

Advice on Enforcement of Graduate Program Proposal Memoranda of Understanding
Committee on Elections, Rules and Jurisdiction
October 16, 2009

At its June 10, 2009 meeting, the Executive Council endorsed a procedure which requires three memoranda of understanding faculty involved with departmental programs and the administration. These MOUs are required for new programs and would be phased in for existing programs.

The Graduate Council has asked CERJ for advice on enforcement of the memoranda. The three memoranda, and the ways in which they might fail to be carried out, are as follows.

Administrative

This MOU contains commitments by the administration for all administrative and space resource needs, and it would be signed by the lead dean and the head of a faculty unit (if applicable). The the responsibility for fulfilling the commitment might rest with the administration, and neither the Graduate Council nor any other Senate body has authority over the actions of the administration regarding assignment of staff and space. A department or organized research unit that signed the agreement might fail to meet its condition as well.

Instructional

The instructional MOU requires commitment to cover all required core and elective courses, with the proviso that there be faculty in residence capable of teaching them. If a dean fails to provide resources to allow the relevant courses to be taught, then the Graduate Council would have the same options as listed for the Administrative MOU, and the same holds if a department fails to provide the relevant courses.

Student Support

The student support MOU requires the Dean of Graduate Studies to provide sufficient financial support through block grants for new programs and existing programs that project substantial growth in student population, without reducing such support for existing programs. The Graduate Dean may fail to provide such support.

Possible Actions by the Graduate Council

If there were a violation of one or more of the MOUs, the Graduate Council could lodge a protest with the party that failed to meet the conditions of the memorandum, bring the matter to the attention of higher administration officials, publicize the matter, or in the extreme case, take measures leading to the termination the graduate program. If the party is a department acting as a Senate agency, then it could be censured by the Division. In practice, the threat of terminating the program would seem to be the most effective enforcement tool for the Graduate Council.