

# Departmental Statement

## Concerning Criteria for Tenure and Promotion

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*This is the departmental statement concerning criteria for tenure and promotion as required by section 7.12 of the Tenure Regulations section of the Academic Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual.*

### **I. Introductory Statement**

This document describes with more specificity the indices and standards which will be used to evaluate whether candidates meet the general criteria in Section 7.11 of the Regulations. For a complete perspective, the reader is advised to review Sections 7.11 and 7.12 in their entirety.

### **II. Departmental Mission Statement**

The Department of Physics offers course work required for several pre-professional programs including engineering and medicine. A major in physics for liberal arts is offered, as well as majors for professional preparation, including the new major in applied physics.

### **III. Criteria for Tenure**

The College of Science and Engineering endorses the following standards and indices as clarification of the qualities which the College deems prerequisite to tenure. Because excellence in teaching, in research, and in service is the major goal in the College, the following document concentrates on these three areas.

The College recognizes effective teaching and distinction in research as the primary criteria for awarding indefinite tenure. In addition, a strong record of service to the profession, the University and the community will strengthen the recommendation.

#### **A. Teaching**

A department head assembling materials defining a candidate's teaching ability should answer *relevant* questions listed below. Documentation of teaching ability requires diligence because evidence used to support claims of teaching performance can be interpreted variously.

1. What has been the work load with regard to numbers of courses, students, advisees?
2. Beyond the evidence of numbers, how difficult was the individual's teaching load?
3. What level of teaching ability is indicated by student (interviews, surveys) and peer (classroom visitations; review of syllabi, including text, material covered, assignments, examinations) evaluations?
4. What level of teaching ability is evidenced by the subsequent performance of graduates or by the comments of graduates?
5. Did the individual significantly improve existing courses or develop valuable new ones?
6. Apart from his/her own teaching, has the individual been active in improving the quality of teaching of the department or campus?

7. Does any research or professional activity by the candidate demonstrate commitment to high quality teaching?
8. Has the individual won any awards?
9. Does the instruction reflect scholarly activity?
10. Where the opportunity exists, has the individual contributed significantly to a graduate program?
11. Has the individual made research opportunities available to undergraduates?
12. Has the individual been effective and efficient in laboratory courses, including the supervision of teaching assistants?

With regard to the criterion of teaching, an individual's teaching ability justifies tenure when it exhibits such qualities as these:

- a. Mastery of the subject areas usually assigned.
- b. Superior ability to speak clearly and to understand students' comments and questions.
- c. Intellectual challenge which exacts from students the high scholastic performance appropriate to a university.
- d. Conscientious course planning.
- e. Adroit facilitation of group learning processes.
- f. Empathy with students and understanding of their scholastic needs.
- g. Determination of grades through competent and fair measurements of students' achievement.
- h. Demonstrated willingness to communicate to students their degree of progress.
- i. Individual and cooperative effort in the development of new courses or the redesign of existing courses to respond to changing knowledge and changing student needs.
- j. Ability and aptitude to undertake diverse teaching tasks.

## **B. Research**

Admission to the College faculty and advancement within its ranks depend on serious commitment to and participation in the scholarly enterprise. However, some allowance must be made for variation in expectations of scholarship and creative production within the College.

Seeking mastery of one's field and sharing one's knowledge with other members of the academic community - colleagues and students - constitute the essence of scholarly and creative work. Original contributions to the knowledge and interpretation of one's own field are the most focused and enduring products of one's scholarship and creative achievement. Evidence of such work may include:

1. Scholarly books and articles professionally evaluated and published by reputable presses and journals.
2. Activities such as editing, reviewing manuscripts for established journals and presses, translating scholarly or creative work for publication.
3. Participating as speaker or discussant in the programs of professional organizations.

4. Those kinds of consulting which involve substantial scholarly research, especially if expressed in evaluated publication.
5. Unpublished manuscripts or reports, accompanied by competent evaluation, are also evidence of scholarly or creative work.
6. External research funding from sources outside the University by competition at a regional or national level. Efforts to obtain extramural grant support will be given important consideration in tenure decisions.

Judgements of research will be based primarily on papers published in refereed journals, research funds obtained, and students supervised.

The role of the faculty member's research in the department's work with students will be an important factor.

### **C. Service**

Service of unusual distinction should receive emphasis in evaluating applications for tenure. It is important that the documentation of service in a faculty member's file be very explicit, and departments should regularly make an effort to secure information about the quality of service outside the department.

Service to the profession includes: participation in the ongoing professional activities of one's discipline. This is perceived as evidence of professional commitment and often of standing within the profession, membership in professional societies, attendance at professional meetings, and participation in such meetings are expected, holding an official position such as an officer, or program or section chairperson is recognized as significant service and should be encouraged. A faculty member's contribution as a consultant to press, journal, institution, industry, or government because of one's expertise may be regarded as important service.

The College recognizes that successful functioning of the University depends on faculty participation and leadership. Faculty members are expected to participate in the work of committees and similar agencies and in the management functions of their departments. In addition, community service that is reasonably related to the professional role of a faculty member or to the cultural outreach of the University can be an aspect of faculty activity.

## **VI. Promotion**

### **A. To Assistant Professor**

A faculty member lacking the terminal degree initially will be appointed at the instructors rank. However, upon completion of the Ph.D. the rank of assistant professor can be conferred. Except in rare cases, this promotion does not involve tenure.

### **B. To Associate Professor**

Promotion to associate professor with tenure is based on effectiveness in teaching and professional distinction in research. Except in rare cases promotion to the associate professor rank is associated with a decision concerning tenure. If the tenure criteria as discussed earlier in this document are met, promotion to associate professor is recommended.

### **C. To Professor**

Promotion to professor is based on continuing substantial contributions of high quality in teaching and research. In particular, the candidate must have developed a sustained research program, demonstrated

by publications in refereed journals and/or research grants, and must have made a significant contribution to the department's educational program through development of courses and/or research work with students.

## **V. Procedures**

The Department complies with the procedures for promotion and conferral of indefinite tenure set forth in Section 201.000 of the collective bargaining agreement between the Regents of the University of