



THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
GRADUATE COLLEGE

TO: Graduate Faculty

FROM: Cynthia Forehand, Dean of the Graduate College

DATE: November 6, 2020

SUBJECT: Revisions to the Graduate College Constitution

The Graduate Executive Committee has approved the attached changes to the Graduate College Constitution. These changes include:

1. Removing the language of “Regular” and “Professional” categories of membership. These categories are now formally “Research and Scholarship-Based” and “Practitioner-Based” respectively. This language has been used since the establishment of distinct categories, and this change is a formal reflection of that. The regular membership **type** now refers to both research and scholarship-based and practitioner-based faculty who are not emeritus or adjunct.
2. Updating appointment language to include “Research and Scholarship-based or Practitioner-Based” for Emeritus, Adjunct, and Ex Officio appointments.
3. Updating the following membership privileges:
 - a. All regular graduate faculty (research and scholarship-based and practitioner-based) may serve as the Chair of a master’s thesis or doctoral dissertation defense committee.
 - b. All regular graduate faculty (research and scholarship-based and practitioner-based) or an emeritus member with prior regular research and scholarship-based membership can be the primary advisor for a master’s thesis.
 - c. All regular research and scholarship-based members or an emeritus member with prior regular research and scholarship-based membership can be the primary advisor for doctoral dissertation.
 - d. A regular practitioner-based member or an emeritus member with prior practitioner-based membership can be the primary advisor for a doctoral dissertation with approval of the director of the graduate program.

Changes to the constitution require approval by a vote of the full Graduate Faculty via electronic ballot. Discussion of the proposed changes will take place at the Graduate Faculty Meeting on November 12, 2020.