



Promotion and
Tenure:
Policies &
Procedures for
Those
Managing the
Process

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Today's Agenda

- Principles and definitions
- Components of dossier
- Process overview
- Next steps



Principles



Principles



SPECIFIC CRITERIA ARE DEVELOPED
BY EACH TIU AND DOCUMENTED IN
APT DOCUMENTS



INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL
EVALUATION



AT LEAST THREE LEVELS OF
REVIEW—TIU, COLLEGE, OAA



Definitions



Definitions

- Mandatory review
 - 4th year reviews, tenure reviews at the end of a probationary period, reappointment reviews in the penultimate year of appointment
 - A tenure track candidate may request up to three tenure clock extensions for birth or adoption, health issues beyond their control, other issues beyond their control



Definitions

- Nonmandatory review
 - Any review that is not a mandatory review
 - May be requested by a candidate at any time up to April 1 preceding the review (e.g., April 1, 2025, for an Autumn 2025 review)
 - Probationary faculty may be denied a formal review by the CEF every year up to their mandatory review year
 - Nonprobationary faculty may be denied a formal review once
 - Units should prepare descriptions of this process and share with faculty will in advance of April 1



Components of the dossier



Components of the dossier

Introduction and core dossier

Internal letters of evaluation

External letters of evaluation

Student evaluations of instruction

Internal review evaluation letters



Introduction

- Should include
 - Current appointment
 - Biographical statement
 - Degrees
 - Professional appointments



Core dossier

- Faculty should complete their core dossier using either Faculty Activity Reporting in Interfolio or in a Word document following the Introduction and Core Dossier Outline and Instructions document
- FAR will be required beginning for reviews occurring in Fall 2027
- OAA offers a separate training for faculty who are preparing their materials for review



Core Dossier—Comments

- Mentoring needed around narratives and telling one's story
- List items only once in the dossier
- Can contextualize information within the narratives



Internal Review Letters

- [Annual review letters](#) (start date or last 5 years) & comments
 - All faculty have the opportunity to respond to annual review letters and any response should be included in the dossier
 - Importance of annual reviews
- If tenure review, 4th year review letter & comments
- Letters requested by the Candidate
 - Solicited by the TIU head or chair of the P&T Committee
- Peer Evaluations of Teaching
 - If the incorrect number or cadence of reviews is presented, the unit must provide a letter describing why



External Evaluation Letters

- Need 5 letters
- No more than half recommended by the Candidate
- Arm's length
- Credible source/institution—peers and aspirational peers



External Evaluation Letters

- Should focus on scholarship unless documentation of other areas is included/needed based on job assignment
 - If focused on another area, more than one letter evaluating that other area should be provided
 - Reviewers must be provided sufficient information to complete their evaluation
- Open-records laws



External Evaluation Letters ... what if?

- Not 5 letters
 - Will not stop a mandatory review
 - Will stop a nonmandatory review unless the candidate, chair of the P&T Committee, and TIU head agree in writing that the review may proceed, and the lack of letters does not constitute a procedural error.



SEIs and SSLEs

- SEIs
 - Cumulative report
 - Summary of SEI scores for all courses in the review period
 - SEI overview report
 - Individual report for each course in the review period
 - Summary of comments
 - Comments to be summarized by someone other than the candidate, then reviewed before finalizing
- SSLE
 - Overview report including MLY analysis



Internal Review Evaluation Letters

- Regional campus faculty, if applicable
- Regional campus dean/direct, if applicable
- Joint appointment TIU head or faculty director, if applicable
- TIU committee of eligible faculty
- TIU head
- College P&T committee
- College dean



Joint appointment &/or regional campus

- Evaluation letter(s) should be included with materials before released to the committee of eligible faculty
- Comments from joint appointment and/or regional campus are to be included in annual reviews
- The context provided by these letters is critically important to understanding a candidate's case



Process Overview



Pre-Review Steps—Faculty

- Identify and confirm all candidates for mandatory and nonmandatory review
- Confirm no new requests for tenure clock extension
- Provide a clear and detailed timeline for all faculty candidates
- Confirm APT document



Pre-Review Steps

- Identify a chair of the eligible faculty
 - Review requests for nonmandatory review
 - Review APT document
- Identify POD(s)



Pre-Review by POD

- The POD is to review the introduction and core dossier before they are released to the committee of eligible faculty for review.
- They are to work with the candidate to ensure the introduction and core dossier are complete and follow the university's guidelines.



Process Documents

The various processes are documented at [this website](#)



TIU Review



CONFLICT OF
INTEREST



PREPARATION AND
PRESENTATION OF
EACH CASE



DISTRIBUTION OF
MATERIALS



PARTICIPATION IN
MEETING AND THE
MEETING



CONFIDENTIALITY



VOTING



LETTER



TIU Review—Conflict of Interest

- Familial or comparable relationship with candidate
- Close professional relationship—consistent co-author, grants collaborator, dissertation advisor
 - Guiding principle is whether or not the collaborator's individual, professional investment in the candidate's success could cloud their reading of the dossier.



TIU Review—continued ...

- Preparation and presentation of each case
 - Ensure all materials are ready before distribution to CEF
- Distribution of materials
- Participation in meeting
 - Faculty on leave may participate if they agree to participate in ALL meetings for which they are eligible
 - They are not required to participate and are not counted against quorum if they choose not to participate



TIU Review—a little more ...

- The meeting
 - POD should read the relevant criteria prior to each review so comparisons are made to the criteria rather than between individuals
- **Confidentiality!!!**



TIU Review—and a little more ...

- Voting
 - Must attend full meeting to vote
 - Vote should be held during the meeting and can be electronic
 - Abstentions do not count as a vote
 - A unit may consider whether abstentions are allowable in P&T processes
 - Can add faculty outside of unit if needed to meet minimum composition (three at rank of need)



TIU Review—the letter

- Chair of the P&T committee or designee drafts the letter
- Summary and record of the CEF assessment and vote
- The letter should
 - Contextualize the vote—including both positive and negative views, even if the minority
 - Articulate whether and how the candidate meets the unit's criteria



TIU Head

- Is an *ex officio* member of the CEF
- Independent assessment
 - The TIU head is generally the last person in the process who understands the field, and therefore can:
 - provide context
 - emphasize candidate's work
 - elevate candidate's impact
- See University Faculty Rule 3335-6-04(B)(5)



Response Window/Comment Period

- Minimum of 10 days
- Consideration of candidate's comments
 - Please acknowledge comments even if there is no change in recommendation



College P&T Committee

- Are there any procedural errors that need to be addressed?
 - Missing information or documentation?
 - Conflicts not caught on previous levels?
 - Other errors?
- Did the CEF follow its process as documented in its APT document?
- Does the candidate meet the standards as set forth in the unit's APT document?



The college committee's job is NOT

- To debate the merits of a unit's APT document
- To consider whether a candidate meets standards not included in the unit's APT document
- See University Faculty Rule 3335-6-04(C) and OAA Policies and Procedures Handbook—Chapter 3, section 3.9.1



Dean's Review

- Independent review
- When in agreement with previous reviews, can provide a short rationale in concurrence
- When there is disagreement, the dean must address and adjudicate the disagreement—making a recommendation with rationale to the provost



University Promotion & Tenure Committee

- Nine-member committee of tenured professors
- Review all cases from colleges that are the TIU
- Reviews any case with a unanimous negative recommendation or a mixed recommendation
- May also review cases with concerns and brought forward by the vice provost for academic faculty affairs



Special Considerations

Withdrawing from review

Concerns from the POD

Procedural errors

Significant new information



Special Considerations—Withdrawing

- Only the candidate can stop the review once it has begun
- Withdrawing from a mandatory review must be in writing and accompany a letter of resignation to the TIU head
- Last date of employment is no later than May 31 of the year following the mandatory review year
- Letter must acknowledge that the decision to resign is irrevocable and that tenure will not be granted



Special Considerations—POD Concerns

- First bring to the attention of the person or body generating the concern(s)
 - Candidate who prepared the dossier
 - Faculty who may not be following procedure
 - Committees not following procedure
- If concerns cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the POD, bring to the attention of the relevant administrator (TIU head or dean) who must investigate and reply in writing to the POD



Special Considerations—Procedural Errors

- Significant procedural errors (those that reasonably could have affected the outcome of the deliberations) should be corrected before the review continues. The error should be corrected at the level where the error occurred and be fully reconsidered from that point onward.



Special Considerations—Significant New Information

- Occasionally it may be appropriate to amend the record when significant new information becomes available. An amended record must be reviewed by all parties to the review process.



A few notes ...

Do not discuss exclusion of time in letters

Time to review **does not** change the standards and expectations

Requests for change of committee composition will happen only in rare cases and must be brought to OAA for discussion



QUESTIONS?



Links to Relevant Resources

- [OAA's Promotion and Tenure site](#)
- [APT Documents for all TIUs](#)
- [Process flow documents](#)
- [Faculty Annual Review and Reappointment Policy](#)
- [Faculty Annual Review Template](#)
- [OAA Policies and Procedures Handbook](#)
- [POD Duties](#)
- [P&T FAQs](#)



University Faculty Rule 3335-6-03(D)

(D) Exclusion of time from probationary periods.

There are three circumstances under which probationary tenure-track faculty may obtain an exclusion of time from probationary periods, also known as extending the tenure clock. These exclusions recognize factors that impact the ability to meet the criteria for tenure within the probationary period outlined in paragraph (B) of this rule. A request to exclude time from the probationary period for any of the reasons listed in paragraphs (D)(1)(a) to (D)(1)(c) of this rule must be made prior to April first of the year in which the mandatory review for tenure is scheduled.

From slide 9



University Faculty Rule 3335-6-04(A)(3)

A probationary faculty member may ask to be considered for nonmandatory promotion and tenure review any time. However, the tenure initiating unit promotion and tenure committee may deny a probationary nonmandatory review every year up to the candidate's mandatory year. If a probationary nonmandatory review is allowed and the outcome is negative, the candidate continues at the rank they held at the start of the review. If a probationary mandatory review outcome is negative, the candidate's employment ends. Exclusions of time from a probationary period are allowed under 3335-6-03(D) and the expectations for productivity must be independent of the duration of the probationary period. A tenured faculty member may request a promotion review at any time. However, the tenure initiating unit promotion and tenure committee may deny this request if the tenured faculty member's accomplishments are judged not to warrant such review. The promotion and tenure committee may deny a tenured faculty member's request for promotion review only once. If the review is allowed and the outcome is negative, the tenured faculty member continues at the rank they held at the start of the review. This faculty member may continue at that rank indefinitely or request subsequent reviews that may not be denied.

From slide 10



University Faculty Rule 3335-6-01(A)

Provides the foundation for decisions regarding faculty appointment, reappointment, and promotion and tenure. Peers are those faculty who can be expected to be most knowledgeable regarding an individual's qualifications and performance—normally TIU colleagues or colleagues in related units or centers.

Recommendations by the faculty vested with the responsibility for providing peer review will be accepted unless they are not supported by the evidence presented regarding how the candidate meets the criteria established by the unit. Administrators and faculty review bodies at the college or university level may make a recommendation that is contrary to that of the TIU if, in its judgment, the TIU recommendation is not consistent with university, college, and TIU standards, criteria, policies, and rules.

Slide 19—when recommendations differ across bodies





University Faculty Rule 3335-6-04(B)(5)

The chair shall prepare a separate written assessment of the case and recommendation for the dean for inclusion in the dossier. As soon as the faculty report and chair's letter have been completed, the candidate should be notified in writing of the completion of the tenure initiating unit review and of the availability of these reports. The candidate may request a copy of these reports. The candidate may provide the tenure initiating unit chair with written comments on the tenure initiating unit review for inclusion in the dossier within ten calendar days of notification of the completion of the review. The promotion and tenure committee (eligible faculty) and/or chair may provide written responses to the candidate's comments for inclusion in the dossier. Only one iteration of comments on the departmental level review is permitted.

From slide 30



University Faculty Rule 3335-6-04(C)

(1) The purposes of promotion and tenure reviews beyond the tenure initiating unit shall be:

(a) To determine whether the tenure initiating unit has conducted its review and reached a recommendation consistent with university, college, and tenure initiating unit standards, criteria, policies, and rules. A faculty review body or administrator at the college or university level may make a recommendation that is contrary to that of the tenure initiating unit if, in its judgment, the tenure initiating unit recommendation is not consistent with those standards, criteria, policies, and rules.

(b) To determine where the weight of the evidence lies in cases in which there is not a clear or consistent recommendation from lower levels of review.

From slide 32



OAA Policies and Procedures Handbook—Chapter 3

- 3.9.1 College promotion and tenure committee
 - 3.9.1.1 Committee makeup
 - In colleges with departments and schools, the process for identifying members of the college promotion and tenure committee is stated in the POA document for each college (see Section VII.C. College Administration). No member of the candidate's TIU may participate in the deliberation of their case at the college level.
 - 3.9.1.2 Deliberation and vote
 - The college promotion and tenure committee is to conduct an independent assessment. This assessment is to include a statement about how accurately the TIU deliberative body and TIU head followed stated TIU processes, as well as the committee's numerical vote and recommendation to the dean. If the college committee's assessment is contrary to the TIU-level assessment, the rationale for differing judgments must be addressed.
- 3.9.2 Dean review
 - The college dean is to conduct an independent assessment and provide a recommendation to the executive vice president and provost. If the dean's assessment and/or recommendation differs from any of the prior assessments or recommendations, rationale for differing judgments must be addressed.

From slides 32–34