

At the March 2018 GPC meeting Dr. C. Wayne Smith was charged with developing a statement on the GPC position on directors of centers and institutes and the research scientists within those. Here is his wording to codify the position of Research Assistant for graduate faculty membership purposes:

The statement below is a rather hard statement on RS because we have kicked this around for years and there are all sorts of ways for DHs and others to get around the GPC position. So, I just codified it although others could defend allowing RS to be members and codify the other way, i.e., let them all be eligible (which I don't agree with). But I think we've had enough discussion and we should codify it one way or the other. I think that we have a sufficient number of professorial grad fac for our students to have fair and adequate committees, in my opinion.

The leadership (director, resident director, head, chair, etc.) of institutes, centers, and such within Texas A&M University or any of its associated agencies shall be considered as having professorial rank for consideration for TAMU COALS Graduate Committee membership. These positions must be recommended for Graduate Committee membership through an academic department within COALS and must meet all criteria, whether tenure/tenure track or non-tenure track. Research scientists or other similar titles who answer directly to the leadership of institutes, centers, and such will not be consider in a professorial role and shall not be eligible for Graduate Faculty membership.

Graduate Committee membership requests from private companies, non-TAMU associated government agencies, or other government agencies and non-government organizations will be considered on an individual basis regardless of employment title and will meet the criteria of independence as outline elsewhere.

Rationale for the above positions:

1. Research Scientists within TAMU/COALS/AgriLife Research are often temporary and similar to post doctoral positions.
2. The research scientists may be placed in an adversarial position with the director, resident director, head, chair, etc. and may not have the academic freedom to vote independently.
3. Research scientists are not consider "faculty."