



TO: Council on Graduate Studies
 FROM: Robert M. Augustine, Dean
 RE: Petition from the Master of Science in Biological Science to Waive Associate Member Limitations
 DATE: April 26, 2011

Policy CGS 10-22 Waivers of Associate Member Limitations

Programs may petition the Council on Graduate Studies to waive the standard limitations and authorize the Associate Member privileges to perform duties reserved for Regular Members. Such privileges may include service on a thesis committee, contributions to a curriculum committee, or support for the graduate program in other specialized ways.

Petition

The Master of Arts in Biological Sciences petitions the Council on Graduate Studies to grant Associate Member of the Graduate Faculty, Dr. Ruth Chesnut, the privilege to support the graduate program in specialized ways. The program supports Dr. Chesnut serving as the new Coordinator of the Graduate Teaching Assistant Program. While Dr. Chesnut has a terminal degree in Biological Sciences and is an active scholar, she holds a position as an annually contracted faculty member rather than a tenured/tenure track position. She is well qualified to serve in this role as she has already provided mentoring and supervision of the GTAP program since it was originally approved, has worked closely with the current Coordinator, and was the only applicant for the position from among the Graduate Faculty and Associate Graduate Faculty. If approved, the special privileges would be allowed for a period of 5 years.

- **Specific Privileges:** In her role as GTAP Coordinator, Dr. Chesnut will provide the required orientation for the assistants selected for the program, will provide the supervision and mentoring required, will collaborate with other faculty on development programs required of the students in the program, and will resolve issues or concerns that may arise while students are enrolled in the program. The program is available only to 4 of the top graduate assistants in the program and has been identified as an essential experience for those candidates who seek admission to a Ph.D. program.
- **Rationale:** As noted in the petition, Dr. Chesnut has been involved with the program from its beginning in 2008 has the expertise to execute the duties of the program, and has a desire to contribute to the program's success. She holds a Ph.D. and teaches the courses that the students will also teach. In using Dr. Chesnut's expertise in this way, the program preserves research time for other Ph.D. faculty who are member of the Graduate Faculty.
- **Authorization:** The Chair, Dr. Karen Gaines and Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Jeff Laursen, provided a copy of an email that was sent to the entire Graduate Faculty informing them of Dr. Chesnut's application and Dr. Gaines' petition to the CGS to allow this privilege. The memo was also copied to the Dean and Associate Dean of the College of Sciences. Dean Augustine met with Dr. Gains to review the petition. Dr. Gains reported that she met and discussed the petition with one faculty member who had questions about the petition process. Dr. Gains reported that all of the faculty support the petition.

Dean's Recommendation

The Master of Science in Biological Sciences identified the specific privileges, provided a rationale, and provided evidence that the faculty support the petition. I recommend that the Council on Graduate Studies support the petition and waive the associate member limitations and allow Dr. Ruth Chesnut to serve as GTAP Coordinator.