

Conflict of Interest Policy in Program Reviews

The PRAC acknowledges that persons who are actively engaged and familiar with an academic unit may best be able to assess strengths and challenges of its programs. However, it is vital to the effectiveness of program reviews that individuals involved in the review process are free of conflicts that might compromise or be perceived to compromise critical objectivity. For this reason, faculty with rank, joint, or adjunct appointment in the unit under review shall not participate as reviewers or as PRAC members discussing the review in committee.

PRAC will consider other potential conflicts as necessary, with particular attention to those occurring within seven years leading up to the review. Potential conflicts include but are not limited to those on the following list, which exist for faculty participating in the review of:

- < a unit in which the faculty member has formerly held a position;
- < a unit in which a spouse, relative, domestic partner, or other intimate acquaintance of the faculty member holds a position;
- < a unit in which the faculty member is actively engaged in collaborative research with any of the unit faculty, staff, or graduate students;
- < a unit in which the faculty member has a business or consulting relationship with any of the unit faculty, staff, or graduate students;
- < a unit in which the faculty member has been the major professor of any of the unit faculty or staff;
- < a unit in which a unit faculty member has been the major professor of the reviewer or PRAC member;
- < a unit in which the faculty member advises or participates on graduate committees for students in the unit; and
- < a unit in which the faculty member has or has had other formal interactions.

Any relationship listed above or other potential conflict within the review team must be disclosed in writing to the full faculty of the unit under review and to PRAC. Disclosure should include personal confirmation that the potential conflict does not compromise the critical objectivity of the reviewer. Faculty of the unit may object to individual reviewers through departmental governance procedures or directly to PRAC or to OAIE. PRAC will consider disclosed potential conflicts, written confirmation of critical objectivity, and any objection from the unit in determining whether to confirm members of the review team. PRAC will have final determination regarding review team membership. PRAC members who have any of the potential conflicts listed above or other potential conflicts relating to a unit under review must disclose those relationships to the committee, which will determine whether or not the member should participate in discussions relating to that unit.