

TO: Lee Blonder, Chair of Senate Council

FROM: Jeannine Blackwell, Chair of Graduate Council

RE: Proposed change in policy for Doctoral Committee Composition

DATE: March 7, 2014

The Graduate Council has approved a proposed change policy for doctoral committee composition. This proposal was introduced as a discussion item at Graduate Council in late fall, and circulated in draft form to all Directors of Graduate Schools and College Associate Deans of Research/Graduate Studies for comment. After incorporating suggestions and amendments from these stakeholders, the proposal was brought for discussion and final vote at Graduate Council on October 10, 2013.

Because of a clerical oversight, this proposal was only sent to Senate Council staff on January 30, 2014. It was not sent as a formal transmittal, and so I am now resending it as a formal transmittal.

We ask that University Senate approve this change in doctoral committee composition.

Doctoral Committee Composition:

The **existing policy** for composition of the doctoral dissertation advisory committee is as follows:

The advisory committee has a core of four members. This core consists of the major professor as chair, two other members from the major area, and one representative from outside the academic program (department). All members of the core must be members of the Graduate Faculty of the University of Kentucky and three (including the major professor) must possess full Graduate Faculty status.

In order to facilitate the establishment of committees composed of faculty members that can be of greatest assistance to the student in their dissertation research we are proposing 1) to reduce the required number of home department/program committee members to two and 2) to eliminate the requirement that one committee member must be from outside the home department/program¹. The **proposed policy**² would then read as follows:

The advisory committee has a core of four members. This core must include a minimum of two faculty members from the academic program (with one being the major professor as chair). All members of the core must be members of the Graduate Faculty of the University of Kentucky³ and three (including the major professor) must possess full Graduate Faculty status.

¹If approved, these policy changes would not preclude individual programs from requiring more home department members and/or retaining the outside member requirement, but modifications must be specified in the departmental policies and procedures manual.

²If approved, these policy changes would be reviewed by Graduate Council five years after implementation.

³Faculty members from other institutions may serve on dissertation committees if they meet the requirements for appointment as associate members of the UK Graduate Faculty.