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As part of the planning process for the written comprehensive exam, each doctoral student will select the members of his/her Doctoral Research Committee. Each Doctoral Research Committee will include four members of the Graduate Faculty as follows:

(1) the Research Advisor who is a member of the Educational Leadership Program faculty and will serve as the

that typically appear in chapters one through three of the final dissertation. The material included in these chapters is essential for the student to understand the identified research problem, the related research, and the research design for the study.

Quality control at the proposal stage is as important as the final dissertation. If the dissertation proposal is well developed, then the execution of the actual data collection and analysis will be a straightforward process. If the proposal is poorly conceived, the student will likely encounter major problems in the execution of the study.

The proposal hearing must be scheduled with at least three weeks prior notice and a copy of the completed proposal must be given to each committee member at least two weeks prior to the hearing date. The proposal hearing will be open to any interested Educational Leadership and Policy Studies faculty members and students. If other faculty or students wish to attend the hearing, they should contact the Research Advisor or student prior to the session.

The general format for the proposal hearing will begin with a presentation (15-20 minutes) on the proposed study by the student, particularly the methodology to be used and the rationale for this methodology. This will be followed by questions and discussion among the committee members and the student. When the committee is ready to make a decision, the chair will excuse the student and any guests. The committee will then make a decision on the acceptability of the proposal and any necessary changes. The student will be invited to rejoin the committee and will be informed of the committee's decision. Normally, a dissertation proposal hearing will last about two hours.

The committee may decide to approve the proposal without changes, to approve it with specific changes, or to disapprove the proposal altogether. A minimum of three positive votes for four-person committees and four positive

