

Proposed Policy for Consideration by the University Senate

Lecturer Class Faculty and the Teaching of Graduate Courses and Serving on Graduate Student Committees

The Auburn University Faculty Handbook states, “Lecturers and senior lecturers are not eligible for graduate faculty status.” However, Lecturer-class faculty who otherwise meet graduate faculty criteria (level 1) for the department may be granted permission to teach graduate-level courses and/or serve on graduate student committees on an exceptions basis under the following conditions: a Lecturer-class faculty member desiring to teach a graduate course or serve on a graduate student committee should make a written request to the department chair.

1. If this request is acceptable to the majority of the department’s tenure and tenure track graduate faculty and chair, a memo requesting such authorization will be submitted to the Graduate Dean for review and approval.
2. Authorization may be requested for teaching only, committee service only, or both.
3. No more than one Lecturer-class faculty member may serve on a graduate student committee.
4. Authorization must be requested for each semester a graduate course is to be taught by a given Lecturer-class faculty member.
5. Authorization must be provided each time that a Lecturer-class faculty member serves on a graduate student committee.
6. The department will provide the faculty member with resources appropriate to the graduate service being provided. What constitutes appropriate support would vary by department, but the following points would generally apply:
 - a. Service on a graduate committee should not simply be added on top of current service if the Lecturer is already performing at least 5% service and has an appointment that is supposed to be 95% teaching and 5% service. If a Lecturer serves on a graduate committee, other forms of service should be reduced, or the Lecturer should receive a higher percent of his or her appointment for service.
 - b. In most cases, teaching a graduate course requires being completely up-to-date with the most recent research in the field. Appropriate support might include a course release for a Lecturer teaching the course for the first time.
 - c. A Lecturer should not teach a graduate course as an overload class.