

Attachment A
Proposed Conflict of Interest Policy of the Graduate School

Upon appointment to a graduate student's advisory, thesis, or dissertation committees, faculty members must disclose to the departmental chair/program director and the Dean of the Graduate School any personal relationship with other committee members which might be expected to create a conflict of interest or give that appearance in relation to professional decisions and recommendations faculty members are required to render. These relationships may include legal, family, and business relationships, living arrangements, and personal partnerships of other kinds. The Dean of the Graduate School shall determine whether the potential conflict of interest or appearance thereof precludes the faculty member's service on the committee, and if necessary will arrange for an alternate after consultation with the departmental chair/head or program director. [Note: Spousal/domestic partnership relationships do not require a conflict of interest statement.]

Graduate students' advisory, thesis, and dissertation committees must be composed so that no member of the committee has any personal relationship to the student which might create a conflict of interest or give that appearance; or a plan for managing the conflict must be created and approved. These relationships may include legal, family, and business relationships, living arrangements, and personal partnerships of other kinds. If there is uncertainty that any conditions constitute a conflict of interest between a student and members of the committee, the Dean of the Graduate School will determine the issue in consultation with the department chair/head or program director. If a conflict management plan is needed, this will be approved by the parties to the conflict (minimally the faculty member and the student), the department chair/program director, and the Graduate Dean, before the faculty member will be allowed to serve on the student's committee.