

**March 25, 2009**

**GRADUATE FACULTY MEMBERSHIP POLICY  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

(Approved by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Graduate Program Council on  
March 25, 2009)

**Graduate Faculty Membership Policy  
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences**

University Policy is in normal font.  
College policy is in italics

This document presents University policies and practices which departments should use in nominating members to the Graduate Faculty of Texas A&M University. Departments and colleges may have additional requirements that must be satisfied by individuals wishing to be recommended for appointment to the Graduate Faculty. Additional requirements are subject to the review and approval of the Executive Vice President and Provost. The following sections discuss the various categories of Graduate Faculty. The final section discusses current policy for assigning titles to members of the Graduate Faculty in the Graduate Catalog.

**General Description of Graduate Faculty**

The Graduate Faculty at Texas A&M University consists of the President, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Associate Provosts, the Dean of Graduate Studies, the deans of all subject-matter colleges, selected Directors, and properly qualified academic groups appointed by the Dean of Graduate Studies. Appointees to the Graduate Faculty participate in the graduate degree programs of the University by serving on student advisory committees and teaching graduate courses. Individuals who have not been appointed to the Graduate Faculty may not teach graduate courses or serve on student advisory committees unless special approval is granted by the Dean of the Office of Graduate Studies.

The Graduate Faculty is composed of Members, Associate Members, Adjunct Members, and Special Appointments. Members and Associate Members are selected from qualified individuals of the academic staff of Texas A&M University, from the staff of other parts of the University, from The Texas A&M University System, and from affiliated research organizations (such as USDA) located in College Station, Texas.

Nomination for membership on the Graduate Faculty is always initiated by the head of the appropriate academic department of Texas A&M University in College Station and is processed as discussed in the following sections.

Appointment to membership on the Graduate Faculty, although considered an honor, serves functional purposes and must be earned. Appointment to membership is not for the purpose of conferring recognition upon an individual, but is designed to assure competence in the directing and counseling of graduate students and in the teaching of

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graduate courses. Such competence is, in part, a function of experience and knowledge of operational procedure; it is also characterized by ability and motivation.

Membership on the Graduate Faculty is maintained only by participating in the graduate program by teaching, by directing or administering graduate work, by doing research and publication, or by other direct and substantial contributions to the graduate programs of the University, such as by service on a Graduate Instruction Committee or by administrative assignments in graduate education. The Graduate Council expects that all deans and department heads will regularly review the Graduate Faculty under their direction and will recommend withdrawal of the appointments of any members who no longer merit membership on the Graduate Faculty on the basis of their lack of contribution to graduate education. This change in status is best accomplished during the annual update requested of each department head. The department head shall notify any faculty member who is non-voluntarily removed from the roles of the Graduate Faculty, and the faculty member has the right to appeal his/her removal through the PPM 2.3.2.6 (Faculty Grievance Procedures).

A graduate student at Texas A&M University may not be a member of the Graduate Faculty. Membership on the Graduate Faculty of any faculty or staff member of Texas A&M University or The Texas A&M University System and affiliated research organizations is forfeited upon a faculty or staff member's admission to a graduate program at Texas A&M University. The four categories of membership are: 1) Member, 2) Associate Member, 3) Adjunct Member, and 4) Special Appointment.

## **Members**

### **Eligibility**

Tenure track and tenured faculty members of Texas A&M University are eligible to participate as Members of the Graduate Faculty under criteria and guidelines as established by each college or department on the College Station campus. Appointment of an individual as a Member is accomplished by nomination from the head of a department on the College Station campus to the Dean of Graduate Studies. In some cases, additional approval is required by the Dean or the Graduate Instruction Committee of the individual's college.

A non-tenure-track individual employed by Texas A&M University, Texas AgriLife Research, Texas AgriLife Extension, TEES, TEEX, or TTI with professorial rank is eligible to participate as a Member of the Graduate Faculty.

*Professorial Rank will be defined as position titles that:*

- 1) Are defined as "faculty" in the policies and guidelines of the respective agencies/units.*
- 2) For promotional purposes are evaluated by the same departmental, college and agency peer-review process as tenure track and tenured faculty members of Texas A&M University.*
- 3) Are not clearly defined as a temporary appointment or contract.*

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*This would include the following non-tenure track titles:*

*Assistant Professor*

*Associate Professor*

*Professor*

*Research Professor*

*All other titles will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis*

A person holding the title of Lecturer or Senior Lecturer may not normally be considered for Member status on the Graduate Faculty. Exceptions to this can be made only if the person concerned has an unusual or unique contribution to make to the graduate program of Texas A&M University and approval is granted by the department, college, and Office of Graduate Studies. A non-tenure-track individual is nominated by the head of the appropriate academic department in College Station who must present evidence that (a) the nominee (1) has taught a graduate class, or (2) has actively served on a graduate student's advisory committee, or (3) has held a definite administrative assignment in the graduate program of a university; and that (b) the nominee has published a scholarly work as primary author (or, in the case of a professional discipline, has exhibited appropriate evidence of professional accomplishment). Recognized scholars and authorities whose merits are clearly established need not be measured by standard criteria. Appointment of these individuals is accomplished by use of the Personal Record Form, initiated by the head of the academic department in College Station, through the College Graduate Instruction Committee and the College Dean to the Dean of Graduate Studies.

*“Scholarly work as primary author” is defined as:*

- *Publications that appear in peer-reviewed or refereed journals, and.*
- *Authorship as senior author, with senior author being defined by the conventions of the discipline or department of the nominee.*

*Time Line: It is expected that, within the last 5 years, the nominee has demonstrated a track-record of graduate advising, teaching, and publishing scholarly work as a senior author or with individuals working under their direction, such as graduate students, post-docs, or research staff, as senior author.*

### **Privileges**

A Member of the Graduate Faculty, located at College Station, may teach graduate courses and serve as member, co-chair or chair of a graduate student's Advisory Committee. Members located at the Texas A&M University Galveston Campus, the Texas A&M University Qatar Campus, the Texas A&M Temple Campus, or Texas A&M's Institute of Biosciences and Technology-Houston may teach graduate courses and serve as a member, co-chair or chair of a graduate student's Advisory Committee. Other Members of the Graduate Faculty located off-campus may teach graduate courses and serve as a member or co-chair (but not chair), with a Member as the other co-chair, of a graduate student's Advisory Committee.

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## **Associate Members**

### **Eligibility**

Any faculty member (including Instructors and Lecturers, if permitted by the department or college's policy) or professional staff employed by Texas A&M University, Texas AgriLife Research, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, TEES, TEEX, or TTI who holds the highest earned degree common to that person's discipline may be granted Associate Member status on the Graduate Faculty of Texas A&M University provided that the individual's appointment as an Associate Member of the Graduate Faculty will be beneficial to the department's graduate program.

*Professional Staff will be defined as the following non-tenure track titles:*

*Assistant Research Scientist*

*Associate Research Scientist*

*Research Scientist*

*All other titles will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis*

In addition, employees of federal and state agencies located in the College Station area are eligible for Associate Member status.

*Eligible federal and state employees will be those with teaching and research titles in their respective agencies that carry a rank equivalent to ranks of Professor in a University system. Examples would be:*

*Scientist*

*Research Scientist*

*Scientist I*

*All other titles will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis*

It is expected that a nominee for Associate Member status has published a scholarly work as primary author (or, in the case of a professional discipline, has exhibited appropriate evidence of professional accomplishment). Recognized scholars and authorities whose merits are clearly established need not be measured by standard criteria.

Appointment to Associate Member status is accomplished by use of the Personal Record Form, initiated by the head of the academic department at College Station through the College Graduate Instruction Committee and the College Dean to the Dean of Graduate Studies. A non-tenure-track individual is nominated by the head of the appropriate academic department at College Station who must present evidence that (a) the nominee (1) has taught a graduate class, or (2) has actively served on a graduate student's advisory committee, or (3) has held a definite administrative assignment in the graduate program of a university; and that (b) the nominee has published a scholarly work as primary author (or, in the case of a professional discipline, has exhibited appropriate evidence of professional accomplishment). Recognized scholars and authorities whose merits are clearly established need not be measured by standard criteria.

*“Scholarly work as primary author” is defined as:*

- *Publications that appear in peer-reviewed or refereed journals.*

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### **Privileges**

An Associate Member of the Graduate Faculty of Texas A&M University may teach graduate courses and serve as member or co-chair (but not as chair) with a Member as the other co-chair of a graduate student's Advisory Committee.

### **Adjunct Members**

#### **Eligibility**

Recognized scholars who do not hold a permanent appointment to the faculty (including visiting and adjunct academic appointments) of this University, but who otherwise meet the basic requirements for the status of Member of the Graduate Faculty, as described previously, may be eligible for appointment to Adjunct Member status. In addition, individuals not located in College Station and not employed by Texas A&M University may be considered for Adjunct Member status on the Graduate Faculty. Examples of these individuals may be qualified staff of federal or state agencies, leaders of industry, or faculty at other academic institutions. Such nominations should be made in those cases in which an apparent need exists to have an individual permanently affiliated with the Graduate Faculty for a department, and justification can be presented by the head of an academic department in College Station.

Appointment of an Adjunct Member is accomplished by use of the Personal Record Form, initiated by the head of the academic department at College Station through the College Graduate Instruction Committee and the College Dean to the Dean of Graduate Studies. A non-tenure-track individual is nominated by the head of the appropriate academic department in College Station who must present evidence that (a) the nominee (1) has taught a graduate class, or (2) has actively served on a graduate student's advisory committee, or (3) has held a definite administrative assignment in the graduate program of a university; and that (b) the nominee has published a scholarly work as primary author (or, in the case of a professional discipline, has exhibited appropriate evidence of professional accomplishment). Recognized scholars and authorities whose merits are clearly established need not be measured by standard criteria.

*“Scholarly work as primary author” is defined as:*

- *Publications that appear in peer-reviewed or refereed journals; authorship as senior author, as defined by the conventions of the discipline or department.*

*Time Line: It is expected that, within the last 5 years, the applicant has demonstrated a track-record of graduate advising, teaching, and publishing scholarly work (as a senior author or with individuals working under their direction such as graduate students, post-docs, or research staff.)*

### **Privileges**

An Adjunct Member of the Graduate Faculty may teach graduate courses and serve as a member or co-chair (but not chair) with a Member as the other co-chair of a graduate student's Advisory Committee.

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### **Special Appointment**

At times, the head of an academic department in College Station may wish to have qualified individuals teach a graduate course or serve on a student's Advisory Committee without being permanently on the Graduate Faculty as either a Member, Associate Member, or Adjunct Member. In addition, qualified individuals from other universities, government or industry may be appointed in special cases to teach a graduate course or to serve on a student's Advisory Committee.

These appointments are accomplished by submitting a Graduate Faculty Personal Record Form from the head of an academic department in College Station to the Dean of Graduate Studies with the individual's curriculum vitae attached. On the Personal Record Form, the department head should indicate the student and UIN on whose committee this special appointment is to serve, or the course and semesters (up to two semesters) the department plans to let this individual teach.

A qualified individual from another university, government or industry who holds Special Appointment status to the graduate faculty and who serves on a Graduate Advisory Committee is not counted toward the minimum number of graduate faculty necessary to form a student's committee.

### **Procedural Guidelines**

1. Research staff who are on the Graduate Faculty of Texas A&M University and who hold payroll titles equivalent to the "Scientist" titles will be assigned by the Executive Director of the Office of Graduate Studies, for the purpose of listing in the Graduate Catalog, the equivalent "Scientist" title. (Example: A person holding the payroll title of "Associate Research Engineer" will be assigned the title of "Associate Research Scientist".)
2. Extension Service personnel on the Graduate Faculty of Texas A&M University will be identified in the Graduate Catalog by the title "Extension Specialist".
3. USDA personnel on the Graduate Faculty of Texas A&M University will be identified in the Graduate Catalog by the title "USDA Scientist".
4. Individuals in the Member, Associate Member, and Adjunct Member categories will be listed in the Graduate Faculty section of the Graduate Catalog.
5. Only names of individuals in the Member category of the Graduate Faculty will be listed under the respective departmental headings in the Graduate Catalog.

Effective beginning March 25, 2009