

Policy on Supervision of Graduate Research by Non-Faculty Employees and Current Faculty Members Approaching Retirement

The University has a legal and contractual obligation towards its students which, in the case of graduate students, includes an obligation to provide adequate and ongoing supervision of their thesis research (or at the very least make its best efforts to do so). Supervision may be provided by faculty members who are current employees of the university, or by professors emeriti, adjunct research professors, and distinguished research professors who are not current university employees but who have indicated their desire to supervise graduate students by accepting graduate supervisory status.

The University's obligation to provide supervision for graduate students is expressed in the Graduate Studies guidelines governing the student-supervisor relationship, and it is enforced through the University's faculty employees, who are officers of the University and who, as such, represent the University's interests. Therefore, in order to be able to enforce its obligations, the University requires that all adjunct research professors who are appointed to supervise graduate student thesis research be provided with a co-supervisor who is a faculty employee.

Similarly, in order to ensure ongoing supervision, the University requires that a faculty member who is close to retirement, if he/she wishes to undertake a new supervision, be provided with a co-supervisor if, in the case of a masters student, the faculty member is one year or less from retirement, or if in the case of a doctoral student, the faculty member is three years or less from retirement.

Departments are free, as appropriate, to interpret co-supervision either as joint supervision or as a nominal co-supervision exercised by, e.g., the departmental graduate supervisor.

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