Policy prohibiting faculty from teaching and formally advising their relatives

(adopted December 12, 2007)

Effective beginning with 2008-2009 academic year

In order to uphold the most objective evaluations of degree-seeking students, faculty members are prohibited from teaching their own relatives in credit-bearing courses offered by the University. Similarly, faculty members are prohibited from serving as formal advisor (including serving as a member or chair of a degree committee) to their own relatives seeking advanced degrees (Masters, Law or Ph.D.). Under extraordinary circumstances, a student may request an exception to this policy by making a written request to the dean of the respective college, indicating why an exception is warranted. In the event that the dean is teaching the course in question or has a potential conflict of interest, the written request should be submitted to the associate provost for faculty affairs.

Note: For the purposes of this provision, a "relative" is considered a spouse, parent, child, child by adoption, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, uncle, aunt, cousin, niece or nephew of the employee or of the employee's spouse. Relatives also include "step" relationships such as stepchild and stepparent.