Policy Governing Graduate Student Teaching

Current policy
“Students working toward graduate certificates or advanced degrees are not permitted to teach graduate courses”

Faculty as Student Policy
“OAR 580-020-0005 specifies that one may not simultaneously be an OUS faculty member and an OUS graduate student.” “Exceptions to OAR 580-020-0005 will be granted only in cases in which the individual requesting the exception has presented a compelling case justifying such an exception including assurance that there are no issues of conflict of interest deriving from the petitioner's student status and faculty employment.” This generally requires that the unit/program of enrollment is separate and distinct from the unit/program of employment.

Non-teaching professional faculty members are not required to submit petition materials. However, a non-teaching professional faculty member’s employment supervisor cannot serve as a major professor or graduate program committee member.

Professional faculty in teaching positions are subject to the policy. As a result, the policy also applies to graduate students who are appointed as instructors based on their academic or professional qualification.

Graduate Faculty Membership
Activity 1 – Teach Graduate Courses.
All faculty who are listed as the instructor of record for a graduate-course must be appointed as graduate faculty.

Proposed Revision to Current Policy:
Appointment as Instructor of Record. For a graduate student to be appointed as the Instructor of Record for a graduate course (including the 500-level component of a slash course):
- The unit/program of employment must be separate and distinct from the unit/program of enrollment.
- The instructor must be appointed to the graduate faculty based on their academic/professional qualification by the unit/program of employment.
- In the event students from the instructor’s unit/program of enrollment are enrolled in the course, alternative arrangements must be made for evaluating the work of graduate students.

Appointment as Teaching Assistant. For a graduate student to be appointed as the Teaching Assistant for a graduate course (including the 500-level component of a slash course), the Instructor of Record for the course must ensure that all potential conflicts of interest are avoided to the maximum extent possible. This must include, at a minimum:
- Making alternative arrangements to evaluate the work of graduate students from the same unit/program as the Teaching Assistant, OR
- Ensuring that the Teaching Assistant has advanced to candidacy status (after prelims) and all graduate students in the class have not advanced to candidacy