

NUMBER: ACAF 1.05
SECTION: Academic Affairs
SUBJECT: Tenure Progress Review of Faculty: Third Year Review
DATE: February 5, 1995
REVISED: August 16, 2007
Policy for: All Campuses
Procedure for: Columbia Campus
Authorized by: Mark P. Becker
Issued by: Provost's Office

I. Policy

In most cases, tenure-track faculty members in their probationary period are formally reviewed during their third academic year at the University. A tenure progress review of a tenure-track faculty member ensures that the faculty member, the academic unit and the college or school are aware of the progress of the faculty member relative to the unit's criteria for awarding tenure. This review allows the faculty member to take corrective action before the tenure decision year, and ensures that he/she gains familiarity with the process of application for tenure. It also allows the dean to more formally decide whether the faculty member is making satisfactory progress towards tenure.

II. Procedure

A. Procedure for Senior and Regional Campuses

Each senior and regional campus should develop individual campus-based procedures to implement this policy.

B. Procedure for Columbia Campus

The following procedure should be followed on the Columbia Campus.

1. Review Process

- a. During the second semester of the faculty member's second academic year at the University, the dean must inform the faculty member that in the following year the candidate must submit a

tenure progress file to the unit select committee on tenure and promotion. The faculty member must also be explicitly informed that the review process does not positively or negatively affect the institution's ultimate decision in connection with the faculty member's future application for tenure.

- b. The faculty member must follow the usual tenure and promotion file format, process, and calendar for submission of the tenure progress file, with the following exceptions:
 - i. Neither the faculty member's unit nor the faculty member should solicit outside reviewers' statements or letters of support;
 - ii. Individual ballots may be used during the unit committee's deliberations, but are not included in the file; and
 - iii. The file and supporting materials are not forwarded past the dean.
- c. The chair of the unit select committee on tenure and promotion must draft an evaluation letter of the faculty member's progress toward meeting the criteria for tenure. The letter must specifically address the candidate's progress in each of the unit's tenure criteria. In addition, the unit select committee may also choose to include written evaluations from individual committee members. The letter(s) should be addressed to the next level of file review (i.e., chair or dean) and copies should be placed in the file and sent to the faculty member.
- d. Each further review step up to and including the dean must review the faculty member's tenure progress file and write a detailed evaluation of the faculty member's progress in terms of the unit criteria for tenure. The written evaluation must be sent to the faculty member, and a copy placed in the file.
- e. When the dean has completed the review of the faculty member, the dean should have a conference with the faculty member to discuss the results of the evaluation. The faculty member must receive a copy of the dean's written evaluation prior to the meeting. The tenure progress file must be returned to the faculty member after the conference with the dean, but a copy of all evaluation letters must be retained in the faculty member's personnel file in the dean's office.

2. Timing of Tenure Progress Review

If a faculty member's maximum probationary period is extended during the first three years of the faculty member's probationary period in accordance with University Policy ACAF 1.31 or the Faculty Manual, the tenure progress review timeline outlined in this policy is extended for the same period of time. For example, if the faculty member receives a one-year extension during the first three years of the probationary period, then his/her tenure progress review should occur during the fourth year, rather than the third year.

Alternatively, the department or unit chair and the dean can approve requests from the faculty member to be reviewed earlier in their probationary period, such as during the second year rather than the third year.

III. Related Policies

See also:

University Policy ACAF 1.31 Extension of Faculty Tenure-Track Probationary Period

USC Columbia Faculty Manual, Section 2: Regulations and Policies, under heading Probationary Period and Reappointment Procedures

USC Regional Campuses & Continuing Education Faculty Manual, Section C-1: Regulations and Policies

IV. Reason for Revision

This revision allows the timeline for the tenure progress review to be extended if the faculty member's maximum probationary period is extended under ACAF 1.31. It also allows the review to occur earlier than the third year if requested by the faculty member and approved by the unit or department chair and dean.

Send comments to: [Elise Ahyi](#)