

# MARSHALL UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

## Rule No. AA-7

### FACULTY PROMOTION

#### 1 General Information.

- 1.1 Scope: Academic policy regarding the promotion of faculty through the established ranks.
- 1.2 Authority: W. Va. Code §18B-1-6
- 1.3 Passage Date: March 8, 2006
- 1.4 Effective Date: Upon passage
- 1.5 Controlling over: Marshall University
- 1.6 History: Adopted 4/5/54, Revised February 1956, January 1957, Amended 5/20/68, Revised 2/13/69-FPC, Amended 3/19/70-FPC, Revised 8/30/78-FPC, Policy Bulletin 36 Adopted by BOR on 3/12/84, Amended 5/24/88-FPC, Revised SR-92-93-(8)145(FPC), SR-93-94-2(FPC), Revised 3/5/98 Graduate Council, SR-00-01-(3)44(FPC); See SR-04-05-(12)-69 FECAHC for revised dates; See SR 04-05(36) 93 FECAHC for changes to evaluative language.

#### 2 Policy

- 2.1 Promotion in rank is a reward for achievement. It is based on the professional qualifications of a faculty member, including performance specific to the candidate's contractual responsibilities and duties. Major faculty responsibilities and duties include teaching and advising, scholarly and creative activities, service to the university, and professional service to the community. Individual colleges are responsible for determining the relative importance of the various faculty functions for purposes of personnel decisions. Colleges should provide flexibility in the weighing of such functions in order to accommodate a range of departments, disciplinary specialties and individuals with varying assignments.
- 2.2 The specific areas, in which faculty are evaluated for promotion, include the following:
  - 2.2.1 Teaching and advising: command of disciplinary knowledge and methodology; effectiveness of classroom performance; advising load and effectiveness of academic advising; effectiveness in assessing student learning; rapport with students; contributions to curricular development, including development, promotion and delivery of off-campus academic programs, either through electronic means or conventional travel to off-campus course locations; instructional development of faculty colleagues, etc.
  - 2.2.2 Scholarly and creative activities: number, quality and importance of publications and creative productions; memberships and contributions to professional societies; professional growth and development; scholarly presentations and creative performances; contributions to the professional development and achievement of colleagues, etc.

- 2.2.3 Service to the university: contributions within the department/division, within the college, or university-wide; contributions to official student organizations or other university-related organizations; other work on behalf of the student body, faculty, staff or administration of the university.
- 2.2.4 Service to the community: service on a compensated or pro bono basis to governments, to educational, business or civic organizations, or to the public. (Such service could include applied research, consultation, technical assistance, special forms of instruction, clinical work and performance). Involvement as an official representative of Marshall University, or units thereof, in activities of governments and of educational, business or civic organizations.
- 2.3 For purposes of promotion, as well as other personnel decisions, all relevant faculty activities should be subject to objective qualitative evaluations.
- 2.4 Teaching is subject to evaluations by students and peers. The latter may visit a class or classes, or examine and evaluate course materials such as syllabi, textbooks and examinations. For a scholarly publication or presentation, critical appraisals from scholars in the same field might be solicited. For public service qualitative assessment should be solicited from those associated with the service activity or affected by the service outside the university. Colleges are encouraged to refine and clarify these guidelines and to develop specific performance standards for application to their faculty. All college policies and guidelines relating to the promotion process, including the determination of appropriateness of the degree to the teaching field, which is to be made by the dean of the college, must meet or exceed the policies as specified in this chapter and shall be reviewed and approved for consistency with university and Higher Education Policy Commission's (formerly the Board of Trustees) policies by the Faculty Personnel Committee and the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs or, where appropriate, the Vice President for Health Sciences.
- 2.5 Requirements for the Rank of Instructor
  - 2.5.1 Except as noted below, the entry-level rank of instructor requires that a candidate shall have earned a master's degree at a regionally accredited college or university, with a major appropriate to the teaching field.
  - 2.5.2 In certain special areas in which professional achievement is of unusual importance, or in which personnel holding higher degrees are not available, the bachelor's degree or its equivalent may meet the minimum for the rank of instructor.
  - 2.5.3 A candidate must show promise as an effective university teacher.

## **2.6 Requirements for the Rank of Assistant Professor**

- 2.6.1 Except as noted below, the rank of assistant professor requires that a candidate shall have earned a master's degree at a regionally accredited college or university, with a major appropriate to the teaching field, and at least fifteen semester credit hours in courses appropriate to the teaching field beyond the master's degree.
- 2.6.2 In certain special areas in which professional achievement is of unusual importance, or in which personnel holding higher degrees are not available, the master's degree or its academic equivalent may meet the minimum requirement for the rank of assistant professor.
- 2.6.3 A candidate must have had at least three years experience as a full-time faculty member at a regionally accredited college or university, or other experience deemed as equivalent by the dean of the college, or an earned terminal degree from a regionally accredited university with a major appropriate to the teaching field.
- 2.6.4 A candidate with teaching experience must have demonstrated his or her teaching professionalism and must show promise as a professional faculty member in other major areas of responsibility.

Candidates without prior teaching experience must show promise as a professional teacher and as a professional faculty member in other areas of responsibility.

## **2.7 Requirements for the Rank of Associate Professor**

- 2.7.1 A candidate must have earned the master's degree at a regionally accredited college or university, with a major appropriate to the teaching field, and at least thirty semester hours in courses appropriate to the teaching field beyond the master's degree toward the terminal degree.
- 2.7.2 A candidate without an appropriate terminal degree must have had at least seven years' experience as a full-time faculty member of which at least four years must be at the assistant professor rank at a regionally accredited college or university, or other experience deemed as equivalent by the dean of the college. A candidate with an earned terminal degree with a major appropriate to the teaching field must have had at least four years of experience at the rank of assistant professor as a full-time faculty member at a regionally accredited college or university or other experience deemed as equivalent by the dean of the college. Promotion and tenure may be awarded concurrently.
- 2.7.3 A candidate must have demonstrated professional performance and achievement in all of his or her major areas of responsibility, and he or she must have demonstrated exemplary performance in either teaching and advising or in scholarly and creative activities.

## **2.7.4 Requirements for the Rank of Professor**

- 2.7.5 A candidate must have earned the terminal degree in a major appropriate to the teaching field from a regionally accredited university. Exceptions to the degree requirement may be made in the case of exceptional artistry and/or scholarship only if the appropriate college Promotion and Tenure committee so recommends.
- 2.7.6 A candidate must have had at least four years of experience in the rank of associate professor at a regionally accredited college or university. Promotion and tenure may be awarded concurrently.
- 2.7.7 A candidate must have demonstrated professional performance in all of his or her major areas of responsibility, and he or she must have demonstrated exemplary performance in two or more such areas, including either teaching and advising or scholarly and creative activities.

## **2.8 Procedure**

### **2.8.1 Annual Consideration for Promotion**

- 2.8.1.1 All persons with the rank of instructor, assistant professor or associate professor who teach in one academic year at least one class in the university and who are employed full-time are entitled to annual consideration for promotion to a higher rank, provided that they have met minimal levels of education attainment and years of faculty experience by the time the promotion would take effect.

## **2.9 Promotion Process**

- 2.9.1 Each college or equivalent unit will develop written procedures and performance criteria for implementing the promotion guidelines in the Higher Education Policy Commission's Series 9. College promotion procedures must be approved by the dean in consultation with the faculty, approved for consistency with university and the Higher Education Policy Commission's policies by the Faculty Personnel Committee and the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, or, where appropriate, the Vice President for Health Sciences.
- 2.9.2 Each faculty member is responsible for initiating his or her application for promotion. However, a chairperson/division head or an intradepartmental promotion committee may initiate a proposal for the promotion of any member of the department or division. Proposals for the promotion of a

chairperson/division head may be initiated by himself or herself, by an intradepartmental committee or by the college dean.

- 2.9.3 A candidate for promotion will submit an application by the established departmental deadline to the chairperson/division head, who will forward it to an intradepartmental promotion committee. If the candidate holds graduate or associate graduate faculty status, the chairperson/ division head will notify the graduate dean of the application, giving him or her an opportunity to provide to the departmental committee any information that he or she may have bearing upon the promotion. No items may be added or deleted from the application after this point. The committee will prepare a written recommendation with respect to the qualifications of the candidate for promotion and submit it with the candidate's application to the chairperson/division head.
- 2.9.4 Beginning with departmental committee level and continuing thereafter through each step of the decision-making process, the candidate shall be informed in writing of any recommendation to deny promotion.
- 2.9.5 The chairperson/division head will prepare a written recommendation with respect to the qualifications of the candidate for promotion and submit it along with all other materials received from the candidate and from the intradepartmental committee to the college dean by February 15.
- 2.9.6 The dean will submit all applications and recommendations to a college level promotion and tenure committee (or its equivalent). The committee will evaluate each candidate for promotion and submit a written recommendation for each candidate, along with all materials received, to the dean.
- 2.9.7 Upon receipt of recommendations by the college promotion and tenure committee, the dean will prepare a written recommendation for each candidate. The dean will submit his or her recommendations and those of the college committee, the chairperson/division heads and intradepartmental committees along with all materials received to the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, or, where appropriate, the Vice President for Health Sciences by March 25.
- 2.9.8 The Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs or, where appropriate, the Vice President of Health Sciences, will prepare a written recommendation for each candidate and submit it together with all of the recommendations and application materials received from the deans to the President by April 22.
- 2.9.9 Promotion will result from action by the President at the conclusion of the promotion process. The President will prepare a list of those promoted and send an informational copy to the chairperson of the Faculty Personnel Committee by April 30.
- 2.9.10 The President will inform by letter all candidates for promotion of his or her decision by April 30. An applicant denied promotion will be provided a statement of reasons for the action by this date. All application materials will be returned to each candidate at this time.
- 2.9.11 The entire promotion process must adhere to the university's time guidelines and conclude no later than April 30.
- 2.9.12 An applicant denied promotion by the President may file a grievance.
- 2.9.13 A faculty member may withdraw his or her application for promotion at any time during the promotion process.
- 2.9.14 None of the above procedures shall preclude the use of other appropriate forms for evaluation in the promotion process.
- 2.9.15 All application materials and promotion decisions and deliberations shall be considered confidential except for circumstances in which a legal "need-to-know" basis has been established.
- 2.9.16 No person, including the applicant, may present information in person to promotion committees.