I. POLICY STATEMENT

Any familial or amorous relationship between a candidate for a graduate degree and a faculty member that creates an actual or apparent conflict of interest shall prohibit said faculty member from assuming for said candidate the role of chair or member of a Master’s Thesis or Doctoral Dissertation committee.

II. PURPOSE FOR POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the decisions of a final examination committee are made in an objective manner, based solely upon the academic and scholarly work of the student.

III. APPLICABILITY AND IMPACT STATEMENT

This policy applies to all thesis and dissertation committees convened for students enrolled at UMBC.

IV. CONTACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy Clarification</td>
<td>Robert H. Deluty, Ph.D.</td>
<td>(410) 455-2420</td>
<td><a href="mailto:deluty@umbc.edu">deluty@umbc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

V. UNIVERSITY POLICY

The form entitled “Nomination of Members for the Final Examination Committee” articulates the names, departments, and graduate faculty membership status of proposed members of a final examination committee. The signatories of said form assert, to the best of their knowledge, compliance with this policy.

VI. APPROVAL AND PROCEDURES

The Associate Dean of the Graduate School is the official designated to determine if a relationship constitutes a conflict of interest.

Some relationships, including certain financial interests that would constitute a conflict of interest, or may appear to constitute a conflict of interest, may be permitted if such relationships are first disclosed, evaluated, and approved in accordance with existing university policies and procedures.
VII. RESTRICTIONS AND EXCLUSIONS: None.

VIII. RELATED ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

University System of Maryland Policy on Employment of Members of the Same Family (VII 2.10). Section II. provides a general statement of the policy as: “[m]embers of the same family are eligible for employment in the University System of Maryland. However, a supervisor/subordinate relationship shall not exist between family members, nor shall one member of a family assume for the other the role of advocate or judge with respect to conditions of employment or promotion, except in accordance with the exception process described in Section V of this Policy.”

UMBC Policy on Individual Conflicts of Interest in Research and Product Development (II-8.00.05). Section I.A. provides a general statement of the policy as: “[a] conflict of interest in a research environment arises in a situation in which the potential exists for a secondary interest, such as a financial gain, to cause undue influence over judgment associated with a primary interest such as performing research, reporting research results, or mentoring students. Since conflicts of interest are based on a situation, not an outcome, the integrity or moral character of a person involved in a conflict of interest situation is not relevant in the determination of whether or not a conflict of interest exists. Conflicts of interest, whether actual or perceived, can call into question the integrity of research performed by an investigator at an institution. For this reason, it is necessary for institutions to adopt policies and procedures that appropriately manage, reduce, or eliminate any actual or perceived conflicts of interest.”