

WHEREAS the University Graduate School has recently revised its policies on the composition of doctoral dissertation committees, so that committee members and project mentors who have accepted positions elsewhere may no longer serve as internal committee members, but instead solely as external committee members, and

WHEREAS, the nature of academic employment over many years is often fluid rather than fixed, as professors move in order to advance in their careers and/or to pursue work-life balance, and

WHEREAS, the members of a dissertation committee represent some of the strongest and most significant intellectual mentoring and project development relationships that a student is likely to form during their time in graduate education, and

WHEREAS, it is widely acknowledged that the benefits of modern communications technology enable this mentoring relationship to continue over the course of a project, regardless of whether Indiana University students or their professors are both physically located in Bloomington, and

WHEREAS, the composition of a dissertation committee is a delicate matter and may reflect matters such as the strength and quality of these professors' mentorship of the dissertator; the relative relevance of these professors' area specialization to the project; these professors' achievements in the field; the congeniality of the working relationships between all professors on the committee, and

WHEREAS, due to any one or a number of these issues, a recently departed faculty member may be a far better choice to serve as an internal member of the committee than any of the remaining faculty,

BE IT RESOLVED that the GPSO recommends that the University Graduate School revise this policy to include a grace period of up to two years in which former faculty may serve as internal members of a dissertation committee with all corresponding privileges.