

Graduate Faculty Representatives (GFRs)

The by-laws of the Idaho State University graduate faculty indicate that active service as a graduate faculty member is a requirement for continuing graduate faculty status. Serving as a Graduate Faculty Representative is one of the main ways in which graduate faculty remain active. GFRs are assigned by the ISU Graduate School. The GFR is sent the student's final project two weeks in advance of the examination or defense. The GFR ensures there is a vote on the defense (using current voting methods of the Graduate School).

A GFR's responsibility is in part to the graduate faculty as a whole and in part to the graduate student. First, is the examination at the level one would expect for graduate work, generally? The voting ballots contain a questionnaire used by the GFR to provide that evaluation to the Graduate School. Second, is the student being treated fairly; are procedures being followed? For example, if the student were allowed to reach the stage of a thesis defense on the basis of a thesis that was not adequate, that would be a problem that a GFR would point out to the committee and report to the Graduate School.

At an examination, the GFR has an opportunity to ask questions of the student as a part of the examination committee. At the end of the examination the GFR handles the committee balloting. The GFR's responsibility also includes ensuring ballots and any Graduate School surveys are filled out and returned to the graduate school (using whatever protocol the Graduate School currently has in place).

Graduate faculty should strive to serve once a semester as a GFR.