**Chairing Graduate Student Committees**

*(Approved by Graduate Council, February 24, 2021)*

There should be a maximum number of committees a faculty member can chair in any given semester.

1. Each program should have in place a system for ongoing monitoring of the number of committees chaired by each program faculty member.
2. Each program should determine guidelines for adjusting the chair responsibilities in order to assure program quality.

Rationale:

Quality of a program stands to suffer when a faculty member is chairing too many committees. Directing the scholarly work of a graduate student is a mentorship role which demands significant intellectual energy. Excessive responsibilities of this important function can lead either to undue delays regarding student progress or to cursory rather than substantive direction of the student's work. In addition, when there are inequities in faculty workload because of chair responsibilities, faculty morale can be adversely affected.