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Katherine Yang, PharmD, Chair
Rules & Jurisdiction Committee

Re: Proposed change to Appendix II Regulations & Procedures of the
Graduate Council, specifically VII.

Dear Chair Yang:

The Graduate Council has revised their proposed change to the Appendix II
Regulations & Procedures of the Graduate Council, specifically VII.
Requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree.

The program directors for all the PhD programs have reviewed and approved
of the proposed change.
Please see the updated Statement of Purpose.

Thank you for your attention,


R. Dyche Mullins



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Statement of Purpose

Current senate regulation state that the qualifying examination committee may not be chaired by the person who will be the chair of the student's dissertation committee. In most graduate groups it has been assumed or required that the dissertation committee chair is the same person as the principal investigator/primary advisor/primary dissertation advisor. Now, several of our PhD graduate programs wish to implement a policy that requires that the chair of the dissertation committee be someone other than the primary dissertation advisor, in order to mitigate conflicts of interest between the PI's research interests and the student's progression. Therefore Graduate Council seeks to codify the role of primary dissertation advisor as a distinct role from dissertation committee chair, and more specifically ensure that the primary dissertation advisor does not serve as the chair of the qualifying exam. Graduate Council believes this is the original intention of the stated regulation. These changes will remove the requirement that the qualifying exam chair cannot be the dissertation committee chair, except at the discretion of the program.

PROS:

1. The proposed change will formally distinguish between the roles of dissertation committee chair and primary dissertation advisor, setting the conditions for diffusing the hierarchy that a student is faced with, balancing PI's expectations of them in research productivity while progressing through their degree program.
2. A number of programs expressed that their faculty pool is limited for some students and their projects. By removing the requirement that the qualifying exam chair be different from the dissertation committee chair, students are afforded greater flexibility to students who have difficulty finding a dissertation chair who is not their dissertation advisor.
3. By codifying that the qualifying exam chair cannot be the primary dissertation advisor, one of the most significant conflicts of interest is removed.

CONS:

1. The qualifying exam chair may be the same person as the dissertation committee chair, so long as the dissertation chair is not also the primary dissertation advisor. This may be viewed as a conflict of interest but graduate council feels that this is an acceptable compromise in order to move towards separate roles of the primary dissertation advisor and the chair of the dissertation committee.

VII. Requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree

- A. Six quarters in residence are required for the Ph.D. degree. A student must register for a minimum of three quarters after advancing to candidacy, as part of the six quarter residency requirement.
- B. Foreign Language Requirement
 1. Departments and Graduate Groups may establish a language requirement at their discretion.



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2. In a program where there is a foreign language requirement, it must be satisfied prior to advancement to candidacy.

C. Qualifying Examination

1. The purpose of the qualifying examination is to demonstrate that the student has an adequate knowledge of the field and the specialty, knows how to use academic resources, and is capable of conducting independent research for a dissertation.
 - a. To be eligible for examination, a student must have completed at least one quarter in residence and must have a grade point average of 3.00 or above in all courses taken in graduate standing.
 - b. The examination may be oral or written, or both, and may be given in several parts or in one session, at the discretion of the committee.
 - c. Students must be registered at the time the examination is given. If the exam is to be taken in summer session, registration is not required but the student must have been registered in the previous Spring quarter.
2. A committee of four faculty is nominated by the student and approved by the student's advisor. The Dean of the Graduate Division must be notified of the topic and the committee members.
 - a. At least one member of the committee must be from outside the student's major department or graduate program.
 - b. The qualifying examination committee may not be chaired by the person who will be the chair of the student's dissertation committee. (At the program's option, the dissertation chair may not be a member of the qualifying examination committee.)
3. At least one meeting of the whole committee must be held to discuss the results before a report is made to the Dean of the Graduate Division.
4. If a student fails the examination, the committee must make a recommendation for or against a second examination.
 - a. The committee must be the same as for the original examination.
 - b. When the examination is a failure in all areas, the re-examination must be on all subjects involved.
 - c. A partial failure, in which a student passes some parts but not others, will also count as a first examination. Re-examination after partial failure may be restricted to those areas in which the original performance was unsatisfactory.
 - d. A third examination is not permitted.

D. Advancement to Candidacy

1. A student may be admitted to candidacy after successful completion of the qualifying examination, provided that there are no other deficiencies, such as incomplete grades.
2. An application for candidacy, indicating the subject of investigation for the dissertation and the proposed committee to guide the research and pass on the merits of the dissertation, must be filed with the Dean of the Graduate Division.
3. At least three quarters in registered student status must elapse between advancement to candidacy and conferral of the degree.



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4. Candidacy for the doctoral degree lapses if a student has not completed requirements for the degree within four years after advancement to candidacy; i.e., 12 quarters, excluding summers.
5. Upon lapse of candidacy, a petition for reinstatement must be accompanied by a recommendation from the faculty of the student's degree program on whether a new qualifying examination is required.

E. Dissertation

1. The dissertation is a work of independent research or scholarship that makes an original contribution to knowledge in an academic discipline. It demonstrates the candidate's mastery of research methods and ability to pursue an independent investigation, and should be of sufficient depth and quantity to be published.
2. A committee of at least three members of the faculty is nominated by the student and approved by the student's advisor. The Dean of the Graduate Division must be notified of the topic and the committee members.
3. The committee oversees the student's research and approves the dissertation.
4. The committee may conduct a final oral examination that deals with the validity of the dissertation research.
5. One copy of the dissertation must be submitted to the Graduate Division by the last day of the quarter in which the degree is conferred.

Clean Copy of Proposed Changes to VII. Requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree, Section C.2.b.

b. A student's primary dissertation advisor may not serve as chair of the qualifying examination committee. At the program's discretion, a student's primary dissertation advisor may also be excluded from serving as chair of the dissertation committee. A graduate program may set additional criteria for membership of qualifying examination and dissertation committees.

Clean Copy of Current VII. Requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree, Section C.2.b.

- b. The qualifying examination committee may not be chaired by the person who will be the chair of the student's dissertation committee. (At the program's option, the dissertation chair may not be a member of the qualifying examination committee).