



Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 282

TO: All Faculty, Deans, and Department Heads
FROM: Charles Steger *WWS*
DATE: May 9, 2013
SUBJECT: Professor of Practice Chairing Graduate Committees

Approved by the Commission on Faculty Affairs: March 22, 2013
Approved by University Council: April 29, 2013
Approved by the President: April 29, 2013
Effective Date: Upon Approval

University Council approved a resolution regarding professors of practice chairing graduate committees.

Following is the text of the resolution.

WHEREAS, the professor of practice ranks were established in 2009, as described in President's Policy Memorandum No. 260; and

WHEREAS, many departments have added professors of practice to their faculty; and

WHEREAS, most professors of practice hold an appropriate terminal degree and many are active in graduate education; and

WHEREAS, departments who wish for professors of practice to serve on and chair graduate student committees may request appointment of professors of practice with terminal degrees and active involvement in research to the academic unit's graduate program faculty;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that section 5.1.4 of the Faculty Handbook be revised so that professors of practice be allowed to chair graduate advisory committees with the approval of the academic unit and the Graduate School.

New text underlined and deleted text indicated by strikethrough

5.1.4 Professor of Practice Ranks

Academic departments retain the authority and responsibility to make decisions about whether to employ professors of practice to deliver aspects of their instructional program or to carry out other aspects of the departmental mission. Departmental policies and practices related to the use of non-tenure-track ranks must be approved by an appropriate standing committee in the department, such as a promotion and tenure or executive/personnel committee, the department head or chair, and dean.

For disciplines where professional preparation of students is a major goal, the involvement of experienced practitioners in teaching the skills and values of the profession, overseeing internships and project experiences, and career advising, for example, are a vital aspect of a successful program. Professional programs often have a deep commitment to on-going continuing education of practitioners in the field, resulting in a greater commitment to delivery of outreach programs than is typical of a tenure-track appointment outside of extension. Programs in the arts may wish to attract resident artists or performers for a period of time to contribute to the program. The professor of practice rank series may be appropriate in these and other roles that typically do not reflect the same range of responsibilities required for tenure-track faculty members.

The professor of practice series provides for short- or long-term, full- or part-time, non-tenure-track faculty appointments for individuals who bring specialized expertise to the instructional programs of the university, thereby complementing the qualifications and contributions of tenure-track faculty. (These rank titles may also be used for wage appointments in lieu of adjunct assistant, associate, or professor, if appropriate for the assignment and credentials of the individual.) Individuals appointed to these ranks are expected to be successful and effective professionals in a given field. They must be effective teachers of the profession or discipline and they are expected to be able to understand and evaluate the research that applies to their field and to teach it to students. While professor of practice faculty members may conduct research and present their findings in professional venues, there are no expectations for an extensive research program as is typical of tenure-track faculty appointments.

Professor of practice faculty members are expected to remain active in their professions in ways that contribute to their assignment—teaching, consulting or doing outreach, serving in technical and professional societies and associations, and similar activities. Where appropriate to their assignment, they may serve on and chair graduate committees and interact with graduate students and interns. To chair a graduate committee, professors of practice must have a terminal degree and active involvement in research and must be approved by the academic unit and the Graduate School; ~~however, they may not chair graduate committees.~~ They may also be expected to serve on departmental, college, or university committees as contributing members of their departments and the broader university community.

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Individuals appointed to a professor of practice rank must have a graduate or professional degree in the discipline (or a related discipline), professional certification(s) if relevant, and/or significant professional experience. Any appointment without the relevant *terminal* degree in the field must be certified by the department as appropriately credentialed for the faculty member's particular instructional assignment in accordance with guidelines for regional accreditation and university policy and procedures. Documentation supporting alternative credentials certification is required. Further information regarding appropriate credentials for the teaching faculty is found in section 2.5.9, "Faculty Credentialing Guidelines," and on the provost's website.

A record of significant professional achievement is expected for appointment at the associate or full level; initial appointments at such ranks require approval of the appropriate departmental committee and head or chair. Appointment to one of these ranks may be from one to five years and is renewable without limit.

Promotion within these ranks may be pursued through procedures outlined in this section. Tenure will not be awarded at any of these ranks and service at these ranks is excluded from the probationary period if the faculty member is subsequently appointed to a tenure-track position.

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