

# Committee Approval of Theses and Dissertations

## Policy Memorandum No. 188

Approved by the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies: February 3, 1999

Approved by University Council: March 1, 1999

Approved by President: March 1, 1999

Effective: August 16, 1999

The University Council, on recommendation of the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies, unanimously approved a resolution concerning the committee approval of theses and dissertations.

Following is the text of the resolution as adopted by University Council.

**Whereas**, the process for committee approval of theses and dissertations as presently written is inconsistently worded, and

**Whereas**, the published copy of a thesis or dissertation is not the appropriate forum to debate the merits of the document, so that the present policy of allowing a faculty member to register a dissenting opinion by having a letter bound with the thesis or dissertation is inappropriate, and

**Whereas**, the faculty must be able to indicate clearly approval or disapproval of the thesis or dissertation when they sign the Submission Approval Form,

**Therefore, Be It Resolved** that Council adopt the following recommendation, effective August 16, 1999:

That the Graduate Catalog and Policies and procedures manual statement describing the committee approval which reads as follows:

"Committee Approval

A thesis/dissertation must be approved by all members of a student's advisory committee. Committee members signify approval by signing the thesis or dissertation approval form in black ink. If a committee member does not approve the thesis/dissertation, upon the faculty member's request, a written dissenting opinion can be bound with the thesis. A successful candidate is allowed at most one negative vote."

be rewritten to read:

"Committee Approval

Committee members signify approval or disapproval by signing the thesis or dissertation approval form appropriately. A successful candidate is allowed at most one signature of disapproval." And that the digital copy of the thesis or dissertation in the library indicate each committee member's approval or disapproval, and that the digital copy of dissertations sent to University Microfilms also indicate each committee member's approval or disapproval.

PET:sws

President's Policy Memorandum

**URL: <http://purl.vt.edu/vtdocs/policies/ppm188>**