



TO: Sam Lightwood, University Senate President

FROM: Richard Halliburton, Chair, Graduate Council
Ellen Durnin, Dean, Graduate Studies and External Programs

RE: The Process for Selecting Faculty to Participate in Graduate Programs

DATE: October 30, 2009

Last year, the Graduate Council was asked by the Provost's Office to develop a process for selecting faculty to participate in graduate programs. This request was driven by two main factors (1) the need to respond to accrediting bodies on this issue; (2) the intent to support the strategic plan goals of *outstanding faculty* and *quality academic programs*.; It was also important to provide individual departments the ability to develop criteria appropriate to their own graduate programs.

The Council asked a subcommittee to develop the "Process" document. A draft was submitted to the Graduate Council. Members then took the draft to their departments for discussion and returned with feedback. This process was iterated several times to allow for full discussion. At its meeting in December 2008, the Graduate Council overwhelmingly approved the attached document. This process provides the university with a response to NEASC, the Council of Graduate Schools (of which WestConn is a member), the Department of Higher Education, and the many discipline-specific bodies that WestConn holds or is seeking accreditation from (e.g. AACSB, CACREP, CCNE, CSDE, NASM, NASC, and NAST). All of these agencies expect to see standards for faculty participation in graduate programs.

We present this document to the University Senate for informational purposes, and request that Senators distribute it to their departments. The document will be posted on the Graduate Division website (www.wcsu.edu/graduate).

Thank you.