FSH1565 - ACADEMIC RANKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

PREAMBLE: This section defines the various academic ranks, both faculty and non-faculty (e.g. graduate student appointees and postdoctoral fellows), and their responsibilities. Subsections A, C, D, E, F, and I should be read in conjunction with the policy and procedures concerning granting of tenure and promotions in rank which are contained in 3520 and 3560 (subsection I only in conjunction with 3560). Most of the material assembled in this section was a part of the original 1979 Handbook. The material in section I was added July, 1987. The definitions of 'postdoctoral fellow' (I-3), 'graduate assistant' (K-3) and 'research fellow' (K-4) were revised in July 1996. Section J-1, voting rights for lecturers, was changed in July 2001. Section A was substantially revised in July 1994, so as to underline better the importance of both teaching and scholarship. At that time the so-called "Voxman Amendment" (the addition of "in the classroom and laboratory" to the list of possible venues wherein the evaluation of scholarship might take place) made its first appearance. Section A underwent additional substantial revision in July 1998 and July 2006, always with the hope of creating greater clarity in a complex subject. Extensive revisions along those same lines were made to B (entirely new and in 2008 B was moved to 3570), C, D, and E, in July 1998. Further, less extensive revisions were made to C-1, D-1, and E-1 in July 2000. In July 2008, this section was reorganized to better reflect classifications as stated in FSH 1520 Article II, no substantive changes were made to policy. In 2009 changes to the faculty position description and evaluation forms integrating faculty interdisciplinary activities into the evaluation processes were incorporated into this policy as of January 2010. Ranks for Associated Faculty in F were removed because the promotion process as detailed in 3560 for faculty ranks was deemed excessive for associated faculty. Those currently holding a specific rank in adjunct or affiliate will retain that privilege. In July 2010 the affiliate and adjunct terms were switched to conform to national norms and rank of Distinguished Professor was added. In July 2011 voting for associated faculty was clarified and Clinical Faculty under "G. Temporary Faculty" moved to "D. University Faculty" as D-9 and was revised. In July 2012 edits were made to the Distinguished Professor under D-8 and to the qualifications for Emeritus status and a search waiver under E. In July 2013 definitions for research and teaching assistants were more clearly defined. In January 2014 the time necessary to qualify for Emeritus status was redefined and in July 2014 the cap on non-tenure track faculty appointments in a unit was adjusted and promotion processes clarified and revised. Further information may be obtained from the Provost’s Office (208-885-6448). [rev. 7-98, 7-00, 7-01, 7-06, 7-08, 7-10, 7-11, 7-12, 7-13, 7-14]

H. NON-FACULTY: Those within this category are not members of the faculty. [ed. I-10]

H-1. POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW. Postdoctoral fellows are persons who hold the doctoral degree and its equivalent at the time of their appointment and are continuing their career preparation by engaging in research or scholarly activity. Postdoctoral fellows are special exempt employees in the category of "temporary or special" (FSH 3080 D-2 a) employees recognized by the regents. [See also 3710 B-1.b.] [ed. I-10]

H-2. GRADUATE STUDENT APPOINTEES: The general nature of the following graduate assistantships is defined as an apprenticeship experience that consists of a work obligation partnered with educational and developmental activities, all of which are integrated with the graduate degree program of the student. All graduate assistants must be individually mentored by a faculty advisor and may receive additional mentoring from other faculty and/or staff on campus. All graduate assistant positions (H-2, a, b, c) are limited to twenty hours per week of work. All graduate student appointees must be academically qualified and registered. [See also 3080 D-2-a.]

a. Graduate Teaching Assistant. Graduate Teaching Assistant performs duties related to the instructional efforts of the unit in which they are employed under the supervision of a member of the university faculty, associated faculty, or temporary faculty (see FSH 1565 D, F, and G). These duties, which must be associated with academic credit instruction and constitute at least 50 percent of a Teaching Assistant’s effort, may include, but not be limited to: primary teaching responsibilities; grading assignments; assisting with the delivery of instruction through technology; and providing other assistance related to instruction. [ed. I-10, rev. 7-13]

b. Graduate Research Assistant. Graduate Research Assistant performs duties related to the professional-level work in support of research, scholarship, or creative activity. These positions can only have duties within the scope of work permitted by the funding source. [ed. I-10, rev. 7-13]

c. Graduate Support Assistant. Graduate Support Assistant performs duties related to the professional-level work in support of research, scholarship, or creative activity. These positions can only have duties within the scope of work permitted by the funding source. [ed. I-10, rev. 7-13]

Commented [BE(1)]: if these Support Assistants can provide academic instruction, why aren’t they TA’s? This seems to be open for confusion and potential abuse.

Commented [BE(2)]: same question. If they are assisting with research why aren’t they RAs?