

UC DAVIS GRADUATE COUNCIL POLICY
Policy on the Relation of ASR 600(B) to Graduate Groups
Approved – May 4, 2012

GC2012-01

Senate Regulation 600.B prohibits:

“faculty colleagues from bestowing post-baccalaureate degrees upon fellow faculty members at their own campuses” and prevents “a form of ‘nepotism’, in which a faculty member might be awarded an advanced degree by his/her own colleagues – a situation in which could be rife with conflicts of interest.”¹

In 2005 the regulation was modified after it had come to the Coordinating Council on Graduate Affairs’ attention that the regulation then existing prevents UC faculty from pursuing professional development that could be highly beneficial to their careers and to the University. The following clause was thus added:

“degree candidates who are voting members of the Senate may not be members of committees or be in positions of administrative authority that have influence or control over the resources, funding, degree granting, and academic personnel actions of the degree granting department or program unless they are able to recuse themselves from any decisions/actions involving the said department or program.”

The intention of the 2005 amendment is to promote the professional development of the faculty, by making post-baccalaureate programs more accessible to them, while also avoiding any potential conflicts of interest. As written ASR 600(B) explicitly addresses when members of the same department enter into a student/instructor relation, yet it does not address when such a relation develops within the context of a *graduate group*. This occurs on the Davis campus.

Graduate Council recognizes that individual faculty have the right to vote in their departments as permitted by ASB 55. However, this conflicts with ASR 600(B) in certain cases, such as when the student and peer faculty are members of the same graduate group. Graduate Council proposes a limited version of voting recusal consistent with the spirit of ASR 600(B) for cases where the faculty member is a student in or a member of a committee or an administrator with influence or control over the graduate group.

Graduate Council requires that Bylaws and Degree Requirements of graduate groups who might have faculty members as students be composed such that

(1) faculty members who are students should recuse themselves, until the degree is granted, from any decisions within their department that affect other members of the group, and,

(2) all members of the department who influence or control decisions of the group should recuse themselves on such matters as they affect the student.

¹ Rationale for the amendment of ASR 600(B), Academic Council Minutes, May 2005.