

# Committee of Three Explanatory Document

## Core Idea:

- I) First semester: advising by Graduate Advising Committee
- II) **Second semester through thesis proposal: advising by Committee of Three**
- III) Post thesis proposal: advising by thesis committee

## Motivation:

- Provide students with a broader advising perspective
- Plan for financial support
- Provide students with regular feedback on their progress
- Encourage early publication
- Insure that no student falls behind
- Foster more departmental collaborations

## Operational Details:

- The committee consists of the research mentor + 2 faculty members, senior scientists, or emeritus faculty.
- Members are chosen by the grad advising committee in consultation with the student regarding their interests.
- Committee members transition as appropriate prior to the thesis proposal. After the thesis proposal, the Committee of Three morphs into the Thesis Committee.
- First and second year students meet with their committees in Nov/Dec and Apr/May. All other students meet with their committees in Apr/May.
- The meeting should be scheduled for 1 hour. The research mentor should attend only the second half of the meeting, since he/she does not need as much updating as the other committee members.
- Students are responsible for scheduling the meetings. A best faith effort must be made to have all members present - a minimum of 2 committee members is required. Remote participation via skype or telecon is fine when necessary.
- Prior to the meeting, the student sends a form to the committee outlining his/her progress over the past year. This acts as a starting point for discussion.
- After the meeting, the student adds the advice from the committee to the form and sends it to the chair of the graduate advising committee.
- The grad advising chair will send reminders about the meetings and has oversight responsibility. (Students are not required to have a Committee of Three meeting, but they are strongly encouraged to do so.)