

Guidelines for Appointment, Promotion and Tenure of Faculty*

(Revised 2006)

- Λ Introduction**
- Λ Tenure**
- Λ Guidelines for Faculty Appointments & Promotion**
- Λ Procedure for Granting Promotion and/or Tenure**
- Λ Right of Response**

INTRODUCTION

This document provides general guidelines for departments/schools and colleges concerning the appointment, promotion, and granting of tenure to faculty.

The general guidelines described in this document are not to be considered as the criteria for promotion and tenure. Criteria shall be written by the colleges and departments/schools following the principles described in Principles for Creating Criteria for Promotion and Tenure, available on the web page from the Office of the University Provost and Chief Academic Officer. Criteria shall become effective only after adoption by the Provost and his/her designees.

TENURE

Tenure at Florida Atlantic University is the recognition that the person so honored is an established member of the academic profession, possessing a terminal degree or qualification appropriate to the discipline, and having clearly demonstrated the commitment and ability to continue to be a scholar, contributing to the field of knowledge through original work and quality teaching in the best traditions of the professorate. A candidate for tenure will also have a demonstrated commitment through service to the University and, if appropriate, the community and profession.

Tenure shall be considered during the sixth year of continuous service unless the candidate's letter of offer contains prior service credit; or the Provost or the Provost's designee agrees to the employee's written request for earlier consideration. If the employee was credited with tenure-earning service at the time of hire, they may request that all or a portion of such credit be withdrawn once, prior to formal application for tenure. If the employee began employment at mid-year, the letter of offer needs to specify if tenure application will cover 4.5 or 5.5 years of service at the University. A faculty member may also request that semesters during which they are on compensated or uncompensated leave not be creditable for the purpose of determining eligibility for tenure. In both these instances, the request needs to be approved by the Associate Provost, Academic Personnel (as the President's representative), after receiving support of the Chair and the Dean. The University has no quotas for the granting of tenure.

Tenure implies a lifelong commitment of the institution to the person. The awarding of tenure is not a simple summing of annual evaluations. The awarding of tenure is based upon the judgment that the person will have a lifelong commitment to scholarship and teaching at the University level and to meeting the needs of the Department/School, College and University.

No candidate who does not meet the relevant criteria for promotion to Associate Professor is eligible for tenure at Florida Atlantic University. As tenure is linked to promotion to the rank of Associate Professor, an individual may not go up for promotion before tenure. **This will be considered the norm and shall become effective with faculty hired in the academic year 2003-2004.**

Before promising a prospective faculty member that he/she will be recommended for tenure as a condition of employment, the University Provost or his/her representative shall consult with the faculty. Although it might not be possible to assemble a complete packet for such candidates, the packet must include at least an up-to-date resume, a record of the professor's tenure at other universities, letters of recommendation, preferably from people of national reputation in the professor's field, a vote of the tenured faculty of the department/school involved, letters of recommendation from the Department Chair/School Director and the Dean (which includes the vote of the College Promotion and Tenure Committee).

GUIDELINES FOR FACULTY APPOINTMENTS & PROMOTION

The tenure-earning and tenured ranks at Florida Atlantic University are: Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor. The university has no quotas for admission to rank.

The same criteria shall apply for initial appointment to any rank as apply to promotion to that rank. These criteria recognize three broad areas of academic activity: instructional activity; research, scholarship, and other creative activity in the relevant discipline(s); and service. Service shall include contributions to the effective functioning, administration and development of professional associations, department/school, college and university programs, and the university itself, as well as assigned service to the community.

Assistant Professor

Appointment or promotion to the rank of Assistant Professor normally requires that individuals hold the highest earned degree appropriate to their discipline. Appointment to this rank is made on the judgment that individuals are capable of reaching tenure within a maximum six-year period. Evidence of potential for excellence in scholarship and for quality teaching is required.

Associate Professor

Appointment or promotion to the rank of Associate Professor is a recognition that the faculty member has reached a status in the discipline appropriate to a life-long member of the academic world. This means that the person will clearly demonstrate the commitment and ability to continue to be a scholar or artist, contributing to the relevant field(s) of knowledge through original work and quality teaching in the best traditions of the professorate. The candidate must demonstrate commitment to and ability in teaching and related instructional activity, as well as demonstrating the ability to contribute successfully and continuously to the scholarship or creative activity of appropriate academic disciplines. Instructional activities shall be rigorously evaluated as scholarship and creative activity. Although the typical Assistant Professor will have only a modest

assignment to service, promotion to Associate Professor requires that the candidate have a record of responsible and conscientious participation in some service activities.

Promotion decisions shall consider:

- ! Evidence of achievement in the appropriate discipline(s). In most cases, such achievement will primarily be scholarly activity, normally demonstrated through publication of scholarly books, refereed articles and refereed papers and, where appropriate, patents and research grants. In some disciplines, creative activity may be required instead of, or in addition to, scholarly publications. The broadest range of appropriate scholarly or creative activity shall be considered in the criteria, including participation and leadership in appropriate professional activities.
- ! Evidence of achievement in teaching and, if appropriate, other instructional activity. The quality of instructional activity shall be evaluated by students and peers, as well as through administrative and self-assessment.
- ! Evidence of commitment to service. This may be through contributions to the effective functioning, administration and development of department/school, college or university programs, college and university, and, if assigned, externally, through uncompensated use of scholarly knowledge or creative talent in the work of the public schools, professional organizations, community agencies, other such nonprofit or public organizations, and in the community.

Professor

Appointment or promotion to the rank of Professor is recognition of demonstrated achievement and **distinction** over the span of an individual's academic career in scholarship/creative activity in the appropriate discipline(s) and/or teaching and related instructional activity and/or service/administration. While distinction must be demonstrated in at least one dimension of the faculty role, the candidate must demonstrate commitment to and competency in the others. While the decision involves the candidate's entire career, **the candidate's record shall demonstrate significant additional achievement beyond that demonstrated at the time of promotion to Associate Professor.** While demonstrated merit, not years of service, shall be the primary factor in determining the case for promotion to Professor, no earlier than five years completed in rank from the year that the promotion became effective, may be considered the norm for promotion from Associate to Professor. Years in rank and sustained productivity at FAU are particularly important.

PROCEDURE FOR GRANTING PROMOTION AND/OR TENURE

Departmental Review

- ! Candidates should acquaint themselves with the relevant documents. The Chair/Director is responsible for directing each new faculty member to the following: a copy of these Guidelines; the Principles for Creating Criteria; the department/school or college statement that includes criteria for annual evaluation, promotion and tenure and third year review procedures; the most recent requirements for tenure and promotion files issued by the Office of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer; and any existing departmental/school and college personnel policies. Many of these materials are posted on the website of the Provost, the College, and/or at the department/school.
- ! Regular feedback, advice and assistance shall be a part of the process at annual or more frequent intervals. Annual performance evaluations must be conducted. They must be considered in the promotion and/or tenure process. The annual evaluations of untenured faculty must include a separate component that fairly appraises the faculty member's progress towards tenure and, if the candidate is an Assistant Professor, promotion to Associate Professor. In addition, an appointee to the rank of Assistant Professor shall receive, in the third year of his or her service, a formal written review at both the department/school and college levels. For employees awarded years toward tenure, these years count toward the Third Year Review. For mid-year hires, the timing of the Third Year Review needs to be consistent with scheduled tenure application. Faculty members eligible for promotion to Full Professor shall be apprised of their progress towards promotion at least every three years, but they may request more frequent appraisals. Faculty members' annual assignments must be considered in evaluating progress toward promotion and/or tenure.
- ! Departmental/school evaluations of individuals for promotion and/or tenure should be made after a departmental/school meeting that includes discussion of the case and consideration of the appropriate criteria and a secret ballot polling all faculty eligible to vote on the case. In tenure considerations, those eligible to vote are the tenured members of the appropriate department/school; in promotion cases, all tenured and tenure-track members of the faculty are eligible to vote, unless otherwise specified by the bylaws of the department/school or college.

The materials that are reviewed at the departmental/school level should include all of the materials that will be submitted to the university level. Minimally, these include: an appointment letter, up-to-date vita, the outcome of evaluation of instructional activity by students, peers, and self; the distribution of the evaluative scores earned by other faculty, broken down by course, course level, or by department/school, as appropriate; documentation and examples of relevant research, scholarly or creative work, as well as instructional materials; a minimum of two current letters from referees outside this University who are acceptable to the chairperson/director and the candidate. If the candidate chooses, the materials shall include the record of the faculty member's tenure and promotion appraisal(s) and third year review, including any response by the faculty member.

- ! After the department/school has voted, the departmental chairperson/school director shall send a

letter of recommendation to the Dean. That letter shall include the use of the appropriate department/school or college criteria to evaluate the record of the faculty member. It shall attest to the documentation of the achievement which supports any positive recommendation for promotion and/or tenure. It shall include the results of the departmental/school ballot.

College-Level Review

- ! The College Promotion and Tenure Committee shall review the appropriate criteria, the candidate's file, and the recommendation made by the chair of the department/director of the school. The committee shall vote on the case and make a written recommendation to the Dean. The written recommendation shall preserve the anonymity of the committee members but shall convey, as best as it can be discerned, the reasons for the vote.

- ! The Dean of the College shall review the recommendation of the chair of the department/director of the school, ensuring that the criteria for promotion and/or tenure have been appropriately applied and that annual assignments and performance evaluations have been considered in the recommendation. The Dean shall also review the recommendation of the College Promotion and Tenure Committee. The Dean shall consider the candidate's record, annual assignments and evaluations, and the written college and/or department/school goals and criteria for promotion and/or tenure. In tenure cases, he or she shall consider the needs of the department/school, college and university, and the contributions the employee is expected to make to the institution.

The Dean shall make a recommendation to the Provost. The Dean's letter shall include an evaluation of the candidate's record on the basis of appropriate criteria.

University Provost and Chief Academic Officer-Level Review

- The University Promotion and Tenure Committee will review the candidate's portfolios, including the written criteria and the earlier recommendations on each case. It will make a recommendation to the Provost through its vote on each case.

- The Provost shall consider the recommendations of the University Promotion and Tenure Committee.

- The University Provost and Chief Academic Officer conducts a review of the material submitted at all earlier levels. The Provost may choose to meet with select candidates, especially in cases where there is not strong support at earlier levels. The Provost verifies that the recommendations for promotion or tenure provided by all previous levels of review have considered the candidate's annual assignments and evaluations, the candidate's record, and the written college or department/school goals and criteria for promotion and tenure. In tenure cases, he or she shall verify that the needs of the department/school, college, and university and the contributions the employee is expected to make to the institution have been considered.

- Following this review, the University Provost makes a positive or negative recommendation to the President. With this recommendation, the Provost shall forward the materials reviewed at earlier levels and the vote of the University Committee on Promotion and Tenure.

Presidential-Level Review

- ! The President, upon consideration of the recommendation provided by the University Provost, makes a final recommendation on tenure cases on behalf of the University to the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs of the FAU Board of Trustees. The latter then makes recommendation to the FAU Board of Trustees, which makes the final decision whether to grant tenure. The President, upon consideration of the recommendation provided by the University Provost, makes a final decision on whether to promote. The President's review will include a consideration of the candidate's record, the relevant written goals and criteria for promotion and tenure, the earlier recommendations and, in tenure cases, the needs of the department/school, college, and university, and the candidate's likely future contributions to the university.

Right of Response

Prior to consideration at the next higher level of evaluation, a candidate for promotion and/or tenure may attach a concise response within 5 days of receipt of any material that has been added to her or his file.