MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Concepcion De Godev, Chair, Graduate Council

From: Dr. Katherine Hall-Hertel, Associate Dean

Date: July 27, 2023

RE: New requirement for thesis and dissertation students

We have surveyed faculty and students about the nature of the research climate at UNC Charlotte. In doing so, we discovered that issues around authorship frequently arise between students and their faculty. As part of our study, we instituted training interventions to see if we could increase students’ confidence around authorship issues and reduce their stress when conflicts did arise. All students in the study indicated that the authorship policy and the corresponding authorship agreement were helpful and increased transparency for everyone involved.

Based on these results, the Graduate School proposes to add a “check box” to the proposal defense form for thesis and dissertation students, which would indicate that the committee reviewed the authorship policy and discussed the authorship agreement. We are not proposing that agreements be filed with the Graduate School – only that committees attest to having discussed the agreement.

The mere act of talking about authorship increases transparency and alignment among collaborators. We believe that doing so earlier in the process will help students and faculty as publications are generated. This should be a relatively easy addition to the process. We would work to implement this over the fall semester.

Attachments:

1. [Authorship Agreement](#_top) https://legal.charlotte.edu/policies/up-318

2. [Authorship policy](#_top) - https://graduateschool.charlotte.edu/sites/graduateschool.charlotte.edu/files/media/FINAL-Authorship%20Agreement%20%2B%20Supplement.pdf