Policy on Graduate Faculty Status
College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences

The university’s Graduate Faculty Status Policy dated 12 June 2006 defines the following minimum standards for graduate faculty:

- Terminal degree (highest degree awarded within a discipline)
- Commitment and availability to mentor graduate students throughout their programs of study
- Sustained, substantial, and consequential research effort or creative endeavor evidenced by regular publications or creative works in visible and influential peer reviewed or juried forums.

Graduate faculty status is renewed annually. The chair submits to the college by 1 October each year a certified list of all faculty members who meet the requirements for graduate faculty status. The college verifies the accuracy of the list, resolves any disagreements, and forwards the list to Graduate Studies.

In our college, requirements for graduate faculty status parallel those for rank advancement as outlined in departmental, college, and university rank and status documents. In general, professorial faculty members who hold the rank of assistant/associate/full professor should maintain a level of high quality scholarship, teaching, and citizenship commensurate with performance required for advancement to current rank. A member of the graduate faculty will normally have several papers in the pipeline, and at least one paper published in an influential peer reviewed venue within the most recent three years. A member of the graduate faculty should appropriately pursue research funding to support graduate students, and should provide high quality teaching both in the classroom and in mentoring. Graduate faculty should be active participants in their scientific community, as evidenced by, for example, regular invitations to review papers and proposals. Exceptions to these requirements might include a faculty member making steady progress on a truly extraordinary scholarly project that might take more than three years, or a faculty member changing research directions.

Occasionally, there may be a faculty member whose research program has waned for some reason (e.g. administrative duties, health, teaching role, etc.), but whose skills and experience are still essential to the strength and vitality of a department’s graduate program. The department chair should provide a written recommendation that the individual be maintained on the graduate faculty on a year-to-year basis. The recommendation must be approved by the college dean and dean of Graduate Studies.