FACULTY TENURE

PREAMBLE: This section defines tenure and sets out the procedure by which a faculty member is evaluated, at the department, college, and university level, for a possible award of tenure. In general, the material gathered here was all an original part of the 1979 Handbook. The material that provides the first sentence of what is now subsection F, H-1, I-1 through I-3 was added in July 1987. At that time what is now subsection D (criteria for tenure) and subsections I-4 and J-1 (specifying review at the university level) were added and what is now H-4 (concerning the formal tenure-review process) greatly enlarged. Substantial revisions to D, H-3, H-4, H-5, and I-4 were made in July 1998. The tenurability of lecturers and senior instructors was clarified (Section E) in July 2001. Subsections F, G, and H were revised and J-3 added in July 2002, G-1 and H-3 were substantially revised July 2005. In July 2007 the form underwent substantial revisions to address enforcement and accountability issues in the UI promotion and tenure process as well as align the form with the Strategic Action Plan. Minor rearrangements and clarifications were made January 2008. In January 2010 this section was again revised to reflect changes in the faculty position description and evaluation forms intended to simplify the forms while better integrating faculty interdisciplinary activities into the evaluation process. In July 2011 changes to F-9 were made to make automatic the one year extension for childbirth/adoption. In July 2012 the percentage requirement for student membership on tenure committees was removed to better align this policy with Regent’s policy which states only that students be included. Except where specifically noted, the rest of the text was written in July 1996. More information may be obtained from the Provost’s Office (208-885-6448). [ed. 7-97, 7-02, rev. 7-98, 7-01, 7-02, 7-05, 7-07, 1-08, 1-10, 7-11, 7-12]

A. through G-4 unchanged.

G-5. Formal Tenure Review.

a. The formal evaluation for tenure requires assessing the faculty member’s performance in meeting the criteria for tenure. To initiate the formal evaluation for the granting of tenure to a faculty member, the unit administrator (or college dean if the unit administrator is under consideration for tenure) obtains the position descriptions and annual evaluations (including all narratives) for the relevant period, the third-year review (all maintained in the unit office), the professional portfolio (from the faculty member, see FSH 3570), summary scores of student evaluations from all classes taught (Institutional Research and Assessment), and the curriculum vitae and reviews all of the previous listed documentation for its completeness and accuracy with the candidate. [rev. 7-98, 7-02, 1-08, 1-10]

b. The unit administrator will request an evaluation of the candidate’s performance from three to five appropriate external reviewers, who should include tenured faculty at peer institutions. Persons asked to write peer reviews should be at, or above, the rank the candidate is seeking. The names of at least two of these reviewers will be selected from a list suggested by the candidate. See also External Peer Review Guidelines on the Provost website at http://www.uidaho.edu/provost/policyguidelines/tenure. Final selection of external reviewers should take place at the unit level, in accordance with college policy. The letter of request will include the candidate’s curriculum vitae, position descriptions (including narratives) for the relevant period, the professional portfolio, and up to four examples of the candidate’s scholarly work. In addition, the letter of request shall include instructions that the candidate be evaluated in relation to the candidate’s personal context statement and unit and college criteria. When all deliberations within the university have been completed, the external reviewers’ evaluations will be shown to the faculty member after every effort has been made to ensure the reviewer’s anonymity. [add. 7-98, rev. 7-02, 1-08, 1-10]

c. Copies of position descriptions, unit tenure criteria, annual evaluations including all narratives, the third-year review (if applicable), the professional portfolio, summary scores of the student evaluations, the curriculum vitae, and external peer review letters are forwarded to each person participating in the review at the unit and higher levels. Supplementary material, if any, shall be available for review in the unit office. The results of the student evaluations of teaching must be carefully weighed and used as a factor in assessing the teaching component in tenure determinations. The unit administrator making the recommendation concerning tenure will solicit, and address in his/her summary, the evaluative comments regarding the candidate from all tenured faculty members of the unit, and from interdisciplinary program directors and center administrators (if applicable), and from the unit tenure-recommending committee (see G-5-d). The unit administrator’s summary should assess the candidate’s record in light of the criteria established at the unit, college and university level. Any person having a familial or other similar significant relationship with the candidate is not permitted to serve in any capacity in the review process. Each unit is
responsible for developing procedures in its bylaws that meet the requirements of this subsection (unit bylaws are subject to review and approval by the provost, see FSH 1590). A copy of the form to be used in transmitting the recommendations made at each stage of evaluation for tenure appears as the last two pages of this section. [See also FSH 3380 D.]

§ 3520.11. The unit tenure-recommending committee includes the following: one or more tenured faculty members, one or more nontenured faculty members, and one or more persons from outside the unit, and, if in cases involving the evaluation or review of members of the instructional faculty, inclusion of students shall be determined by the unit’s by-laws. Student members may include one or more students sufficient to ensure equity of representation and who have had experience in the unit with which the faculty member being evaluated is associated. Each member of the tenure review committee has an equal vote. If a unit decides not to include a student member(s), the unit by-laws will address how sufficient student input will be accomplished, e.g. formal teaching evaluations, student testimonials, open forums for comment. In cases involving the evaluation of individuals involved significantly in interdisciplinary activities, one or more members of the appropriate interdisciplinary program(s) faculty shall be included on the committee. No faculty member serves on the unit tenure-recommending committee when it is considering his or her own case. The dean is excluded from the unit committee’s process. Each unit is responsible for developing procedures, including protocols for voting, in its bylaws that meet the requirements of this subsection (unit bylaws are subject to review and approval by the provost, see FSH 1590).

G-6 through I and forms unchanged.