

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



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IRES Internal Policy Regarding Faculty Associates

UBC Policy

According to Faculty Relations, “an Associate Member is an unofficial position given to a UBC faculty member when there is a need for members of one department to have a formal arrangement to participate in teaching and research activities in another department, but when a joint appointment is not necessary.”

Associate Members may, in the department with which they are associated, have one or more of the following as responsibilities and privileges:

- Opportunities to participate in the departmental teaching program
- Opportunities to supervise graduate students in the department
- Opportunities for use of equipment or facilities.
- Opportunities to participate in faculty meetings.

Whether a particular faculty member is suitable to be an IRES faculty associate, and the different levels of responsibilities and privileges to be granted, are determined by the IRES faculty, through voting.

IRES Policy

The IRES policy on faculty associates works within this framework to address the particular needs of IRES and the RMES graduate program. Cross-campus associations are essential to the interdisciplinary vision of IRES; hence it is beneficial to have a relatively large number of faculty associates. Moreover, many RMES students are supervised by IRES faculty associates.

Appointment

Faculty associates are initially given terms of two years, as a trial period to develop and assess the working relationship between IRES and the associate. After the initial trial period, a faculty associate may be appointed for three years.

New appointments of associates will be considered appointments to "regular" associate status (see below).

Core Associates

Among its faculty associates, IRES distinguishes between "regular" associates and "core" associates. The responsibilities and privileges differ in that only Core Associates will be permitted to supervise RMES graduate students. A Core Associate may also serve as IRES' departmental examiner on master's and PhD examination committees.

IRES effectively delegates responsibilities of the normal IRES faculty supervisor to its Core Associates. Hence it is important that Core Associates be aware of the norms of the program and expectations that this entails. They must understand and be willing to implement the procedures that IRES uses to manage its graduate program.

Normally, an associate develops this familiarity through participation on RMES student supervisory committees. Committee participation also allows the associate to develop a supervisory track record with RMES.

An IRES associate can request to become a Core Associate at any time by writing to the Director. In addition, IRES faculty members can nominate an associate to become a Core Associate on the basis of their own prior experiences with the individual as a potential supervisor.

(This policy is being implemented as of January 2009. All associates who are currently supervising RMES graduate students are considered Core Associates, with the understanding that this status will be reviewed in due course; for example, at the time of reappointment or admission of new student advisees.)

The number of students a particular associate can supervise is determined by the IRES Director, based on the associate's track record as a supervisor in RMES, available funding, and related factors. When a faculty associate supervises an RMES student, the RMES rules and procedures regarding supervision and student funding are to be followed (see Policy on Supervision).

IRES will periodically review the supervisory track record of Core Associates. The process will be similar to that used to assess IRES faculty members' supervision of graduate students.

