

The University Senate of Michigan Technological University
Proposal 17-25
(Voting Units: Academic)

Proposal to Amend Senate Policy 711.1: Policy on Graduate Faculty Status
Presented by: Academic and Instructional Policy Committee

Revisions to the University policy on Senate policy 711.1, Graduate Faculty Status, are sought.

Background and Rationale

This proposal from the Graduate School is to modify section 1.5.3 of the Faculty Handbook. The current policy on graduate faculty status uses language that the university no longer employs (*e.g.* non-tenure track faculty vs. instructional track faculty). This revision also expands who may have full graduate faculty status, in recognition of the increasing role that research faculty staff play in graduate education.

The new policy, as amended, is below. The track changes version is also included at the end of this document.

Senate Policy 711.1

A. Membership

The Graduate Faculty consists of members of the academic faculty holding the rank of ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, or PROFESSOR (either instructional or tenure track (T/TT)) who have been appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School. Faculty who are awarded EMERITUS status upon retirement remain members of the Graduate Faculty.

The Dean of the Graduate School may also grant Graduate Faculty Status to other people with an on-going professional relationship with Michigan Tech. Under special circumstances, the Graduate Dean may appoint qualified individuals with special technical expertise to Graduate Faculty Status for a specific term and purpose, such as serving as a member of a student's advisory committee.

B. Types of Appointments

There are two types of appointments to Graduate Faculty Status:

Full Appointment: Members with full appointment to Graduate Faculty Status are eligible to teach graduate courses (5000 level and above), serve as members on Master's and PhD committees, and supervise Master's and PhD students as sole or co-advisor. Tenure track faculty are appointed with full status.

Associate Appointment: Persons with special technical expertise may be appointed to associate Graduate Faculty Status to serve as member of a student's advisory committee and/or to serve as a co-advisor for a graduate student and/or to teach 5000 and 6000 level courses.

Those with an associate appointment to Graduate Faculty Status are ineligible to serve as a graduate student's sole advisor. Associate appointments are for a specific term and purpose. Eligibility and roles for the two types of Graduate Faculty Status appointments are summarized in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1: Graduate Faculty Status eligibility based on University appointment.

University Appointment	Full Appointment to Graduate Faculty Status [1]	Associate Appointment to Graduate Faculty Status
T/TT faculty [2] or academic administrators	Yes	Yes
Emeriti faculty (maintain status at the time of retirement)	Yes	Yes
Instructional track faculty [2] – with terminal degree	Yes	Yes
Instructional track faculty [2] – without terminal degree	Not generally eligible [3]	Yes
Michigan Tech employee engaged in scholarly activity – with terminal degree [3]	Yes	Yes
Michigan Tech employee – without terminal degree [3]	Not generally eligible [3]	Yes
No Michigan Tech employment	Not eligible	Yes

1. Requires emeriti faculty appointment or 50% or greater regular Michigan Tech employment (regular = long term commitment at a minimum of 50%; not temporary)

2. See Faculty Handbook 1.5.1

3. The Dean of the Graduate School may, under special circumstances, consider a full appointment to Graduate Faculty Status when:

- The tested experience of the candidate is relevant to assigned teaching and scholarly duties, and
- The candidate is recognized by peers for distinguished professional accomplishments, and
- The candidate is considered an expert in the course(s) taught or the scholarly activity supervised.

Table 2: Delineation of roles based on Graduate Faculty Status.

Role	Full Appointment	Associate Appointment
Teach graduate courses	Yes	Yes
Sole-advisor to graduate students	Yes	Not eligible
Co-advisor to graduate students	Yes	Yes
Serve on graduate advisory committees	Yes	Yes
Term length of Graduate Faculty Status	Eight years	Eight years
Renewal process	Review by academic unit every eight years	Review by academic unit every eight years

C. Qualifications of those with Graduate Faculty Status.

It is expected that all appointed to Graduate Faculty Status possess:

- a record of research, scholarship, or achievement appropriate for the graduate program that nominates them;

- the necessary background for, and a continued interest in, teaching graduate courses; and
- a commitment to effectively advise, mentor, and fund graduate students.

Evidence that a candidate meets the qualification requirements may include, but is not limited to, that:

- They regularly publish articles in recognized journals having national distribution, author books/chapters related to their field of study, or are otherwise recognized for their research and scholarship.
- They have earned the terminal degree in their field.
- They have a record of effectively advising, mentoring, and/or funding graduate students.

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The Dean of the Graduate School may also grant Graduate Faculty Status to other ~~people~~~~academic~~ ~~faculty~~ with an on-going professional relationship with Michigan Tech ~~including RESEARCH faculty, LECTURERS, INSTRUCTORS, PROFESSORS OF PRACTICE, and ADJUNCT faculty~~. Under special circumstances, the Graduate Dean may appoint qualified individuals with special technical expertise to Graduate Faculty Status for a specific term and purpose, such as serving as a member of a student's advisory committee.

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There are two types of appointments to Graduate Faculty Status:

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Table 3: Graduate Faculty Status eligibility based on University appointment.

University Appointment	Full Appointment to Graduate Faculty Status [1]	Associate Appointment to Graduate Faculty Status
T/TT faculty [2] or academic administrators with terminal degree	Yes	Yes
T/TT faculty [2] or academic administrators without terminal degree	Yes	Yes
Emeriti faculty (<u>maintain status at the time of retirement</u>)	Yes	Yes
Non-TT <u>Instructional track</u> faculty [32] – with terminal degree	Yes	Yes

Non-TT <u>Instructional track</u> faculty [32] – without terminal degree	Not generally eligible [43]	Yes
<u>Michigan Tech employee engaged in scholarly activity – with terminal degree [3]</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Michigan Tech employee – without terminal degree [3]</u>	<u>Not generally eligible [43]</u>	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Adjunct faculty</u>	<u>Not eligible</u>	<u>Yes</u>
<u>No Michigan Tech faculty employment</u>	<u>Not eligible</u>	<u>Yes</u>

1. Requires emeriti faculty appointment or 50% or greater regular ~~faculty appointment~~Michigan Tech employment (regular = long term commitment at a minimum of 50%; not temporary)

2. See Faculty Handbook 1.5.1

~~3. See Faculty Handbook 1.5.5~~

43. The Dean of the Graduate School may, under special circumstances, consider a full appointment to Graduate Faculty Status when:

- The tested experience of the candidate is relevant to assigned teaching and scholarly duties, and
- The candidate is recognized by peers for distinguished professional accomplishments, and
- The candidate is considered an expert in the course(s) taught or the scholarly activity supervised.

Table 4: Delineation of roles based on Graduate Faculty Status.

Role	Full Appointment	Associate Appointment
Teach graduate courses	Yes	Teach graduate course(s) <u>Yes</u> specified at the time of appointment
Sole-advisor to graduate students	Yes	Not eligible
Co-advisor to graduate students	Yes	Co-advise student(s) <u>Yes</u> specified at the time of appointment)
Serve on graduate advisory committees	Yes	Serve on student(s) committee(s) <u>specified at the time of appointment</u> <u>Yes</u>
Term length of g <u>Graduate f</u> <u>aculty s</u> <u>Status</u>	Eight years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permission to teach: should match faculty appointment or whichever is shorter Permission to serve on research advisor committee: Until student(s) complete degree(s) <u>Eight years</u>
Renewal process	Review by academic unit every eight years	<u>Review by academic unit every eight years</u> <u>At reappointment or every eight years, whichever is shorter</u>

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Evidence that a candidate meets the qualification requirements may include, but is not limited to, that:

- They regularly publish articles in recognized journals having national distribution, author books/chapters related to their field of study, or are otherwise recognized for their research and scholarship.
- They have earned the terminal degree in their field.
- They have a record of effectively advising, and mentoring, and/or funding graduate students ~~to success, including timely degree completion.~~

Proposal history:

Approved by the Senate: 3/13/25

Administration responded with editorial changes: 3/19/25

Proposal editorially amended: 3/19/25