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. In July 2013 Regent’s no longer required students on tenure committees, thus the university revised its policy to allow units to determine and to note same in their by-laws. In July 2017 changes were made to clarify the language in F-9 for tenure extensions. 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, 7-13, 7-17]

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A. GENERAL. Tenure is intended to protect academic freedom in order to maintain a free and open intellectual atmosphere. The justification for tenure lies in the character of scholarly activity, which requires protection from improper influences from either outside or inside the university. Tenure strengthens the UI's ability to attract and retain superior teachers and scholars as members of the faculty. A majority of the faculty in each unit excluding adjuncts shall be tenure-track/tenured faculty unless the provost has authorized otherwise. [ed. 7-98, ed. & ren. 1-10]

B. CRITERIA FOR TENURE. Tenure is granted only to faculty members who demonstrate that they have made and will continue to make significant contributions in their disciplines through effective performance in the responsibility areas (FSH 1565 C) as specified in their position description and consistent with university, college and unit criteria. The faculty of each college and unit shall establish specific criteria for tenure consistent with the university requirements for tenure. The criteria shall include a statement regarding the role of interdisciplinary activity and shall be included in college and unit bylaws. [rev. 7-98, rev. & ren. 1-10].

C. TENURABLE RANKS. The tenurable ranks are: senior instructor, assistant professor, assistant research professor, associate professor, associate research professor, professor, research professor, and librarian, psychologist/licensed psychologist, and extension faculty all with the rank of assistant professor, associate professor, and professor. The rank of senior instructor can be used with either a tenure or non-tenure track position but it is not a rank from which a faculty member may be promoted (See FSH 1565 D-1 b.) [rev. 7-98, 7-01, ren. & rev. 1-10]