

BYLAWS OF THE GRADUATE FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE

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ARTICLE I PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

In accordance with the delegation of authority by the Chancellor to the Faculty in the Constitution of the Faculty of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the Graduate Faculty shall seek to enhance graduate education and thereby preserve, generate, transmit, and apply knowledge and understanding and to foster and support a vital spirit of open inquiry and critical thinking.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Eligibility

All tenured/tenure-track faculty who meet the qualifications established by their departmental faculty, which have been approved by the UNC Charlotte

Graduate Council (hereafter called Graduate Council), shall be eligible for regular membership in the Graduate Faculty. Professionals who meet the relevant departmental criteria are eligible for appointment as Associate Graduate Faculty. Appointments to Graduate Faculty and appropriate exceptions are approved by the Dean of the Graduate School.

Section 2: Admission

Normally the initial regular appointment to Graduate Faculty will be for three years. Subsequently an eligible faculty member desiring a Graduate Faculty membership may be reappointed to a five-year membership by the Dean of the Graduate School upon nomination by the appropriate department chair and/or college dean.

Section 3: Duties and Powers

Only regular members of the Graduate Faculty may serve on the Graduate Council, vote in their colleges for members of the Graduate Council, and vote on amendments to these Bylaws. Both regular and associate graduate faculty may participate in graduate instruction, graduate student committees, and other graduate matters. Associate graduate faculty may chair thesis or dissertation committees upon prior permission by the Dean of the Graduate School in consultation with the program.

ARTICLE III MEETING OF THE GRADUATE FACULTY

Section 1: Purpose and Call

A general meeting of the Graduate Faculty shall be called by the Chair of the Graduate Council only if requested to do so by the Graduate Council, the Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the Dean of the Graduate School, or petition of at least 10 percent of the Graduate Faculty. A general Graduate Faculty meeting shall be for the purpose of communication, discussion, and/or determining whether an issue warrants a Graduate Faculty referendum.

Section 2: Quorum

A quorum shall consist of 25 percent of the Graduate Faculty.

ARTICLE IV GRADUATE FACULTY REFERENDA

Graduate Faculty Referenda may be conducted only with the consent of the Graduate Council or the Graduate Faculty, may be conducted by mail ballot or electronically such as by e-mail or web-based voting procedures, must be conducted only during the academic year, and shall be valid only if one-third or more of the eligible voters respond to the referendum. A majority of the votes cast shall represent the decision of the Graduate Faculty. The decision shall be binding on the UNC Charlotte Graduate Council.

ARTICLE V UNC CHARLOTTE GRADUATE COUNCIL

Section 1: Function

The function of the Graduate Council shall be primarily to review, develop, and make recommendations concerning Graduate School policy. In addition, the Council will serve in an advisory capacity to the Dean of the Graduate School. College representatives shall provide advice, counsel, and assistance, and updates to graduate faculty of their respective colleges, especially Graduate Program Directors, in preparing and processing graduate curriculum proposals and addressing other matters pertaining to graduate education. The members of the Graduate Council are the conduit of information between the colleges and the Council.

Section 2: Composition

The Graduate Council shall consist of two members selected by the College of Humanities & Earth and Social Sciences from departments offering graduate

degree programs, one member from each of the other colleges of the University that has a graduate degree program, one enrolled graduate-degree student, the Dean of the Graduate School (ex-officio, non-voting), and one representative from the Library faculty (ex-officio, non-voting). All elected faculty on the Council must be members of the Graduate Faculty prior to their election.

Section 3: Selection of the Chair of the Graduate Council

The Chair must be a regular member of the Graduate Faculty, must have served as a voting member of the Graduate Council for at least one term (two years), and shall be elected by the Graduate Faculty for a two-year term. The Graduate Council, at the beginning of each academic year, shall elect a Vice Chair from among its members to serve in the Chair's absence as needed.

Section 4: Selection of the Graduate Council

A. College Representatives. College representatives on the Graduate Council shall be elected in the spring, for a term of two years, by the regular Graduate Faculty of their respective colleges. The terms of the members shall be staggered so that approximately one-half of the members are elected each spring. The newly elected members shall take office beginning with the opening of the academic year following their election.

B. Vacancy. Should a vacancy occur, the unexpired term shall be filled by the alternate (see Section 4.D. below). If a person serves more than one year of a term for which someone else was originally elected, that partial term shall be considered one of the two consecutive terms a person may serve.

C. Student Representative. The Graduate and Professional Student Government at UNC Charlotte shall choose the student representative on the Graduate Council. This appointment shall be for one year.

D. Alternate Representatives. From regular Graduate Faculty of graduate degree programs, each of the colleges shall elect an alternate, or in the case of the College of Humanities & Earth and Social Sciences two

alternates, to take the place of its college representative on the Graduate Council to serve on the Council when that representative is unable to attend meetings of the Council or fulfill other responsibilities of the position. Each alternate shall be elected for a two-year term as the specific replacement for a specific college representative on the Council. Similarly, the Graduate and Professional Student Government shall elect an alternate who is an enrolled graduate-degree student.

Section 5: Responsibilities

With ultimate accountability to the Graduate Faculty, the Graduate Council shall:

- A. advise the Dean of the Graduate School on matters of graduate education;
- B. initiate, review and make recommendations concerning graduate education;
- C. review and make recommendations on all curriculum requests at the graduate level, including all new degree programs or program concentrations;
- D. review and make recommendations on the criteria developed by academic units for the appointment of individuals to the Graduate Faculty;
- E. establish such committees as may be deemed necessary and proper for the purpose of furthering graduate education at UNC Charlotte;
- F. participate in the recruitment of the Dean of the Graduate School, and have input into the selection of the Dean;
- G. serve as a committee of the whole to conduct the annual review of the Dean of the Graduate School in accordance with the University's Administrator Evaluation Policy.

Section 6: Meetings

Meetings of the Graduate Council shall be held regularly. Special meetings may

be called by the Chair or the Dean of the Graduate School by circulating a notice and agenda to members at least seven days prior to the meeting day. Also, a meeting must be called within 30 days, by the Chair or the Dean of the Graduate School, if either is requested to do so in writing by at least three members of the Council.

Section 7: Graduate Council Action Between Academic Years

It shall be the custom of the Graduate Council to function only during the academic year. However, it may be necessary on occasion for the Chair of the Graduate Council or the Dean of the Graduate School to call the Council into session during the summer. Summer work on the Council shall be on a voluntary basis.

Section 8: Quorum and Voting

A quorum of the Council shall consist of a majority of the voting members of the Council, and the affirmative majority vote of the quorum shall be necessary to take any action.

ARTICLE VI PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, the latest edition, shall govern meetings of the Graduate Faculty and the Council and its committees in all parliamentary situations not covered by these Bylaws or the laws of the State of North Carolina.

ARTICLE VII DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1: Chair of the UNC Charlotte Graduate Council

The Chair shall preside over meetings of the Graduate Faculty and the UNC Charlotte Graduate Council, call meetings of the council as necessary, or whenever requested to do so in writing by three of its members or the Dean of the Graduate School, call meetings of the Graduate Faculty, act as

spokesperson for the Graduate Council as necessary, and perform any other duties assigned by the Council.

Section 2: Dean of the Graduate School

The Dean of the Graduate School is a Senior Academic and Administrative Officer and is appointed by the Chancellor after approval by the Board of Trustees of UNC Charlotte and the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina. The Dean provides updates to the Graduate Council and solicits feedback for items relevant to graduate education.

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

Section 1: Proposal

Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by the Graduate Council, by the Graduate Faculty of any college, or by written petition to the Council signed by 25 members of the Graduate Faculty. Any amendment proposed in any of these ways shall be presented in an open hearing and then distributed to the entire Graduate Faculty using a mail ballot or an on-line voting procedure such as email or web-based voting. Any voting procedure must take place during the normal academic year.

Section 2: Adoption

The adoption of amendments to these Bylaws requires a majority supporting vote by the regular Graduate Faculty, with at least one third of eligible faculty casting votes.