Policies of the University of North Texas

06.052 Review of Tenured Faculty

Chapter 06  Faculty Affairs

**Policy Statement.** UNT is committed to the consistent and comprehensive review of tenured faculty members in the areas of teaching, scholarship, service, and administration.

**Application of Policy.** Tenured faculty.

**Definitions.**

1. **Administration.** “Administration” means any assignment other than scholarship, teaching, and service that entails duties relating to the operation of a program, institute, center, or like assignment whether the assignment qualifies as set out in section 51.948 of the Texas Education Code.

2. **Professional Development Plan.** “Professional development plan” (PDP) means an agreement indicating how specific deficiencies in a faculty member’s performance will be remedied. The generation of the plan is a collaborative effort between a Faculty Professional Development Committee (FPDC) and faculty member. PDPs are approved by the unit administrator, dean, and provost prior to implementation.

3. **Unit.** “Unit” means an academic department/division under the administration of a UNT official with responsibilities for personnel actions related to the unit.

4. **Unit Administrator.** “Unit administrator” means the person responsible for a unit as defined in this policy.

5. **Unit Review Committee.** “Unit Review Committee” (URC) means a group of tenured faculty members comprised of individuals who do not hold an administrative assignment as defined in UNT Policy 06.002, Academic Appointments and Titles, and who are not responsible for faculty salary and evaluation recommendations.

6. **Unsatisfactory Performance.** “Unsatisfactory performance” means the failure to sustain effectiveness in the domains of teaching, scholarship, service, and administration; continued or repeated substantial neglect of professional responsibilities; or incompetence or refusal to carry out duties that are part of the assigned workload. Examples of unsatisfactory performance include, but are not limited to failure to meet classes, refusal to teach classes within one’s area of expertise, or failure or refusal to participate in scholarly activities, service, or administrative activities when these responsibilities are part of the assigned workload. Refusal to consider reasonable suggestions/advice to provide correction or assistance may also be a factor when determining whether a faculty member will be placed on a PDP.
Procedures and Responsibilities.

The annual review of tenured faculty is designed to support faculty development and sustained effectiveness after tenure is awarded. Reviews occurring after tenure has been granted are not conducted for the purposes of dismissal or re-evaluation of tenure. In addition, reviews occurring after tenure must always protect academic freedom as outlined in UNT Policy 06.035, Academic Freedom and Responsibility.

I. General Guidelines.

A. Faculty members are expected to earn evaluations of at least sustained effectiveness in the areas of teaching, scholarship, service, and administration (if the faculty member is an administrator) after being awarded tenure.

B. Each unit chair and unit review committee must review all tenured faculty in the unit annually and provide a written evaluation on the areas of each faculty member’s assigned workload.

C. A faculty member who receives a single overall review of unsatisfactory may be placed on a PDP. A faculty member who receives two (2) overall reviews of unsatisfactory must be placed on a PDP.

D. Numerical scores and rankings within a unit during an annual evaluation are not necessarily indicative of unsatisfactory performance. Failure to publish or secure external funding in a given year does not, in itself, imply unsatisfactory performance in scholarship. Negative teaching evaluations do not, in themselves, imply unsatisfactory performance in teaching.

II. Unit Criteria.

A. The tenured faculty of each unit, in collaboration with the chair, is responsible for developing written workload-based performance criteria for the annual review of tenured faculty and for reviewing the criteria no fewer than every six (6) years. Each unit’s criteria must be consistent with those of the college and university policy.

B. The dean and provost must approve all unit criteria and ensure the criteria are sufficiently flexible to allow for differences in academic disciplines.

C. The dean will provide said criteria to each tenured faculty member.

D. The chair and dean are responsible for ensuring review criteria is followed.

Responsible Party: Faculty, chair, unit administrator, dean, provost, URC

III. Guidelines for Professional Development.

A faculty member who receives an unsatisfactory annual review by the unit review committee may be placed on a PDP. The faculty member will be required to meet
with the unit administrator to identify barriers to sustained effectiveness and outline steps to remedy the deficiencies before the next annual review unless the member is placed on a PDP.

A. A faculty member who receives two (2) overall unsatisfactory annual reviews during a rolling 3-year period is required to be placed on a PDP.

B. When required, the PDP is initiated with the appointment of a FPDC consisting of tenured faculty only. The FPDC shall be comprised of a member selected by the faculty member under review, who may be from outside UNT; a member appointed by the dean of the faculty member’s college in consultation with the unit administrator; and a third individual selected by these two (2) members from a pool of UNT faculty provided by the provost. The third member will serve as the chair of the FPDC. The FPDC may select non-voting members and utilize other resources deemed necessary. The provost may appoint members to serve on the FPDC if the faculty member under review or dean fail to identify a member in a timely manner or the two (2) selected members are unable to agree on a third member in a reasonable time.

C. The FPDC, in consultation with the faculty member, will develop a written, individualized and clear plan that is intended to facilitate professional development and remedy all deficiencies noted in the annual review. The PDP will:

1. Identify specific deficiency(ies) to be addressed;
2. Identify factors that impeded or may have impeded the ability or opportunity to sustain effectiveness in the area or areas evaluated as unsatisfactory;
3. Identify institutional resources available to address the identified deficiency(ies);
4. Identify specific goals or outcomes intended to demonstrate that the noted deficiency(ies) have been corrected;
5. Describe the activities to be undertaken to achieve agreed-upon outcomes;
6. Articulate the criteria for assessing progress toward the agreed-upon goals or outcomes;
7. Identify metrics to assess progress; and
8. Establish timelines and milestones for evaluating progress.

D. The PDP must be approved by the unit administrator, dean, and provost; and communicated to the faculty member in writing prior to its implementation. The
FPDC will monitor progress, provide mentorship as needed, and submit periodic reports, at least annually, to the unit administrator and the faculty member.

IV. Removal from the PDP. A faculty member may be on a PDP for up to three (3) calendar years. At the end of each year, the FPDC will determine whether the faculty has achieved the outcomes identified in the plan.

A. If the FPDC determines the faculty member has successfully completed the PDP before the third year, it may submit a report to the unit administrator, dean, and the provost recommending the faculty member be removed from the plan. The provost will determine whether to recommend revocation of tenure and termination of employment, taking into account the faculty member’s record and all annual reviews.

B. If the FPDC determines that the agreed upon outcomes have not been achieved at the end of the third year, it will submit a written report to the unit administrator identifying the reason(s) for its determination. Upon receipt of the report, the unit administrator may request additional information or clarification from the FPDC and, once satisfied with the completeness of the report, will recommend to the dean whether the faculty member’s tenure should be revoked and employment terminated. Upon receipt of the report and recommendations, the provost will determine whether to recommend revocation of tenure and termination of employment, taking into account the faculty member’s record and all annual reviews.

C. A faculty member who disputes the FPDC’s report or any accompanying recommendation(s) may appeal in accordance with department or college/school guidelines and university policy. A faculty member may appeal the report and recommendation(s) on any basis, including but not limited to fairness, substantive or procedural grounds, academic freedom, and academic responsibility.

D. The university has the burden of proving that tenure should be revoked and is responsible for publishing an appeal procedure that complies with 51.942 of the Texas Education Code, Regents Rule 06.901 and applicable UNT policies.

Responsible Party: Faculty, FPDC, URC, unit administrator, dean, provost

References and Cross-references.
Texas Education Code 51.948, Restrictions on Contracts with Administrators
Texas Education Code, 51.942, Post-Tenure Review
UNT Policy 06.002, Academic Appointments and Titles
UNT Policy 06.027, Academic Workload
UNT Policy 06.035. Academic Freedom and Academic Responsibility
UNT Regents Rule 06.902, Faculty Research and Creative Activity
UNT Regents Rule 06.1101, Evaluation of Tenure

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