

Oklahoma State University Policy and Procedures

INTERDISCIPLINARY AND/OR COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

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INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL STATEMENT

1.01 The Oklahoma State University encourages interdisciplinary and cooperative interaction between and among all parts of the University when such efforts contribute to achieving the mission of the University. Interdisciplinary and cooperative programs offer several advantages. First, the problems faced by society today are increasingly complex and will be understood and solved only if each appropriate segment of the University community is able to make its unique contribution. Second, approaching problems through a cooperative process adds breadth and quality to graduate and undergraduate programs of research, instruction, and extension, thereby providing students with experiences which will prepare them to compete better in today's market. Third, interdisciplinary and cooperative interaction develops greater vitality within the institution because each participant augments and reinforces the strengths of the others, thus placing the institution in a position where it can increase its potential for attracting extramural funding for programs of research, instruction, and extension.

POLICY

2.01 If interdisciplinary and/or cooperative efforts are to be successful, it is important that they be accompanied by appropriate review, evaluation, and recognition processes and that all faculty and administrators be cognizant of those processes. Consequently, the following guidelines shall be used.

PROCEDURES

3.01 When persons engaged in interdisciplinary or other forms of inter-unit cooperative activity are evaluated in order to make recommendations regarding reappointment, promotion, tenure, and/or salary increment, such evaluations will be the responsibility of the head of the department in which the person is appointed. In reaching a decision, the department head shall make a special effort to consider the extra-departmental involvement of the person by seeking advice and counsel from the other administrative units with which the person is associated. In no case shall a

department head provide a negative evaluation merely because the person's interdisciplinary activities limited his or her availability to the department, provided the person performed effectively those duties associated with the fulltime equivalent assignment within the department.

3.02 When a person is assigned interdisciplinary or cooperative responsibilities as a significant component of his or her workload, the faculty workload assignment report and budgets are expected to reflect that fact accurately, i.e., the records are to show that the person has assignments divided between two or more units, and appropriate Payroll Action Forms should be processed through the regular channels.

3.03 To reflect the participation of diverse faculty in interdisciplinary and cooperative projects, the colleges involved should agree in writing to the amount of budget for each. (Separate budgets are preferred.) The responsibility for initiating the agreement shall reside with the college or unit submitting the proposal. The agreement should be signed by all involved deans or research directors.

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