

Policy on adding Non-ME Assistant and Associate Professors to the ME GSC

Approved by a vote of the ME GSC on December 7, 2023; Procedures and Timing added on Feb. 25, 2026

Goal of this policy: To expedite approval of GSC membership within a second department for new Assistant Professors.

Motivation: To support junior faculty by fostering interdisciplinary research and access to additional mentoring and a wider pool of graduate students.

Background

- Many faculty conduct multidisciplinary research that crosses departmental boundaries
- Prospective faculty hires often request joint appointments or GSC membership in a department beyond the hiring department. Granting this request as part of the offer package makes for a more compelling offer and signals that CSE is an inclusive, collaborative environment
- The goal of the additional GSC membership is to foster collaboration, enhance mentoring, and to grant new faculty access to an additional pool of graduate students with skills well-suited to their research programs
- Existing GSC membership granting processes can be slow and differ from department-to-department; it is difficult to navigate this process in time to make a commitment in an offer letter
- We want junior faculty to come up to speed in their research quickly; having access to a wider pool of students and collaborators will put them on a path to success.

Policy for Approving Non-ME GSC members

- Upon request, new and prospective non-ME affiliated faculty at the level of Assistant/Associate Professors will be granted expedited consideration for membership on the ME GSC
- This GSC membership will allow the new faculty member to participate fully in the graduate student recruitment process and to serve as the sole supervisor for PhD students in ME
- The duration of the initial GSC appointment will follow the convention used in Mechanical Engineering for other non-ME GSC members of 3 years
- Requests for GSC membership should be addressed to the Chair of ME. The Chair is responsible for communicating the decision on GSC membership to the requesting department

- The ME Department will respond to requests for GSC membership as soon as possible, but a response should be given within 3 weeks from receipt of the request
- Financial support for students is the responsibility of the new faculty member
- The new faculty member must abide by all ME policies as they relate to graduate students

Procedure and Timing

- The chair of ME department will forward requests for GSC membership that they feel are warranted to the appropriate area coordinator
- The area coordinator will communicate a recommendation from the area within one week of receipt of the request to the Chair of ME
- Within one week of the advisement from the area, the ME GSC will vote on admission of the new faculty to the ME GSC
- Within one week of the GSC vote, the Chair of ME will communicate the results of the vote to the Chair of the department that made the request on behalf of the new faculty member