

Faculty Senate



M2020.21.22 Motion to Recommend Elimination of Advisor Signature for Graduate School Termination

Originator: Administrative Policies Committee

Whereas,

The current Graduate School Termination Procedure Form (<https://www.memphis.edu/gradschool/pdfs/forms/termination.pdf> Rev. Date: 8/18/2018) first requires the signature of a student advisor declaring the intent to recommend termination of a graduate student, and again in a second step declaring consultation with the graduate coordinator and then again agreeing with the department chair and graduate coordinator that the student should be terminated. The form makes it clear a student only needs to convince or coerce the Advisor to withdraw their recommendation to stop the termination. The current procedure can potentially put undue emphasis and pressure on the role of advisor.

Whereas,

Student recruiting and guidelines are determined by the unit or program of study, and the unit's graduate studies committee's annual review of student progress and productivity will include reports by graduate advisors. Therefore, the recommendation for termination should primarily rest with the unit.

Be it resolved that,

The Faculty Senate recommends that the Graduate School eliminate the requirement that the advisor sign the Graduate School Termination Procedure Form

Recipients:

Tom Nemon, Provost

Robin Poston, Dean of the Graduate School