Resolution to Clarify Policy on Academic Employee Registration for Graduate Degrees
Professional Relations Committee
Faculty Senate AY22-23

Whereas University employees are eligible to apply for admission to graduate programs,

Whereas employees enrolling in graduate program may cause conflicts of interest to arise,

Whereas the University has a duty to assess and address potential conflicts of interest,

Be it resolved that the language of the Faculty Handbook Section IV.F be amended as follows:

Section IV.F - Faculty and Administrator Registration for Graduate Degrees

All persons on full-time presidential contract, employees except senior administrators (vice presidents, vice provosts, associate provosts, and deans) are eligible to apply for admission to a graduate program or to nondegree status. Non-classified employees are subject to a conflict of interest review. The Associate Provost for Graduate Studies and the Dean of the Graduate College and the Graduate Council will review all applications for potential conflict of interest. If the Graduate Council determines that a conflict exists, the faculty member or administrator and cannot be satisfactorily mitigated, then the employee shall not be admitted to a graduate program. It is the responsibility of the Dean of the Graduate College to see that this review takes place at the earliest possible date meeting of Graduate Council.

No academic employee at or above the rank of Instructor, Research Assistant, or the equivalent may receive from the University the Master's Degree or the Doctor's Degree in any graduate program where the faculty member has membership, teaches courses, serves on Master's or Doctoral Committees, has, or is expected to have, other supervisory responsibilities which might give rise to conflicts of interest or the appearance of conflicts of interest. Faculty members or senior administrators on full-time presidential contracts, Non-classified employees at Ohio University seeking a may not enroll in a terminal degree program in the college or academic unit must enroll in academic programs outside the colleges in which they are employed. Appeals regarding this policy follow the guidelines established in accordance with the "Faculty Grievance Committee" procedures (see Section II.G). If an appeal is successful, an academic employee’s enrollment must still be cleared for conflict of interest by the Dean of the Graduate College and Graduate Council before the employee is eligible to be admitted into the program or enroll in any classes.

A full-time faculty member or full-time administrator at Ohio University who is admitted to a degree program or to nondegree status may normally register for no more than 8 hours per semester. A person wishing to register for 9 to 10 hours must have written approval from the graduate chair of his/her/their academic program and from the administrative supervisor their employee position. Full-time faculty and full-time administrators
who obtain approval to register for 9 or 10 hours per semester may not receive a graduate stipend. Course loads taken during breaks in regular employment, however, such as summers for 9-month faculty, will be limited only by Graduate Catalog regulations. (Attention is also directed to the stipulations regarding residency requirements as stated in the Graduate Catalog and the Policy and Procedure Manual, No. 40.016.)

If a student who is currently in a graduate degree program is offered a presidential contract full-time appointment or changes appointments at the university, then the situation shall be reviewed by the Dean of the Graduate College and the Graduate Council at the earliest possible date. The Graduate Council shall determine whether conflict of interest or unfair competition that might affect academic performance and evaluation would result from dual status as a student and a presidential contract employee. If the Graduate Council determines that such a conflict would exist, they shall inform the student that he/she/they may not continue in their graduate program if he/she/they accept the presidential contract appointment position.