

**Policy Title:** Faculty Ranks and Promotion

**Policy Type:** Academic                      **New/revised:** Revised

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**Approval level:**  Board of Trustees  
 President  
 Vice president  
 Other (specify here)

### **Purpose**

To define faculty ranks and to provide the principles, guidelines, and process of faculty promotion.

### **Policy**

The major responsibilities of the university are to provide the best possible education, to encourage scholarship, creative productivity, and research, and to furnish significant service to the citizens of the State of Tennessee. Fundamental to this responsibility is the recruitment, selection, recognition, and retention of quality faculty members. Providing incentives and rewards for superior performance is a means of assuring the continuing existence of a high quality faculty. Advancement in rank is a recognition of accomplishments and a sign of confidence that the individual is capable of greater achievements and of assuming greater responsibilities. The policy of East Tennessee State University is to grant advancement on the basis of merit. In accord with this policy, promotions are to be made equitably, impartially, and in keeping with the following guidelines.

Each academic rank represents specific qualifications, professional competencies, and a history of productivity together with the promise of continued growth. Promotion to higher rank is neither an unqualified right nor an automatic occurrence. Having completed a given period of service or performed routine duties (such as carrying a normal course load, advising students, research to the degree needed for teaching courses, participation in departmental programs and governance, and committee service) should be considered an affirmative factor in appraising a faculty member's qualifications for promotion, though they are insufficient in and of themselves to warrant promotion.

The excellence of the faculty of ETSU is maintained in part through an appraisal of each candidate for promotion by colleagues and by appropriate administrative officers. This appraisal process must begin at the departmental level with a statement of the objectives and aims of the department, the college or school of which it is an integral part, and the university as a whole. Faculty members may be recommended for promotion to a higher academic rank based upon their demonstrated qualifications for that rank as evaluated by their peers in the department concerned, the department chair, the promotion and tenure advisory committee of the school or college, the academic dean, the vice president and the President.

The appraisal of each candidate should incorporate a thorough review of achievements which are expected in teaching; research, scholarly or creative activity; and professional service. Chairs and deans shall keep a faculty member informed of their expectations for his/her performance, including requirements for promotion and tenure. Any dramatic alterations in these expectations should be made

explicit. In most circumstances, this will be accomplished by the Faculty Activity System. Specific criteria to be applied to the work of an individual faculty member will be clearly delineated on annual faculty activity plans, reports and evaluations. The department chair should submit evaluations of these activities, accompanied by evidence obtained through an evaluation process designed to ensure that recommendations are predicated on substantive analysis.

The criteria according to which excellence is defined will vary from discipline to discipline. The standards established by each discipline should be carefully documented and considered by everyone involved in the evaluation of members of that discipline. Certain areas, such as the fine, performing and applied arts, may justifiably require different criteria than do other disciplines. In these, evidence of creative or other significant productivity may be presented. Achievements of this sort, however, should be of such quality and extent as to earn for the individual that same recognition in the discipline that significant research earns in areas of study in which research is an important factor.

Because of the importance and significance of the promotion deliberations, each faculty member must assume responsibility for ensuring that pertinent information concerning teaching, research, scholarly or creative activity, and professional service is available to the chair and departmental committee. In addition to individual qualifications and performance, other special factors may also play a part in the recommendations eventually offered by the vice presidents. Consistent with Board policy, the university administration must consider such matters as departmental rank distribution, potential for continued staff additions, prospective retirements and resignations from the department, enrollment patterns, and program changes or developments.

### **Definitions**

1. **Teaching.** Teaching applies to any strategy in which information is imparted so that others may learn, and may include, but is not limited to, a variety of techniques including instruction, student advising and/or mentoring, development of course materials and courseware, and development of innovative approaches to instruction. At the discretion of the college or faculty department faculty, student advisement may be a component of teaching or of service to the university, depending on the nature and scope of the duties performed.
2. **Research/Scholarship/Creative Activities.** Research applies to the studious inquiry, examination, or discovery that contributes to disciplinary and interdisciplinary bodies of knowledge. Research/scholarship/creative activities may include, but are not limited to, disciplinary and interdisciplinary activities that focus on the boundaries of knowledge, field-based scholarship, creative activities (e.g., film-making, performances, or other artistic creations), and the development of innovative teaching approaches.
3. **Professional Service.** Professional service applies to involvement within the community as defined by the university's role and mission, service to the university, and service within the bounds of the applicant's academic discipline and budgeted assignment. At the discretion of the college or faculty department faculty, student advisement may be a component of teaching or of service to the university, depending on the nature and scope of the duties performed.
4. **Terminal Degree.** ETSU will use national discipline standards to determine which degrees are considered to be "terminal" within each discipline.
  - a. The current list of terminal degrees includes the following:
    - i. Earned Doctorates

- ii. Masters
  - iii. M.F.A. (studio art, creative writing)
  - iv. M.L.S. or Master's in Library Science (library science)
  - v. M.M. (certain specialties in music)
  - vi. Masters in Engineering or Masters with Major in Engineering (engineering technology)
- b. National practice does not recognize the J.D. as a doctorate; however, the J.D. may be considered a terminal degree in disciplines directly associated with legal studies.
  - c. "Equivalent work experience credit" may be requested when a candidate has not obtained a terminal degree, but has a record of extraordinary achievement in a given field. The equivalent work experience credit may include relevant teaching experience or other experience gained as an administrator, counselor, librarian, journeyman, or the like. ETSU will adhere to the SACS guidelines for faculty credentials:  
<http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/081705/faculty%20credentials.pdf>

## Faculty Ranks

1. Assistant Professor. Those faculty members promoted to or hired at the rank of Assistant Professor should meet the following criteria:
  - a. Earned doctorate or terminal degree from a regionally accredited institution or comparably recognized non-U.S. institution in the instructional discipline or related area.
  - b. Evidence from academic records, recommendations, interviews, or other sources that the individual is adequately trained in the discipline and is otherwise competent to carry out the duties and responsibilities of a member of a university faculty.
  - c. Evidence of good character, mature attitude, and professional integrity.
  - d. Evidence of effective teaching if the individual has taught at the college level. If the individual has not taught at the college level, evidence should be obtained that satisfactory teaching performance can reasonably be expected.
  - e. Promise of productive creative and scholarly research and professional service.
2. Associate Professor. Those faculty members promoted to or hired at the rank of Associate Professor should provide documented evidence of (a) high quality professional productivity which may lead to national recognition in the academic discipline or (b) high quality professional productivity that is consonant with the goals of the university and of the academic unit to which the faculty member belongs. Specifically, faculty promoted to or hired at the rank of Associate Professor should meet the following criteria:
  - a. Earned doctorate or terminal degree from a regionally accredited institution or comparably recognized non-U.S. institution in the instructional discipline or related area.
  - b. A faculty member may apply for promotion to associate professor after having completed five full years in the rank of assistant professor.
  - c. Exceptions to the years-in-rank requirement may be made by the President under special circumstances. Only one year of a leave of absence for scholarly recognition, such as significant scholarship awards, will be credited toward satisfying the experience requirement for promotion.
  - d. Documented evidence of teaching effectiveness.
  - e. Documented evidence of professional service activities of a significant nature.

- f. Documented evidence, as accepted within the discipline, of scholarly productivity in research or creative endeavors.
  - g. Evidence of good character, mature attitude, and professional integrity.
3. Professor. The highest rank to which one may be promoted is that of Professor. Documented evidence of teaching excellence and superior contribution to student development, superior scholarly or creative activity, and superior professional service will contribute to the positive record of the candidate for advancement to the rank of professor. Since there is no higher rank, promotion to professor is taken with great care and requires a level of achievement beyond that required for associate professor. This rank is not a reward for long service; rather it is recognition of superior achievement within the discipline with every expectation of continuing contribution to the university and the larger academic community.

Those faculty members promoted to or hired at the rank of professor should provide documented evidence of (a) sustained high quality professional productivity and national recognition in the academic discipline or (b) sustained high quality professional productivity in the academic discipline that is consonant with the goals of the university and of the academic unit to which the faculty member belongs. Specifically, faculty members promoted to or hired at the rank of professor should meet the following criteria:

- a. Earned doctorate or terminal degree from a regionally accredited institution or comparably recognized non-U.S. institution in the instructional discipline or related area.
  - b. A faculty member may apply for promotion to professor after having completed five full years in the rank of associate professor, provided that exceptions to the years-in-rank requirement may be made by the President under special circumstances. Only one year of a leave of absence for scholarly recognition, such as significant scholarship awards, will be credited toward satisfying the experience requirement for promotion.
  - c. Documented evidence of teaching effectiveness.
  - d. Successful research, scholarly, and/or creative activity, as evidenced by such accomplishments as published scholarly books, articles in professional journals in one's discipline, presentation of papers before regional, national or international professional groups, receipt of major research grants, and/or a record of significant exhibitions or performances.
  - e. Professional service of an outstanding nature, usually of such kind as to make the individual regionally or nationally known in the discipline, or, alternatively, as a leading figure in service efforts promoted by the institution.
  - f. Evidence of good character, mature attitude, and professional integrity, and a high degree of academic maturity and responsibility.
4. Rank at appointment
- a. New faculty members will normally be employed, based upon their qualifications, at the rank of instructor, assistant professor, associate professor or professor.
  - b. Except under unusual circumstances, individuals lacking the terminal degree, as defined by discipline, will not be hired in one of the professorial ranks. The terminal degree does not necessarily qualify one for a professorial rank nor does receipt of the terminal degree guarantee promotion to a higher rank. When time in rank is a factor for promotion, years spent in that rank in some other institution may be counted as specified in the letter or contract of appointment.

5. Exceptions to minimum rank qualifications
  - a. The minimum rank qualifications should be met in every recommendation regarding appointment to academic rank and for promotion in academic rank. Exceptions to local ETSU requirements (e.g., years-in-rank) require the approval of the President of the university. Exceptions to minimum rank qualifications can be recommended to the Board by the President; however, such exceptions are not favored and should be granted only upon a showing of a candidate's exceptional merit and/or other extraordinary circumstances, such as an objective need to deviate from these minimum qualifications in filling positions and/or retaining otherwise qualified faculty within certain academic disciplines.
  - b. Petitions for exceptions to promotional criteria may include consideration of the appropriateness of the degree or extraordinary qualities that the candidate may possess. The equivalent work experience credit may include relevant teaching experience or other experiences such as experience gained as an administrator, counselor, librarian, journeyman, or the like. When evaluating college-level instruction, research/scholarship/ creative activities, and service, the university may make its own determination whether or not the number of years of experience from another university is to be accepted in total or discounted in some manner.

### **Promotion Guidelines**

The academic units of the university must develop written guidelines for promotion with specific criteria for evaluating the faculty in teaching, research and service. The departmental guidelines cannot be less rigorous than university guidelines. A department or college may weigh criteria to be considered in promotion recommendations and should establish appropriate standards within criteria for the distinctive discipline(s) and the level(s) of program(s) it embodies. If such weighted criteria and standards for promotion are to be applied to candidates, they should be carefully documented in approved unit mission statements and policies. Those documents become bona fide only when (1) they have been considered by faculty in those units, (2) they have gained approval by the university as official college or departmental mission statements and related policies that are consistent with university mission and policy, and (3) they have been communicated in publications or in other written form (including the Web) to faculty affected by them. Bona fide documents are maintained as public information in the offices of appropriate department chairs and deans, the Vice President for Academic Affairs or the Vice President for Health Affairs, and the Faculty Senate.

The guidelines for promotion described in the remainder of this section represent minimum requirements for promotion of faculty in tenure and tenure-track appointments to which customary expectations concerning teaching, research or creative activity, and professional service apply. Regarding non-tenurable but promotable clinical and research appointments, it is the responsibility of departments or colleges to develop suitable criteria to evaluate promotion of individuals holding such appointments. Bona fide criteria for promotion of individuals in non-tenurable appointments should be in place before a department or college attempts to fill such appointments for the first time.

Nominees for promotion will be judged on the basis of their performance in teaching, research, scholarly and/or creative activity, and professional service as evaluated by their peers and appropriate administrative officers. Evidence of performance is to be, to the extent possible, objective and documented. Performance in these areas will be given different weights depending upon the assigned duties and responsibilities of the individual concerned and the uniqueness of the unit involved.

Requirements for minimum service in one rank are not absolute. Exceptions may be made on the basis of exceptional academic and/or other achievements of a particularly valuable nature.

All candidates for promotion to senior ranks (associate professor and professor) must meet approved departmental and/or college/school criteria for achievement in each of the three areas of teaching; research, scholarly and creative activities; and service. Promotion in rank carries the implication of attainment of criteria as well as increasing levels of achievement in the discipline. Candidates for promotion to associate professor or professor are expected to demonstrate both a higher quality and a greater cumulative quantity of achievement in each of the three areas than are candidates for promotion to lower rank.

### **Teaching**

Since the first responsibility of the university is the education of its students, excellence in teaching should be continually encouraged and rewarded. No nomination for promotion should be made without accompanying evidence of the nominee's effectiveness as a teacher, where teaching is a part of the individual's work assignment. Inevitably, the rating of teaching ability is to some degree a value judgment. It is incumbent upon each department to develop a rating procedure whereby all factual information relative to a candidate's work as a teacher is available at the time s/he is considered for promotion. Evaluation of instruction shall be based on the following criteria with each unit assigning varying degrees of weight to each criterion. Deficiencies in some criteria may be counterbalanced by superiority in others.

1. Command of subject matter, and a record that indicates that the individual has remained current in his/her field of specialization.
2. Ability to organize and present subject matter in a logical and meaningful way.
3. Ability to motivate students.
4. Curriculum and/or program development; development of instructional techniques or teaching methods, including development of on-line teaching methods and courses.
5. Mentoring of undergraduate, graduate or post-graduate students, including:
  - a. efforts to promote student research, scholarship, and creative activities;
  - b. successful direction of theses, dissertations or independent research projects; and
  - c. effective leadership of research projects intended in part to train students in research techniques.
6. Textbooks or other published works in the teaching area, including documentation of teaching methodology that may be shared with colleagues. Such publications would also be considered as contributions to research, scholarly or creative activities.
7. Excellence in the advisement of students, either formally or informally. (At the discretion of the college or faculty department faculty, student advisement may be a component of teaching or of service to the university, depending on the nature and scope of the duties performed.)
8. Honors or other recognition for contributions to teaching.

Evidence of teaching effectiveness should be provided by the candidate and affirmed by peer review at the departmental or academic program unit level and by evaluation by the department or unit chairperson and the appropriate dean. Where appropriate, evidence of teaching effectiveness may include information drawn from student evaluations of instruction.

Considerations other than hours of classroom contact should include such matters as the total number of preparations per semester, the number of courses per academic year, the level of difficulty of the courses, the number of students assigned to the classes, and time and location of courses.

### **Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities**

Research, scholarly, and creative activities are important areas of faculty involvement in the university. Clear evidence of the quality of work should accompany each application. Evidence supplied by the candidate might indicate performance beyond routine expectations in the following areas. Academic units will assign varying degrees of weight to each criterion. Deficiencies in some criteria should be counterbalanced by superiority in others.

1. Publications: textbooks, books or chapters in books, articles in refereed journals, articles in non-refereed journals, monographs, refereed and non-refereed conference proceedings, abstracts, book reviews, and other related items. Books published by reputable firms and articles in refereed journals, reviewed by recognized scholars, are more significant than those that are not subjected to such rigorous examination. It should be emphasized that quality is more important than quantity.
2. Papers presented: those papers presented at local, state, regional, national, and international professional meetings. The significance of content and selection processes should be considered in reviewing such presentations.
3. Performances or exhibitions that are invited or juried by internationally, nationally, or regionally recognized members or groups within the discipline.
4. Research in progress: Verification of stages of development is mandatory.
5. Other items such as funded or unfunded research proposals, computer software development, or audio-visual media may also be considered.

Academic departments and/or colleges may use written reviews and evaluations by qualified external peers to evaluate a candidate's research, scholarly and/or creative activity. The chair and the candidate must agree on the reviewer(s) selected from departments or institutions other than the candidate's own.

### **Professional Service**

Evidence of the candidate's contributions in the area of professional service should be offered by the candidate. Documentation of all service activities is required. Professional service encompasses a faculty member's activities in one of three areas: university service, service to the discipline, and outreach or public service.

1. Service to the university (and to affiliated institutions) refers to work other than teaching and scholarship done at the department, college, or university level. A certain amount of such service is expected of every faculty member; indeed, universities could hardly function without conscientious faculty who perform committee work and other administrative responsibilities. University service includes, but is not limited to, serving on departmental committees and participating in college and university committees. Some faculty members may accept more extensive citizenship functions, such as a leadership role in the Faculty Senate, membership on a specially appointed task force, service as advisor to a university-wide student organization, and membership on a university search committee. At the discretion of the college or faculty department faculty, student advisement may be a component of teaching or of service to the university, depending on the nature and scope of the duties performed.
2. Service to one's discipline or to the teaching profession generally includes participation in the activities of state, regional or national professional organizations related to the candidate's discipline; association leadership; journal editorships; article and grant proposal review; guest lecturing on other campuses; and other appropriate activities. Significant professional service requires more than organizational membership and attendance. Examples of significant service include that done by an officer of a professional organization or a member of the editorial staff of a journal.
3. The outreach or public service function is the university's outreach to the community and society at large, with major emphasis on the application of knowledge for the solution of problems with which society is confronted. Outreach primarily involves sharing professional expertise and should directly support the goals and mission of the university. A vital component of the university's mission, public service must be performed at the same high levels of quality that characterize the teaching and research programs.

The academic unit to which the candidate belongs should evaluate the candidate's service using the following criteria, to each of which the unit may assign varying degrees of weight:

1. A description of the candidate's position that permits evaluation of performance in relation to assigned and budgeted duties. This should include a statement of the mission or purpose of the position and the objective(s) of the nominee's service unit, as well as the specific assigned tasks and responsibilities of the nominee.
2. An evaluation of the effectiveness with which the service is performed, as judged by its relation to the general welfare of the university; its effect on the development of students and other faculty members; and/or its impact on other individuals, groups, or organizations served. Documentation of the effectiveness of service should include evidence of the success of the service in improving communities, programs, operating agencies, production processes, or management practices. It should also include indications of client satisfaction with the service provided by the nominee, and of the magnitude and complexity of his/her work (as opposed to perfunctory activity that does not lead to useful results).
3. An appraisal of the candidate's local, regional and national stature. Although the achievement of national stature is sometimes difficult for public service faculty whose activities are primarily directed to groups within the state, the public service professional should take advantage of every opportunity to project his/her accomplishments among peers on a local, regional, and



national basis. Service/outreach work is sometimes not publishable. The results may be in the form of direct consultations, planning reports, or instructional time directed largely to the recipients of university service programs. But certain aspects of service work are suitable for publication in professional journals. For example, unique techniques developed to motivate clients or new approaches to the transfer and application of knowledge would be of interest to peers in other public service programs across the nation.

### **Initiation and Processing of Promotion Recommendations**

The formulation of recommendations concerning the promotion of a faculty member is a cumulative process occurring at three levels: departmental/ divisional, collegial, and executive or presidential. The faculty member eligible for consideration also has a significant role by assuming responsibility for timely submission of pertinent materials to the department chair for review at each level.

The director of personnel, by May 1st of each year, shall provide department chairs, deans, the appropriate vice president, and the President with lists of faculty members eligible for promotion through length of service. The action by the director of personnel does not relieve the department chairs of the responsibility of determining eligibility for promotion.

Department chairs, during the succeeding 15 days, will verify the lists through departmental and other administrative offices.

By May 15 each faculty member eligible for promotion shall be so notified in writing by the department chair. A department chair may initiate a promotion recommendation at any time; but unless there is special need for earlier processing, subsequent steps will be taken according to the established schedule.

Applications will be completed by each faculty member applying for promotion. These applications must be submitted to the department chair no later than September 15. All promotion applications must be complete at that time. No additional documentation may be added after September 15 except at the request of the reviewers and with the permission of the candidate, or vice versa.

Promotion applications will be reviewed at each level of the process. It is expected that no level of review is bound by prior judgment(s). At each level in the process, the cumulative recommendations and statements of rationale recorded by committees and administrators will be forwarded as integral parts of each candidate's application. Each reviewing official or committee has the responsibility to remand an application to any preceding level if that level's review is found to be incomplete or otherwise unacceptable. Consistent with Board policy, all peer committees have qualified privilege of academic confidentiality against disclosure of individual promotion votes unless there is evidence that casts doubt upon the integrity of the peer committee.

In some cases, such as small departments or unique fields of study, outside expertise may also be necessary in the evaluation process. The chair and the candidate must agree on the individual(s) selected from departments or institutions other than the candidate's own. All senior faculty in the candidate's department (those holding academic rank equal to or higher than that sought by the candidate), not including the department chair, and such outside experts as are needed will meet to review the promotion application. The promotion applicant must be given at least one week's notice of such meetings and, consistent with procedures described in the ETSU Faculty Handbook, shall have the

opportunity to bring to the participants' notice any material that may be helpful in determining the applicant's fitness for higher rank.

In addition to any other evidence that the candidate might choose to provide, the candidate must furnish student assessments of instruction for at least eight courses taught while holding current rank, wherever possible, or for every course evaluated while holding current rank, if this number is greater. These student assessments should be representative of a variety of classes that the candidate has taught. A University-approved assessment instrument will be used for this purpose. Student assessments must be included with all applications for promotion and will be considered as one important source of information concerning effective teaching, although not the only one.

A separate peer evaluation of teaching effectiveness must also take place. This evaluation must include a review of student evaluations with consideration given to the type of courses involved. In addition, peer reviewers should assess items such as course syllabi, study materials, assignments, information on assessment and grading practices, and expectations relating to the candidate's particular teaching responsibilities. Peer reviewers should also observe the candidate's classroom teaching.

Departments and colleges may establish their own criteria and processes for peer evaluation of teaching and may include these in their official statements of expectations for promotion, subject to the provisions of ETSU policy.

It is the obligation of candidates for promotion, with assistance from their department chairs, to ensure that their teaching is evaluated by peers as described in ETSU policy and to present in the promotion application documentation of the findings of peer evaluations.

Proposed changes in the process for student assessments of instruction will be submitted to the ETSU Student Government Association for consideration and reaction. The SGA will review the uses of student assessments of instruction on a regular basis and will bring its questions, concerns and suggestions to the Faculty Senate and to the Academic Council.

Complete and accurate documentation of all research, scholarly and creative activities, including complete bibliographic listings of publications, status of journals (refereed and non-refereed), role in jointly authored articles and papers, and complete descriptions of professional service activities should be included in each application to provide evidence of and support for these activities. Copies of published items and other reported research and creative activities must be available for examination by reviewers.

The departmental review by the committee of senior faculty will be completed using appropriate criteria, as established by the department and consistent with university criteria, in reaching its decision.

After formal discussion, the committee of senior faculty within the department will vote to recommend, or not to recommend, each candidate within the department. A written, composite statement explaining the recommendation shall be signed (by means that may include electronic signatures) by each reviewing faculty member and forwarded to the department chair, with a copy to the candidate. Included in that statement will be an explicit evaluation in each of the areas of teaching; research, creative, and scholarly activity; and professional service. Dissenters may include their views in the committee report.

The department chair, by October 15 of each year, will forward to the school or college dean, and to the candidate his/her own decision to recommend or not recommend the candidate for promotion. Included in that recommendation will be a written rationale explaining the recommendation, with an explicit evaluation in each of the areas of teaching; research, creative, and scholarly activities; and professional service.

The chair will inform the dean of the faculty members' vote. Should the chair elect to act contrary to the vote of the senior faculty, the dean or other appropriate administrative official should meet with the senior faculty of the department in question to discuss the matter. The dean or other appropriate official should also meet with the chair of the department.

All recommendations reached at the departmental level will be forwarded to the dean who will forward them to that college or school's promotion and tenure committee for its review.

Prior to or during the fall semester of each year, the dean of each college or school will implement procedures to establish a promotion and tenure committee. This committee shall take its membership from faculty at professorial ranks. The dean should ensure adequate representation from the tenured faculty. All members should have at least 3 years of service at ETSU. Collectively the membership should represent the various disciplines of the college or school with equal numbers appointed by the dean and elected by the faculty. At least two-thirds of the members of the committee should hold the rank of associate professor or professor. When there are not sufficient numbers of faculty within a college holding the rank of associate professor or professor to serve on the committee, the dean will request participation of faculty in other colleges. Department chairs may not serve on such committees. No person who is an applicant for promotion in a given year may be an elected or appointed member of a College/School Promotion/Tenure Committee during that year. A person who may have been elected to serve a two or three-year term, should s/he apply for promotion during that term, shall excuse her/himself from the College/School Committee in that year. In the event a replacement is needed, the College/School will obtain a replacement on the same basis as the individual was appointed. The size of the committee should be from 6 to 14 members who shall serve staggered 2- or 3-year terms. The school or college faculty shall decide whether the committee chair shall be elected from among the members of the committee or appointed by the dean. The committee shall function in the role of advisor to the dean from October 15 until December 15 of each year. More specifically, this committee will perform the functions of review as follows:

- a. Receive and review promotion and tenure recommendations of the chairs and departmental committees for transmittal to the dean. In formulating its recommendations for promotion, the committee should consider the broad perspective of the philosophy and objectives of the school or college and any bona fide weighting of criteria and standards reflecting the expectations of the applicant's academic department and/or college.
- b. Review all applications to assure that criteria for promotion and tenure are being correctly and uniformly applied to all members of the school or college.
- c. Review the completeness of the information presented and question any omission in criteria or variations in procedure. Where discrepancies or misapplication of criteria are noted, the committee will attempt to correct the errors through direct consultation with those involved.
- d. Only members of the college/school committee holding academic rank equal to or higher than that sought by a candidate may vote on that candidate's promotion.
- e. Members of the college/school committee from a candidate's home department shall not participate in the college/school committee's discussion of the candidate or in its votes on that candidate's tenure and/or promotion.

The school/college review committee will, by December 15, forward to the dean its recommendations and a written, composite statement for each faculty member being reviewed. The use of secret or open balloting shall be decided by the college, school, or division committee. These written statements will include an explicit evaluation in each of the areas of teaching; research, scholarly and creative activity; and professional service, and will be signed (by means that may include electronic signatures) by each committee member. Dissenters may include their views in the committee report. A copy of the committee recommendation will be forwarded to the candidate.

The dean's recommendations, together with all written documentation, will be forwarded to the appropriate vice president by February 1. This report must also include an explicit evaluation of each candidate's record in the areas of teaching; research, scholarly, and creative activity; and professional service.

The dean, at the time the candidate's application is forwarded to the vice president, will also notify the candidate and the department chair of his/her decision to recommend or not to recommend. The decision will be supported in writing. A copy of this written support will be provided to the candidate and the department chair. In the event of a negative recommendation, the candidate may initiate an appeal to the university Promotion and Tenure Appeals Committee.

The vice president will hold a meeting with the dean concerned prior to a final recommendation. The vice president will notify the candidate, dean, and department chair of his/her decision to recommend or not to recommend. The decision will be supported in writing. In the event of a negative recommendation, the candidate may initiate an appeal to the university Promotion and Tenure Appeals Committee.

Upon reaching a decision regarding each application for promotion, the vice President will forward the application, together with all recommendations relevant to it, to the President by March 1.

All promotion applications initiated will be forwarded to the President regardless of the recommendation made by any intervening administrator or faculty committee, unless the candidate chooses to withdraw his/her application. Only the candidate has the right to withdraw an application that has been filed.

Final action, prior to consideration by the Board, on each promotion recommendation will be taken by the President. When a recommendation is approved by the President and subsequently by the Board, the President will notify the faculty member, by letter through the appropriate vice president's office, of the award of promotion. When a recommendation is disapproved by the President, s/he will, through the appropriate vice president's office, inform the department chair of the faculty member involved, in writing, stating reasons for disapproval, and the chair will so advise the faculty member within five days of said notification. Any appeal to the Board must be made in accordance with Board policies. Appropriate administrative officers will be advised by the President of the action taken on all promotion recommendations; whether approved or disapproved.

A list of faculty members who are recommended for promotion will be forwarded to the Board.

Upon final action taken by the Board, the President will notify the candidate and recommendation forms will be filed in the Personnel Office.

### **Appeal Procedure**

An appellate procedure stands as a basic and important part of the overall promotion granting process. The responsibility of evoking the appeal procedure must be assumed by the candidate.

Two appeal opportunities follow the dean's action and precede that of the President. The candidate may opt to utilize either one, but not both, of these opportunities. Should the dean opt not to recommend in favor of promotion, the candidate may request a pre-appeal conference with the vice president. Should the vice president choose not to recommend for promotion and the candidate has not appealed following the dean's decision, the candidate may request a pre-appeal conference with the president. In either event the pre-appeal conference must be requested within seven days of receiving written notice of the negative recommendation.

The University Promotion and Tenure Appeals Committee (PTAC) will be composed of one faculty senator elected by the Senate who will chair the committee, and one member from each college or school who was not a member of that body's promotion and tenure committee when the candidate's application was evaluated, as selected by the faculty senators from that college or school. The college/school senators will also designate two alternates from their college/school who would be available to serve if the primary designee is ineligible or unavailable to serve. If the college/school senators fail to designate a committee member and alternates, or if those designated are ineligible or unavailable to serve, then the Faculty Senate President and the PTAC Chair will jointly select a faculty member from that college/school to serve. Terms of appointment shall be for two-year staggered terms with the exception of the committee chair who will serve only a one year term. All members of the PTAC will be tenured and will hold professorial rank. Deans, department chairs, and other administrative personnel directly involved in college or school-level promotion decisions (such as associate or assistant deans) are excluded from membership on this committee. No member of the PTAC shall have participated in the review of the candidate's application at any previous level.

After the pre-appeals conference, if the candidate has decided to proceed with the appeal, s/he must file an appeal in writing with the university Promotion and Tenure Appeals Committee within one week or forfeit the right to appeal at that level. When the appeal goes forward, the vice president will submit the candidate's complete promotion application to the chair of the university Promotion and Tenure Appeals Committee. The committee shall review information relevant to each appeal in accordance with procedures developed by the committee for all such appeals and incorporate its recommendations as a part of each candidate's application to be returned to the vice president or the President for consideration. The committee will also send a copy of its recommendation(s) to the candidate, the department chair, the dean and the appropriate vice president. In the event the university Promotion and Tenure Appeals Committee makes a recommendation regarding tenure and/or promotion, the President or vice president will inform the chair of the committee in writing of the final decision and its rationale.

The final appeal opportunity is after the President's decision is made known. The appeal is directed to the Board in accordance with the university's policy on appeals to the Board.

5/8/2017 – approved by the Board of Trustees.