

Proposed Revisions to the Columbia *Faculty Manual*

Faculty Senate

University of South Carolina

Brief Title of Proposed Change	Graduate Council Proposal to Amend the Faculty Manual (pages 17-18) member selection process
Committee Proposing Revision	Proposed by the Graduate Council. Brought to the Senate after review by Faculty Advisory Committee
Date of Presentation to Senate	October 4, 2023
Senate Approval Date	November 1, 2023

**Rationale for Proposed Revisions**

The justification for this change is to shift responsibility of member selection from the Graduate School to the academic units being represented. It also revises how the Council size is calculated. Under this proposal, and based on current graduate enrollments, the Council size will still be close to the current composition (with 18 faculty members). This proposal was approved unanimously by the Graduate Council at their February 27, 2023 meeting. It was reviewed and approved by the Faculty Advisory Committee – March 13, 2023 and September 20, 2023. The proposal was presented to the Senate on October 4, 2023. After discussion, it was modified by amendment and then approved in its final version on November 1, 2023.

Current Faculty Manual	Proposed Revision
<p><b>GRADUATE COUNCIL</b></p> <p>The council shall be composed of 20 regular and associate graduate faculty members and one student member:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nine members selected by the graduate faculty;</li> <li>▪ Nine members appointed by the provost of the university upon recommendation of the Graduate School;</li> <li>▪ One student member representing the Graduate Student Association;</li> <li>▪ The dean of the Graduate School (ex officio); and</li> <li>▪ The senior associate dean of the Graduate School (ex officio), who serves as secretary.</li> </ul> <p>No more than six members may have associate graduate faculty membership.</p> <p>The council acts in an advisory capacity to the dean of the Graduate School and to the administration, takes action on graduate students' petitions, and performs other duties assigned to it by the graduate faculty or the administration of the university.</p>	<p><b>GRADUATE COUNCIL</b></p> <p><del>The council shall be composed of 20 regular and associate graduate faculty members and one student member:-</del></p> <p>The council shall be composed of <b>the following members:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>One faculty member each from dean-led colleges or schools with graduate degrees;</b></li> <li>• <b>One additional faculty member from each dean-led college or school with graduate student enrollment exceeding 400 (using a rolling three-year average);</b></li> <li>• One student member representing the Graduate Student Association;</li> <li>• The dean of the Graduate School (ex officio, <b>non-voting</b>); and</li> <li>• <b>The Graduate Council secretary (ex officio, non-voting), appointed by the dean of the Graduate School.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Academic unit deans are responsible for implementing an election procedure to select council members from among eligible graduate</b></p>

The council is responsible for the approval of major changes in graduate studies policy, new courses, course changes, new programs, and modifications of existing degree programs so long as such modifications are in accord with general regulations of the graduate faculty. Actions of the council in these areas shall be published to the faculty and shall become final if not challenged within thirty days by ten or more members of the graduate faculty. A challenge shall consist of a written statement of disagreement with an action or actions of the council that is addressed to the chair or the secretary and signed by ten or more members of the graduate faculty. If a challenge cannot be resolved by the council to the satisfaction of the challengers, the matter shall be referred to the graduate faculty for resolution at a meeting called by the dean of the Graduate School. Any decision made by the graduate faculty at a called meeting will supersede the decision of the council. A quorum for a called meeting shall be ten percent of the graduate faculty.

faculty according to current Faculty Manual guidelines.

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