and an affirmative majority vote of the department faculty, endorsement may be recommended to the Graduate School at any time after the

third year review. Criteria for recommending and approving such an endorsement for untenured faculty will be determined by each department.

4. For non-tenure-track faculty and/or research scientists, appointment to graduate faculty status and/or endorsement to direct or chair dissertations would follow 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. 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.

March 2005