

## REPORT

**To:** SHSU Faculty Senate  
**From:** Committee on Academic Affairs  
**Date:** September 24, 2015  
**Re:** Academic Policy Statement 801014 (Graduate Faculty Status)

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**Purpose.** The purpose of this report is to relay the efforts of the Committee on Academic Affairs [AA] with regard to Academic Policy Statement 801014. AA met on Thursday, August 27 and Thursday, September 17, to discuss the policy.

**Committee Charge.** AA received no formal charge from the Senate Chair. We were verbally instructed to review the entire policy and suggest general improvement(s). The Senate Chair indicated that our report should take the form of discussion points and questions to put forth the Senate as a whole at the September 24 meeting of the entire Faculty Senate.

**Discussion Points and Questions.** During the course of our meetings, the following points and questions were raised:

1. **Motivation.** The committee isn't very clear on why we are being asked to look at the policy. Why is the administration asking us to look at it? What's the motivation?
2. **SACSCOC.** A discussion with Somer Franklin indicates that SACS does not require SHSU to have a policy on Graduate Faculty Status. However, in the event that SHSU hires a graduate faculty member who does not meet the degree requirements, it helps justify the hire to have a policy in place. We have attached SACSCOC Faculty Credentials Guidelines to this report.
3. **Questions and Comments.**
  - a. Is there an overwhelming reason why final approval of Graduate Faculty rests with the Dean of Graduate Studies? Management of Graduate Faculty should occur with the Academic Deans.
  - b. If a faculty member is hired for a tenure / tenure-track position with a terminal degree, then appointment to Graduate Faculty should be automatic. No extra approval process should be required.
  - c. The policy should account for academic divisions without sufficient tenure / tenure-track faculty lines to support their graduate programs.
  - d. The committee identified several editorial corrections/comments in the event that the Senate desires to make a formal recommendation to change the policy.