OPERATING PROCEDURES AND STRUCTURE FOR GRADUATE EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY


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I. Introduction

This document outlines the lines of authority and administrative structure for graduate education at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. While it provides descriptive information about a number of faculty groups that participate in making policy and supervising graduate education on the campus, the document is not intended to supersede the by-laws of the various groups.

II. Purpose

The history of UMKC, the goals of the Board of Curators, and the interest of the faculty, dictate that UMKC offer selected graduate programs at the highest possible level of quality. The primary responsibility for assuring quality graduate work lies with: (1) the Faculty; and (2) the Academic Units (Schools and the College) with sufficient autonomy to serve their students. The structure is designed to enable the campus-wide graduate administrators, council, and staff to be concerned with matters of overall policy and advocacy as opposed to dealing with administrative detail, which will be left to the academic units.

III. Administrative Structure

A. The Provost

B. The Dean, School of Graduate Studies

- The Graduate Council

- The Committee of Graduate Officers

- The School of Graduate Studies

C. The Academic Units Offering Graduate Programs

- The Dean (and/or the Graduate Officer as the dean's designated representative)

- The UMKC Graduate Faculty
D. The Doctoral Faculty at UMKC

IV. Functions

A. Provost

The Chief Executive Officer for Graduate Studies is the Provost who performs graduate studies responsibilities with the advice and recommendation of the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies. The Provost is concerned primarily with matters of advocacy, policy, and quality in relation to graduate studies and related research matters.

B. Dean, School of Graduate Studies

The Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, (hereinafter referred to as Graduate Dean) reports to the Provost and is responsible to that officer for the administration of graduate studies. The Graduate Dean provides leadership for and coordination of all graduate programs on the campus. The Graduate Dean performs these duties with the assistance of the School of Graduate Studies managerial and support staff, the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee, the Graduate Council, and the Committee of Graduate Officers. The Graduate Dean as needed may appoint additional committees, individuals, and offices.

Specific duties and functions of the Graduate Dean and his or her designee, as they relate specifically to graduate studies, include but are not limited to the following:

- Chairs the Graduate Council, the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee, and the Committee of Graduate Officers.
- Administers fellowship and scholarship programs for graduate students.
- In conjunction with the Committee of Graduate Officers establishes procedures for assuring completion of degree requirements.
- Administers special graduate student awards and honors, including travel funds to enable graduate students to present papers at professional meetings.
- Administers special lecture programs.
- Oversees the gathering of data pertinent to local, regional and national trends in graduate education.
- Oversees the periodic revision of the graduate catalog and other documents describing graduate studies.
- Coordinates graduate programs within and between the academic units to prevent duplication and to maximize resource utilization.
- Monitors the quality of theses and dissertations through a procedure designed by the Graduate Council.
- Establishes policies for approval of supervisory committees for masters and doctoral students.
- Admits Ph.D. students to the School of Graduate Studies to pursue interdisciplinary study.

1. The Graduate Council
The Graduate Council is the policy-making body for graduate studies at the campus level. The Council is a representative body composed of full-time regular graduate or doctoral faculty members (one each) elected by each school offering graduate programs, and one representative from the UMKC Library. The College of Arts and Sciences elects three members one from each of the following divisions: natural and physical sciences, social sciences, and humanities. Members serve three (3) year terms. In addition, the Chancellor appoints five members; one from each of the following areas of research endeavor: Physical, Mathematical, Engineering and Computer Sciences; Biological and Chemical Sciences; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Humanities and Arts; and Administrative and Information Sciences. The Graduate Dean serves as chair of the Council.

The Graduate Council meets on a regular basis throughout the fall and winter semesters. For purposes of reviewing Graduate Faculty and Doctoral Faculty nominations, Academic Unit-specific Graduate Faculty and Doctoral Faculty criteria, and new graduate program proposals, the Graduate Council is subdivided into three subcommittees, Natural and Physical Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Humanities and Arts. These subcommittees take action on nominations for appointment and reappointment to the Graduate and Associate Graduate Faculty and make recommendation to the Graduate Dean on nominations for appointment and reappointment to the Doctoral Faculty. They also make recommendations to the full Graduate Council on new program proposals in their respective areas.

The Graduate Council speaks for the faculty on issues related to all graduate programs. The Graduate Council consults with the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee about areas in which the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program intersects with other graduate programs. Specifically the Graduate Council:

- Confirms academic unit-specific criteria for membership in the UMKC Doctoral Faculty and UMKC Graduate Faculty.
- Every five years, on a rolling basis, conducts a review of unit-specific criteria for membership in the UMKC Doctoral Faculty and UMKC Graduate Faculty to assure that the criteria reflect the current standards in the respective fields.
- Upon the recommendation of the academic units, appoints and reappoints members to the Graduate Faculty and recommends members for the Doctoral Faculty.
- Monitors the quality of graduate programs using periodic reviews based on reports from existing bodies, councils or committees and annual assessment surveys (e.g., COPE and minimum requirements for graduate study at UMKC as defined in the School of Graduate Studies portion of the UMKC General Catalog.)
- Recommends new graduate programs and graduate program reduction/termination.
- Reviews such other policy matters as are referred to it, for example, major curriculum changes.

2. The Committee of Graduate Officers

The Committee of Graduate Officers is the body that coordinates the procedural aspects of graduate studies on the campus. It implements policies established by the Graduate Council and serves as the day-to-day link between the School of Graduate Studies office and the academic units. The committee is composed of the Graduate Officers of the academic units. The Graduate Dean or Associate Graduate Dean chairs the Committee and forwards recommendations to the Provost.

The Committee of Graduate Officers holds regular meetings and determines its own procedures. Specifically, the Graduate Officers Committee:
 Coordinates procedural and administrative matters among the various academic units offering graduate studies.

 Reviews graduate course additions, changes and deletions to check for duplication and impact on other programs.

 Approves academic unit standards regarding admission and retention of graduate students.

 Makes recommendations in such other administrative and procedural matters as are referred to it, including such matters as are assigned to the individual Graduate Officers by the respective academic dean or program director.

3. The School of Graduate Studies

The School of Graduate Studies is the academic home of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program. The School of Graduate Studies professional managerial and support staff assists the Graduate Dean in processing applications to the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program, monitoring progress of Interdisciplinary Ph.D. students, and certifying Interdisciplinary Ph.D. students for graduation. The 15-member Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee, chaired by the Graduate Dean, is the policy making body for the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program at the campus level.

The Associate Graduate Dean reports to the Graduate Dean and is responsible for administering campus guidelines for graduate program activities, assists the Graduate Dean in all matters pertaining to graduate studies, supervises the managerial and support staff of the School of Graduate Studies, serves as Graduate Officer for the School of Graduate Studies, and performs other duties as assigned.

Other programs for which the School of Graduate Studies is responsible include, but are not limited to the following:

- Providing a graduate liaison to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs’ office.
- Coordinating the campus Minority Graduate and Doctoral Student Network activities.
- Monitoring theses and dissertations for conformance to campus formatting guidelines and quality standards.
- Maintaining accurate information on the web and in the catalog about graduate programs and policies.
- Maintaining electronic data bases of information about graduate courses and graduate/doctoral faculty appointments.
- Coordinating the graduate assessment program and providing information to the Graduate Council.
- Managing the selection and award process for the various fellowships and awards administered through the School of Graduate Studies.
- Providing effective teaching training programs for graduate teaching assistants.
- Supporting the work of the Graduate Council, Committee of Graduate Officers, and the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee, as needed.

C. The Academic Units

Authority and responsibility for the quality of graduate education rest with the faculty and Dean of the academic unit (School or the College). Each Dean may delegate his or her administrative duties relative to graduate studies to a
Graduate Officer who holds a regular faculty appointment and is a member of the graduate faculty. (The Dean appoints the Graduate Officer for the academic unit. The Graduate Officer may be an assistant or associate dean, department or division head, or any regular graduate faculty member.)

1. The Dean and/or Graduate Officers in Academic Units

The Dean and/or Graduate Officer is responsible for carrying out University and faculty policy on graduate studies. The Dean’s designee serves as a member of the Committee of Graduate Officers.

The Graduate Officer acts for the Dean and faculty and is responsible for all procedural matters pertaining to the academic work of graduate students in the academic unit.

The Deans or Graduate Officers are responsible for review of graduate applications for admission to each academic unit, keeping appropriate records on graduate students (in coordination with the Registrar’s Office), monitoring graduate students’ progress, and assuring graduate students’ completion of departmental, unit and institutional requirements.

The other duties of the Graduate Officers assigned by the Dean may include:

- Recommending supervisory committees for graduate students with the exception of doctoral students enrolled in the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program.

- Appointing advisers to assist graduate students in planning programs of study, with the exception of doctoral students enrolled in the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program.

- Certifying completion of all degree requirements for graduate degrees, with the exception of doctoral students enrolled in the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program.

- Reviewing the Graduate Catalog description of programs within the academic unit and recommending change to maintain a current, accurate public document.

- Working with the Admissions Office to provide information for potential graduate students who are considering attendance at UMKC.

- Working with the appropriate bodies within the academic unit to review unit policy and procedure in regard to graduate education.

- Coordinating appointment of Teaching Assistants, Research Assistants, and Fellows within the academic unit, in compliance with unit and campus-wide regulations.

- Working with the Financial Aid Office to coordinate scholarships, grants, or other financial assistance for graduate students within the academic unit.

- Forwarding Committee agenda items from the academic unit to the Associate or Graduate Dean.

- Informing graduate students within the academic unit of programs, requirements, or regulations affecting their programs.

- Administering faculty action on course additions, deletions and modifications within the unit. Transmitting actions to the Committee of Graduate Officers for review and action.
2. The Graduate Faculty at UMKC

There are three classifications of Graduate Faculty membership at UMKC: (a) Graduate Faculty, (b) Ex-officio graduate faculty and (c) Adjunct Graduate Faculty. The Graduate Dean approves these appointments on an annual basis.

a. Graduate Faculty

1. Membership

Duly appointed members of the faculty who have met the criteria specified by the faculty and university officials, who by virtue of their appointments qualify for membership in the ex-officio graduate faculty.

2. Criteria

- Hold a regular Faculty Appointment (tenure or tenure-track) at UMKC with the rank of Assistant Professor or higher; or
- Hold a full-time, ranked, non-tenure-track, Faculty Appointment at UMKC; or
- Hold a Graduate Faculty appointment from another campus of the University of Missouri, and
- Possess a terminal degree appropriate to specialties, or equivalent qualifications and meet the criteria of their academic unit;

Each discipline or academic unit has the responsibility to determine the qualitative and quantitative criteria consistent with the general criteria listed above and to provide the Graduate Council with the names of faculty members who meet the criteria.

3. Selection

Nominations for membership in the Graduate Faculty originate with the faculty of an academic unit and are submitted to the Graduate Dean through the appropriate academic Dean. The Graduate Dean makes the appointment with the approval of the Graduate Council.

4. Responsibilities and Privileges of Graduate Faculty members include

- Serve on the Graduate Council if elected by the Graduate Faculty within the respective academic unit or appointed by the Chancellor.
- Teach graduate level courses.
- Direct master’s theses.
- Serve as Academic Advisor for graduate students.
- Serve on supervisory and examining committees for graduate students unless restricted by the degree program.

b. Ex-officio Graduate Faculty
1. Membership

The President, Chancellor, Provost, Vice Chancellors, Vice Provosts, Academic Deans, the Dean of Libraries, Chairpersons/Heads of the academic departments and divisions, and comparable academic officers are ex-officio members of the Graduate Faculty.

2. Responsibilities and Privileges of Ex-officio Graduate Faculty Membership

The purposes of having ex-officio graduate faculty members are: (i) to enable the academic administrators, who are not actively involved in academic research (i.e., are not regular or associate graduate faculty members) and the Dean of Libraries to participate in making policies and decisions which influence graduate education and research; and (ii) to enable them to monitor the quality of graduate education and research in their respective units/ departments/divisions. In keeping with these objectives, the responsibilities and privileges of ex-officio graduate faculty membership are to:

- Serve on the Graduate Council if selected.
- Vote within the academic unit on graduate program matters including awarding degrees.
- Serve as non-voting members of supervisory and examining committees for graduate degree programs.
- Teach graduate courses.

c. Adjunct Graduate Faculty

1. Membership

Duly nominated and approved part-time faculty (including appointments without compensation).

- Possess a terminal degree appropriate to specialties, or equivalent qualifications.

2. Selection

Nominations for membership in the Graduate Faculty originate with the faculty of an academic unit and are submitted to the Graduate Dean through the appropriate academic Dean. The Graduate Dean makes the appointment.

3. Responsibilities and Privileges

- Serve on supervisory and examining committees for graduate students unless restricted by the degree program. [Note: The majority of each committee must be regular Graduate Faculty members.]
- Teach graduate level courses.

3. Doctoral Faculty at UMKC

Major responsibility for assessment of faculty qualifications rests at the department level where nominations for membership are initiated.

a. Membership
Duly nominated and approved regular (tenured or tenure-track) members of the faculty with the rank of assistant professor or higher.

b. Criteria

- Possess a terminal degree appropriate to the specialty, or equivalent qualifications as determined by the discipline; and
- Fulfill discipline-specific criteria as approved by the Graduate Council.

New full-time regular (tenured or tenure-track) faculty having completed the doctorate degree and dissertation within the past 5 years will receive an initial 5 year appointment to doctoral faculty status.

All doctoral faculty must reapply at 5 year intervals to maintain doctoral faculty status.

Applications for reappointment to the Doctoral Faculty are reviewed by the Graduate Council to determine if applicants have been engaged in scholarly or creative activity (See Table 1) of a professional caliber that meets the unit-specific criteria approved by the Graduate Council. During the previous five years, applicants must meet the minimum standard of four significant scholarly accomplishments. In most instances, these accomplishments are expected to be peer reviewed publications, performances, or juried exhibitions. Although quantity is an important factor in judging the level of scholarship and creative activity, the primary consideration for appointment to the Doctoral Faculty must be the quality of the applicant’s accomplishments. Each discipline or academic unit has the responsibility to determine the qualitative and quantitative criteria for acceptable performance and to provide the Graduate Council with an assessment of how each applicant fulfills the unit-specific criteria.

Individual academic units (School or A&S Department) at UMKC establish the criteria for appointment to the Doctoral faculty. These criteria have been reviewed and approved by the Graduate Council and serve as the guidelines for approval of doctoral faculty appointments.

c. Selection

Nominations for membership in the Doctoral Faculty originate with the faculty of an academic unit and are submitted to the Graduate Dean through the appropriate academic Dean. The Graduate Council reviews and makes recommendations to the Graduate Dean on nominations for appointment and reappointment to the Doctoral Faculty.

_Doctoral Faculty Nominating Committee._ The review must begin at the departmental level. Each Department within the College of Arts & Sciences, and each School (Business and Public Administration, Biological Sciences, Computing and Engineering, Conservatory, Dentistry, Education, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy) elects a Doctoral Faculty Nominating Committee. All members of this Committee must hold membership in the campus Graduate Faculty and, where possible, the majority must be comprised of members of the Doctoral Faculty. Units with few or no members on the Doctoral Faculty submit a proposed list of Committee members to the Graduate Council for review and approval.

After completing its review, the academic unit’s Doctoral Faculty Nominating Committee forwards nominations to the Divisional Dean (and the Department Chair, in the case of the College of Arts and Sciences).

_Academic Dean and Department Chair._ The divisional dean reviews the unit’s Doctoral Nominating Committee’s comments and recommendation for approval or disapproval and after adding his or her recommendations, forwards the entire nomination packet to the Graduate Dean. In the College of Arts and Sciences the Department Chair adds his or her comments and recommendations prior to transmitting the nomination to the Dean of the College.
Graduate Council. The Graduate Council reviews nominations for appointment or reappointment to the Doctoral Faculty through its subcommittees and makes recommendations to the Graduate Dean at each regularly scheduled meeting of the Graduate Council. Nominations must be available at the School of Graduate Studies at least three weeks prior to a Graduate Council meeting in order that members of the appropriate Graduate Council Subcommittee may inspect the nominations prior to the official review. This body reviews each nomination packet and votes on the question of supporting the nomination. Negative votes are accompanied by an explanatory statement, and all nominations are then forwarded to the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies for review.

Dean of the School of Graduate Studies. The Graduate Dean renders an independent assessment of the application. When the Graduate Dean and the Graduate Council are in agreement, there is no further review, and the recommendation is for appointment or reappointment, the recommendations are forwarded to the Provost for appropriate action. When the Graduate Dean and the Graduate Council are in agreement, and the recommendation is negative, the applicant is so informed and given an opportunity to provide additional material in support of his or her application before it is forwarded to the next review level.

d. Responsibilities and Privileges of Doctoral Faculty members include

- All the rights and privileges granted to UMKC Graduate Faculty.
- Serve on supervisory committees of doctoral and other graduate students.
- Chair doctoral dissertation committees.

e. Doctoral Faculty Membership Appeal Process

Faculty members whose application for appointment or reappointment to the UMKC Doctoral Faculty receives a negative vote at any campus review level will be so informed by the respective review body. The applicant then has the option of providing additional material in support of his or her application before it is forwarded to the next review level. Applicants who are not approved at the department or school level may appeal to the Graduate Council for review of the case.

The final level of appeal is with an Appeal Committee, constituted on an ad hoc basis by the Dean of Graduate Studies and comprised of members of the doctoral faculty with at least one member representing the same discipline or academic unit as the faculty member making the appeal. The Chair of the Appeal Committee will be a member of the Doctoral Faculty not from the same academic unit or discipline as the faculty member making the appeal. Five faculty will be appointed to this committee. Cases automatically come before the Appeal Committee only when either the Graduate Dean or the UMKC Graduate Council (but not both) dissents with the recommending unit. The dissenting party (Graduate Dean or UMKC Graduate Council) must provide a written statement explaining the reasons for the dissent. This written statement accompanies the dossier sent to the Appeal Committee for review.

The candidate whose case is to come before the Appeal Committee has three alternatives. He or she may (1) withdraw the application, (2) augment the file with items that give further information or clarification regarding the candidate’s scholarship and ability to direct doctoral research, or (3) request that the file be forwarded without changes to the Appeals Committee. The dissenting party is allowed to rebut new information.

f. Review of Appointments

Appointments to the Doctoral Faculty are reviewed by the Graduate Council throughout the academic year and all appointments are valid for five years. Appointments may be renewed as described above.
4. Ex-officio Doctoral Faculty

a. Membership

The President, Chancellor, Provost, Vice Chancellors, Vice Provosts, Academic Deans, the Dean of Libraries, Chairpersons/Heads of the academic departments and divisions, and comparable academic officers are ex-officio members of the Doctoral Faculty.

b. Responsibilities and Privileges of Ex-officio Doctoral Faculty Membership

The purposes of having ex-officio doctoral faculty members are: (i) to enable the academic administrators, who are not actively involved in academic research (i.e., are not regular Doctoral Faculty members) and the Dean of Libraries to participate in making policies and decisions which influence graduate education and research; and (ii) to enable them to monitor the quality of graduate education and research in their respective units/departments/divisions. In keeping with these objectives, the responsibilities and privileges of ex-officio Doctoral Faculty membership are:

- Serve on the Graduate Council if selected.
- Vote within the academic unit on graduate program matters including awarding degrees.
- Serve as non-voting members of supervisory and examining committees for graduate degree programs.
- Teach graduate courses.

V. Extenuating Circumstances

The Dean of any academic unit may petition the Graduate Council for an exception regarding appointment to either Graduate or Doctoral faculty. This petition must include a thorough justification for the exception.

VI. Appeals Procedure

The Graduate Council is responsible for formulating comprehensive appeals procedures for both graduate students and members of the Graduate Faculty.

VII. Amendment

These operating procedures may be amended upon a 2/3 vote of the Graduate Council members after consultation with their Graduate Faculty. Operating Procedures, Revised 02-18-11 13

Table 1: Types of Significant Scholarly Achievements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Output</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Authored Book</td>
<td>Significance determined by academic unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edited Book</td>
<td>Significance determined by academic unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter in Book</td>
<td>Significance determined by academic unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal Article</td>
<td>Significance determined by academic unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Externally Funded Research</td>
<td>Significance determined by academic unit, i.e.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conference Contribution

Patent/published patent application

Software

Report for External Body

Internet publication- peer reviewed

Performance

Composition

Design

Exhibition

Artifact

Scholarly edition

Other Form of Assessable Output

federally funded, foundation funded, etc.

Media of output, i.e. presented paper, published abstract, etc.

Commissioning body, Process of commissioning

Media of output; Opening/Closing dates of exhibition; Documentation of Details, e.g. catalog, video, photographic record, etc.

Media of output

Media of output

Media of output; Opening/Closing dates; Documentation of details, e.g. catalog, video or photographic recording

Media of output

Specific media of output if not published, etc.