

TENURE REVIEW PROCESS

TO: Academic Deans, Chairs, and Directors

FROM: Tim Greene, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: September 3, 2009

The tenure review process is described in Article 17, Tenure Policy and Procedures, of the Western/WMU-AAUP Agreement (this can be found on the web at <http://www.wmich.edu/acb>). Other articles in the Agreement, such as evaluation of faculty (Article 16) and faculty records (Article 11), contain material that pertains to tenure reviews. In addition, department policy statements may have material relevant to tenure reviews. It is important to review any such materials prior to conducting tenure reviews. The tenure timetable requires the department chair/director to notify faculty of required tenure review no later than last January 15, and convene the first meeting of the department tenure committee by October 15, 2009. The tenure timetable also requires that faculty members submit their review materials to the respective department office no later than October 15, 2009. Please note that "required tenure review" includes 2nd, 4th, and final review, any mandated additional review, and is applicable to tenure-track faculty who hold traditional rank as well as the rank of a faculty specialist.

In the case of joint appointments, please review Article 17.§8.2, as there is an additional deadline by which the secondary department committee and chair forward reviews to the primary department.

The attached Tenure Review Cover Sheet and Tenure Recommendation Checklist you are to be used in preparing and submitting recommendations. Please make copies of these forms available to the department committee for their use in the review process.

The following general principles apply to reviews conducted by department tenure committees (DTC), chairs/directors, and deans:

1. Reviews will state the strengths and weaknesses of each candidate, referring specifically to the candidate's performance in the areas of professional competence, professional recognition (except faculty specialists), and professional service. The reviews will include evaluations of the candidate's record in each of these areas. Reviewers at all levels must clearly state whether the review is positive, positive with conditions, negative with conditions, or negative. Each review should be an independent review, based on the reviewer's assessment of the candidate's record.
2. When the recommendation is to continue the appointment with conditions, specify clearly any identified deficiencies which, if not corrected, could lead to a negative recommendation or non-renewal in the future.
3. When the recommendation is to not renew the appointment or to deny tenure, state clearly and precisely the reasons for the recommendation.
4. Candidates may appeal recommendations before the recommendations are forwarded to the next reviewer, as specified by the timeline in the Western/WMU-AAUP Agreement (Article 17§10) and updated on the Academic Collective Bargaining web page.

c: President
WMU-AAUP, Academic Collective Bargaining

TENURE PROCESS CHECKLIST FOR CHAIRS, DIRECTORS AND DEANS

All materials submitted by faculty must be made available to the department tenure committee (DTC), and reviewed by the DTC and the chair/director. At the department level, after the review by the chair/director, material for each candidate must be organized as an abbreviated file. **The abbreviated file must be in a file folder labeled with the person's name, college, department, and type of review (2nd, 4th, 6th, or other mandated review). The material in the folder must appear in the sequence listed in point 1 below.**

- ___ 1. File folder
 - ___ Cover sheet (next page, filled out, with all conditions clearly articulated)
 - ___ Checklist (this form)
 - ___ Letter from the Dean for current review
 - ___ Letter from the Chair/Director for current review
 - ___ Letter from the Department Tenure Committee for current review
 - ___ Copies of all DTC, Chair/Director, and Dean letters from previous tenure reviews
 - ___ Focused personal statement (if available)
 - ___ Up-to-date curriculum vitae
 - ___ Documentation:
 - ___ a. Summary of student ratings (should be comprehensive)
 - ___ b. Copy of student rating form (pre-ICES form and ICES form)
 - ___ c. Other material (e.g., student comments, materials addressing conditions from previous reviews, letters of recognition/awards, notification of grants/contracts)

Regarding letters written in the review process, please note the following:

- ___ 2. Letter from the department tenure committee must include recommendation as well as identify and evaluate strengths and weaknesses in:
 - ___ a. Professional competence
 - ___ b. Professional recognition [may not be applicable to faculty specialists]
 - ___ c. Professional service
 - ___ d. Other appropriate concerns
- ___ 3. Letter from the chair/director must include recommendation as well as identify and evaluate strengths and weaknesses in:
 - ___ a. Professional competence
 - ___ b. Professional recognition [may not be applicable to faculty specialists]
 - ___ c. Professional service
 - ___ d. Other appropriate concerns

Some deans may request the complete file. If so, send the abbreviated file, as organized in point 1, with the rest of the material. The abbreviated file is what will be send forward to the Office of the Provost, once the dean's letter has been included.

- ___ 4. Letter from the dean must include recommendation as well as identify and evaluate strengths and weaknesses in:
 - ___ a. Professional competence
 - ___ b. Professional recognition [may not be applicable to faculty specialists]
 - ___ c. Professional service
 - ___ d. Other appropriate concerns

As always, the department keeps all material until the recommendations have been acted upon by the Board of Trustees.

Tenure Review Cover Sheet

Candidate's Name: _____
College: _____
Department: _____
Current Rank: _____

Type of Tenure Review: _____ **2nd** _____ **4th** _____ **Final** _____ **Other**
 _____ **required 3rd/5th**

Recommendations: (Please check appropriate box and sign)

Reviewer/s	Continue Probationary Appointment			End Probation	Final Tenure Review		Signature	Date
	Positive Review	Positive Review w/ Conditions*	Negative Review w/ Conditions*	Negative Review	Positive Review (Grant Tenure)	Negative Review (Deny Tenure)		
Department/College Committee								
Chair/Director								
Dean								
Provost								

Attach full documentation, including written statements to candidate.

* List conditions here:

(Updated 7/09)