

## **NSCM Graduate Advising Incentive Program**

*Discussed and approved by the NSCM Graduate Committee November 6, 2020*

### **Background:**

The Nicholson School of Communication and Media (NSCM) values student scholarship and research of all varieties. Faculty members play an instrumental role in the development of student research and creative activities. They are involved from the conceptualization of an initial idea to its gradual refinement and the development of a methodology. They may advise on the production of creative work or counsel students through the process of crafting specific research questions. Faculty may choose to embark on these prolonged research engagements through serving as a chair or a member of a graduate thesis or dissertation committee.

### **Goal:**

To incentivize such activities, NSCM recommends the exchange rate described in Table 1 for unit leadership to consider when making course assignments. Note that the ability for NSCM to support this program depends on resources including teaching personnel and student demand at any given point in time. However, when resources permit, the administration will make every effort to recognize the efforts of faculty advisors through the program outlined below.

### **Bankable Credits:**

While exact efforts on graduate advising vary depending on students and faculty effort and are difficult to quantify, the exchange rate table recognizes that there are different levels of effort associated with different mentorship activities. With this in mind, the following table provides an exchange rate to define the number of credits earned for each type of activity.

Table 1. Exchange rate for advising activities

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Bankable Credits</b>
Masters Applied Project - Chair	1
Masters Applied Project - Member	.25
Masters Thesis - Chair	1
Masters Thesis - Member	.25
MFA Thesis - Chair	1
MFA Thesis - Member	.25
PhD Committee - Chair	2
PhD Committee – Member	.25

**Notes:**

The advising activities should be related to graduate students within NSCM. Credits are not accumulated for advising activities outside the school.

As a starting point (tentatively), credits accumulate as service is provided to NSCM. At the director's discretion and availability of funds, when 9 credits are accumulated, it can then be used for a *\$1,000 travel/equipment supplement* or *research support*. The fund will need to expense in the following academic year. Once the 9 bankable credits are redeemed, and they may carry over up to 3 bankable credits to the next year.

One can only earn a maximum of 5 bankable credits in one academic year. Credits are only earned after the successful completion of a student's defense. Credits begin accumulating in following semester that this policy is approved by the NSCM Graduate Committee.