OBTAINING APPROVAL OF SUPERVISION OF THESIS RESEARCH WITH AN ADVISOR OUTSIDE THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Physics requires a student who plans to do thesis research work with a thesis supervisor who is not a member of the Physics Department faculty to find an appropriate Physics faculty member who will agree to serve as the departmental research supervisor of record. The Department expects this faculty member to monitor your progress towards the degree. Your physics co-advisor will also serve on your qualifying exam and thesis committee.

Graduate students requesting approval for Ph.D. research directed by advisors from outside the Physics Department must submit the following documentation:

1) A written statement from the student of the research to be undertaken, a discussion of the appropriateness of the proposed research director, and the reasons for not having a Physics faculty member as direct supervisor.

2) A written statement from the Physics Department faculty member sponsoring the research addressing the following issues:
   a) What are the reasons for having confidence in the ability of the outside advisor to successfully direct the thesis work to completion?
   b) Is the proposed research appropriate to the Physics Department and will it provide an adequate learning experience for the student?
   c) How often will the faculty member meet with the student to monitor progress?

3) A written statement from the advisor outside the Physics Department.

The student forwards the proposal to the Head Graduate Advisor via Anne Takizawa in 372 LeConte. S/he reviews the proposal, considering among other factors the qualifications of the proposed supervisor and the number of students he or she already supervises, and the suitability of the proposed research as a physics thesis. Please note that staff scientists and non-faculty supervisors are limited to a total of two research students. The Head Graduate Advisor then makes a recommendation to the Department Chair who is responsible for the final decision.

Once your outside research proposal is approved you should register for at least 8 units of research (Physics 299) every semester under your co-advisor’s section. See the course schedule listed on the physics website for 299 course control numbers or check bulletin board outside 372 LeConte for listings.

5/09