

FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY APPOINTMENT, PROMOTION AND TENURE

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Applies to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="display: inline-block; width: 45%;">●Administrators <li style="display: inline-block; width: 45%;">●Faculty
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Related Policies/ Regulations/Statutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Appellate Policy and Procedures of the FSU Board of Trustees ●Academic Freedom and Tenure [UNC Policy #100.1, Chapter VI] ●Policy on Regulations and Guidelines Implementing Chapter VI of The Code [UNC Policy #101.3.1] ●Regulation on Disciplinary Discharge, Suspension, or Demotion Under Section 603 of The Code [UNC Policy #101.3.1.1[R]] ●Regulation On Non-Reappointment, Denial Of Tenure, And Denial Of Promotion Under Section 604 Of The Code [UNC Policy #101.3.1.2[R]] ●Regulation on Grievances Filed Pursuant to Section 607 of The Code [UNC Policy #101.3.1.3] ●Regulation on Faculty Workload [UNC Policy #400.3.4[R]]
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SECTION I FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Fayetteville State University (University) is dedicated to the transmission and advancement of knowledge and understanding. Academic freedom is essential to the achievement of these purposes. The University, therefore, supports and encourages freedom of inquiry for faculty members and students, to the end that they may responsibly pursue these goals through teaching, learning, research, discussion, and publication, free from internal or external restraints that would unreasonably restrict their academic endeavors.

The University shall protect faculty and students in their responsible exercise of the freedom to teach, to learn, and otherwise to seek and speak the truth. Faculty and students of the University shall share the

responsibility for maintaining an environment in which academic freedom flourishes and in which the rights of each member of the academic community are respected.

SECTION II ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY OF FACULTY

It is the policy of the University to support and encourage full freedom, within the law, of inquiry, discourse, teaching, research, and publication for all members of the academic staff of the University. Members of the faculty are expected to recognize that accuracy, forthrightness, and dignity befit their association with the University and their position as men and women of learning. They should not represent themselves, without authorization, as spokesmen for the University. The University will not penalize or discipline members of the faculty because of the exercise of academic freedom in the lawful pursuit of their respective areas of scholarly and professional interest and responsibility.

SECTION III APPOINTMENT, REAPPOINTMENT, PROMOTION, TENURE AND NON-DISCIPLINARY SEPARATION

A. CATEGORIES OF APPOINTMENTS

1. Appointments with Permanent Tenure

- a.** An appointment with permanent tenure is a continuing appointment to a professorial rank that is not affected by changes in such rank and continues until ended by resignation, by retirement, or by approved procedures as provided in Sections IV and VI of this document and Sections 602, 603, and 605 of the *Code* of the University of North Carolina (“the *Code*”).
- b.** Only faculty members at the ranks of assistant professor, associate professor, and professor are eligible for permanent tenure. Administrative personnel with professorial rank shall be eligible for permanent tenure in rank as faculty members, but not in their administrative positions.
- c.** Although criteria may vary, an administrative officer shall be recommended for permanent tenure by the same procedure prescribed for faculty members; i.e., a recommendation must originate within the faculty member’s academic department/school and receive consideration by the appropriate dean and the vice-chancellor for academic affairs. Faculty members with permanent tenure who are appointed to administrative positions shall retain tenure in the academic rank.

2. Probationary (Tenure-track) Appointments

A probationary appointment is a trial-period appointment which has as its major purpose the determination of the suitability of the faculty member for an appointment with permanent tenure. The maximum probationary period shall not exceed seven (7) years of continuous full-time service at the University.

3. Tenure Upon Appointment

Tenure status (only for Associate and Full Professors) may be recommended upon appointment. Faculty appointed in this manner shall not be required to serve a period of probationary service.

4. Fixed-Term Appointments

Fixed-term appointments are for a specified term of service and are automatically terminable when they expire. A fixed-term contract shall set forth in writing the length of the appointment and the ending date of the contract period. The contract itself shall be deemed to constitute full and timely notice of non-reappointment.

B. TENURE IN RELATION TO FACULTY RANK

1. Tenure, as herein described, pertains exclusively to the employment of faculty members by appointment to specified faculty ranks. Such appointments may be for stated terms of employment, automatically terminable when they expire (fixed-term appointment); or they may be for probationary terms (tenure-track appointment); or they may be continuous until retirement, death, resignation, termination, or discharge (appointment with permanent tenure).
2. Discharge, suspension, or demotion in rank by the University of a faculty member who has permanent tenure or a faculty member without permanent tenure whose fixed term has not expired may be based only upon incompetence, neglect of duty, or misconduct of such a nature as to indicate that the individual is unfit to serve as a member of the faculty. (See Section IV of these policies and Section 603 of the *Code*.) *Termination* refers to separation from employment of a faculty member with permanent tenure or faculty members without permanent tenure whose probationary or fixed-term appointment has not expired for reasons of financial exigency or major curtailment or elimination of teaching, research, or public-service programs.

C. PERMANENT TENURE

1. In accordance with Section 602 (5) of the *Code*, permanent tenure may be conferred only by action of the President of the University of North Carolina or by such other agencies or officers as may be delegated such authority by the Board of Governors. The tenure conferred on a faculty member is held with reference to employment by the University and not to employment by the University of North Carolina.
2. Permanent tenure for faculty members is intended to secure their academic freedom and to help the University attract and retain faculty members of high quality. While permanent tenure may be withheld on any grounds except those specifically stated to be impermissible under Section VI of these policies, the general considerations upon which reappointment, promotion, and permanent tenure are to be recommended include an assessment of at least the following: (1) demonstrated professional competence, (2) potential for future contribution, and (3) institutional needs and resources.

D. PROBATIONARY (TENURE-TRACK) FACULTY

Probationary faculty ranks to which appointments may be made and the incidents of permanent tenure applicable to each are assistant professor and associate professor,

1. Assistant Professor

The rank of assistant professor is appropriate for an individual who is in his or her initial appointment and has completed requisite expectations, or one whose professional credentials warrant such an appointment.

- a.** The initial appointment to the rank of assistant professor shall be for a probationary term of two (2) years. During the second year of continuous service at the University, the assistant professor shall be given not less than 90 calendar days' written notice prior to the expiration of the assistant professor's initial two-year probationary term. At that time, the assistant professor shall be notified of one of the following:
 - (i) a decision to recommend that the faculty member be reappointed to a second two-year probationary term; or
 - (ii) a decision not to recommend reappointment to a second two-year probationary term. A decision not to reappoint shall be made in accordance with the procedures outlined in Section IIIG.4. of this policy.
- b.** If the faculty member is reappointed to a second two-year probationary term, at least twelve (12) months prior to the expiration of the assistant professor's term, the assistant professor shall be notified of one of the following:
 - (i) a decision to recommend that the faculty member be reappointed to a three-year probationary term; or
 - (ii) a decision to recommend that the faculty member be reappointed with tenure at the same or higher rank; or
 - (iii) a decision not to recommend reappointment to a three-year probationary term. A decision not to reappoint shall be made in accordance with the procedures outlined in Section IIIG.4. of this policy.
- c.** If the faculty member is reappointed to a three-year probationary term, at least twelve (12) months prior to the expiration of the assistant professor's term, the assistant professor shall be notified of one of the following:
 - (i) a decision to recommend that the faculty member be reappointed with tenure at the rank of associate professor; or
 - (ii) a decision not to recommend reappointment with permanent tenure. A decision not to reappoint shall be made in accordance with the procedures outlined in Section IIIG.4. of this policy.
- d.** If the department/school has fewer than three (3) tenured faculty members to give a representative view of departmental/school opinion, the department chair or the associate dean of a school (hereinafter referred to as "academic unit head") - shall select additional tenured faculty members from another academic department/school within the department's/school's _college.

- e. Failure to give the required notice of a decision not to reappoint has the same effect as a decision to offer a terminal appointment for one academic year at the same rank. The decisions herein required shall be made as provided in Section III (F) of these policies.
- f. If an untenured assistant professor declines the review for reappointment to an additional probationary term or reappointment with tenure, as required in sections (a), (b) and (c) above, the faculty member shall write to the academic unit head _ in advance of the review period indicating that s/he will not prepare any materials for review and that s/he understands that employment will end at the conclusion of the current term appointment. Failure to participate in the review, as specified above, will be deemed to constitute the resignation and withdrawal of any request for reappointment at the end of the current probationary term. The academic unit head _ shall acknowledge the resignation and withdrawal in writing, with a copy to the dean and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

2. Associate Professor

The rank of associate professor is appropriate for an individual whose professional credentials warrant such an appointment. With appropriate justification, an initial appointment at the rank of associate professor may be with permanent tenure.

- a. The initial appointment to the rank of associate professor shall be for a probationary term of two (2) years. During the second year of continuous service at the University, the associate professor shall be given not less than 90 calendar days' written notice prior to the expiration of the associate professor's initial two-year probationary term. The associate professor shall be notified of one of the following:
 - (i) a decision to recommend that the faculty member be reappointed to a three-year probationary term or
 - (ii) a decision to recommend that the faculty member be reappointed with permanent tenure at the **same or higher rank** or
 - (iii) a decision not to recommend reappointment to a three-year probationary term. A decision not to reappoint shall be made in accordance with the procedures outlined in Section III G.4. of this policy.
- b. If the faculty member is reappointed to a three-year probationary term, at least twelve (12) months prior to the expiration of the associate professor's term, the associate professor shall be notified of one of the following:
 - (i) a decision to recommend that the faculty member be reappointed with tenure at **same or higher rank** or
 - (ii) a decision not to recommend reappointment with permanent tenure. A decision not to reappoint shall be made in accordance with the procedures outlined in Section III G.4. of this policy.
- c. If the department/school has fewer than three tenured faculty members to give a representative view of departmental/school opinion, the academic unit head shall select additional tenured faculty members from another academic department/school within the department's/school's _ college to participate in the development of a recommendation.

- d. Failure to give the required notice of a decision not to reappoint has the same effect as a decision to offer a terminal appointment for one academic year at the same rank. The decisions herein required shall be made as provided in Section III.F. of these policies.
- e. After the faculty member completes his or her initial two-year term, the faculty member may apply for tenure or promotion. A promotion at any time from the rank of associate professor to that of professor confers permanent tenure. Tenure must be finally approved by the President of The University of North Carolina unless the faculty member has previously been granted tenure. In such a case, final approval of a promotion will be made by the Trustees.

E. TENURE UPON APPOINTMENT

Faculty members whose professional credentials warrant that they be recommended for tenure, upon appointment, are not required to serve a period of probationary service prior to being recommended for tenure. Such individuals may be appointed to professorial ranks of associate professor or professor.

F. SPECIAL (FIXED-TERM) FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

1. General Provision

Faculty members who are appointed as visiting faculty members, adjunct faculty, lecturers, artists-in-residence, writers-in-residence, clinical faculty, or other special categories are regarded as “special faculty members.” Special faculty members may be paid or unpaid.

a. Paid Special Faculty Appointments

Beginning for appointments effective on or after the fall 2026 academic year, full-time faculty who are paid and appointed for a specified term of service **of one year or less** may only be appointed to three consecutive one-year terms, unless approved by the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (Provost)

The term of appointment of any paid Special Faculty member concludes at the end of the specified period set forth in the fixed-term contract. Each fixed-term contract is considered an initial appointment and not a reappointment, except as noted below for instructors. Appointments may be for a fixed term of from one to three years. The University is not obligated to give any notice before a current fixed-term contract expires for the fixed-term contract constitutes full and timely notice that a new term will not be granted when that term expires. Fixed-term appointments do not lead to the consideration of the individual for the conferral of permanent tenure or for promotion.

b. Unpaid Special Faculty Appointments

Special Faculty who are not paid may be appointed for a specified term of service or at-will. Their appointment and non-pay status shall be set out in a letter of appointment.

2. Classifications of Special (Fixed-Term) Appointments

Fixed-term appointments may be made to the following Special Faculty classifications:

a. Adjunct, Lecturer, Clinical, Part-time, Artist in Residence, Writer in Residence

An appointment, using any of the foregoing descriptions or title designations, is appropriate for one who has qualifications for teaching, research, academic administration, or public service but for whom neither the professorial ranks nor the instructor rank is appropriate.

b. Instructor

The instructor rank is reserved for assistant-professor candidates who are completing terminal-degree requirements. An instructor shall be appointed for a period of one year and may be reappointed successively in the same rank for a maximum of two additional one-year terms. Upon the recommendation of the academic unit head, an instructor's rank may be changed to assistant professor at the beginning of the academic year following the completion of the terminal-degree requirements. If an instructor is appointed to the rank of assistant professor, the time served as instructor shall not be counted as part of the probationary service toward the attainment of permanent tenure.

c. Visiting Faculty

Persons other than regular members of the faculty may be appointed as visiting members of the faculty with rank designations, prefixed by the word "visiting." The rank designation shall be appropriate to the individual's status in his or her regular employment.

d. Affiliate Faculty

Honorary academic titles may be conferred to outstanding individuals who have primary employment responsibility outside the University but provide professional expertise or contributions to an academic program. These unpaid faculty roles are not eligible for permanent tenure and shall not be entitled to any rights under this Policy.

3. Participation in Faculty Governance

Full-time, paid Special Faculty appointed for at least one year and whose appointments become effective on or after July 1, 2026 are eligible as follows:

- a. Eligible to participate in faculty elections, as well as to be elected or appointed to University faculty governance bodies and University-wide faculty committees, except that any committee required to be established by the University in accordance with procedures under section 603 of the Code may be restricted to tenured and/or tenure-track faculty.

- b. Eligible to participate in academic unit meetings, academic unit committees, and to vote on matters in the faculty members' academic unit, except that any vote on whether to confer tenure upon a faculty member may be restricted to tenured faculty.
- c. Eligible to participate in faculty awards for which the Special Faculty member qualifies.

4. Grievances

During the term of their employment, specialty faculty members are entitled to seek recourse under Section IX of this Policy (relating to faculty grievances).

Special Faculty, whether paid or unpaid, are not covered by Section VI of this Policy or Section 604 of *The Code*, and these sections do not accord such faculty members rights to additional review of a decision by the University not to grant a new appointment at the end of their specified fixed term.

G. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Confidentiality

Any deliberations by a department/school or college review committee concerning an appointment, reappointment, promotion, or the conferral of permanent tenure for a particular faculty member shall be held in closed session, with only those present whom the committee deems necessary to its deliberations.

All documents submitted or created in connection with the process of review for appointment, reappointment, promotion, or the conferral of permanent tenure, and the information contained therein, as well as information derived from any discussions that are part of the formal review, are considered confidential personnel information. All persons participating in the process of review for initial appointment, reappointment, promotion, or the conferral of permanent tenure shall treat such information as confidential. Such confidential records and information shall not be disclosed to or discussed with any person except: (1) review committee members; (2) those persons required or permitted to be consulted in accord with the requirements of university policies; or (4) those persons permitted access to such documents by law. Violation of this section may expose any faculty member, including an administrator, to the imposition of serious sanctions.

2. Terms and Conditions of Appointment

- a. The general terms and conditions of each appointment and each reappointment to the faculty shall be conveyed in writing. A copy of the terms signed by the chancellor and faculty member shall be delivered to the faculty member, and the VCAA shall retain a copy. Any other terms and conditions shall be either set out in the document of appointment or incorporated therein by clear reference to specified documents that shall be readily available to the faculty member. Each document of appointment shall state that the appointment is subject to these tenure policies and regulations and the *Code*.
- b. Any special terms and conditions shall be clearly stated in the written appointment. Except as herein provided, no special terms or conditions may be included that

vary with the general terms and conditions stated herein. The responsibility for initiating the inclusion of special terms and conditions in documents of appointment shall be with the academic unit head_ who recommends the appointment.

3. **Review and Approval of Tenure, Promotions, and Reappointments**

Each promotion in rank and each reappointment of an assistant professor, associate professor, or professor, whether or not the reappointment recommends the conferral of permanent tenure, shall be initiated by recommendation of the departmental/school tenured faculty.

a. Departmental/School Recommendations

The academic unit head_ shall cause to be assembled the Departmental/School Tenured Faculty Committee (“DTFC”). The DTFC shall be composed of all tenured faculty in the department/school who shall review requests for reappointment, promotion, and/or permanent tenure. If the department/school has fewer than three (3) tenured faculty members to give a representative view of departmental/school opinion, the academic unit head_ shall select additional tenured faculty members from another academic department/school within the department’s/school’s _college to participate in the development of a recommendation.

- (i) The DTFC shall select a committee coordinator who shall conduct meetings and be responsible for communicating recommendations to the academic unit head_.
- (ii) The academic unit head_ shall forward the DTFC’s recommendation together with her or his recommendation to the dean.

b. College- Recommendations

Annually, the chairperson of the faculty senate shall ensure that an election is held for the selection of the members of the College- Tenured Faculty Committee (“CTFC”). The CTFC shall be composed of one (1) tenured faculty member from each department/school and one (1) tenured associate professor and one (1) tenured professor within the college-. The CTFC shall review requests for reappointment, promotion, or permanent tenure. If there are no tenured faculty members in a department/school, then the department/school will have no representation on the CTFC. The CTFC shall select a committee coordinator who shall conduct the meetings and be responsible for communicating the CTFC’s recommendations to the dean. The members of the committee shall serve three-year terms and may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms. Members shall serve overlapping terms. All terms shall commence on August 1. For the first election, one-third (1/3) of the committee members shall be elected to a one-year term; one-third (1/3) to a two (year term; and one-third (1/3) to a three-year term.

- (i) Upon receipt of the recommendations from the academic unit head-, the dean shall cause to be assembled the CTFC who shall review requests for

reappointment, promotion, or permanent tenure. Upon the completion of its review, the CTFC shall forward its recommendations to the dean.

- (ii) Once the dean has received the CTFC's recommendations, the dean shall forward all recommendations received, together with her or his recommendation to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs ("VCAA").

c. VCAA/Chancellor Recommendations

The VCAA shall attach her or his recommendation and then forward all recommendations to the Chancellor. If the Chancellor concurs in a recommendation that will confer permanent tenure, s/he shall consult with the Trustees and, unless dissuaded, forward the recommendation to the President of the University of North Carolina for final approval. All other favorable recommendations by the Chancellor in regard to reappointments and promotions shall be forwarded by the Chancellor to the Trustees for final approval unless the Trustees delegate such authority to the Chancellor.

d. Communication of a Recommendation/Final Decision

Each recommendation and the final decision shall be communicated for information through the channels prescribed for review. The communication shall be in the form of a simple, unelaborated written statement. A copy of the communication shall be provided to the affected faculty member.

4. Decision Not to Reappoint Upon Expiration of Probationary Terms

- a. A decision not to reappoint upon the expiration of a probationary term, except as provided in paragraph d. below, shall not be made until the faculty member has received two (2) negative decisions from two of the following five groups or individuals: DTFC, academic unit head-, CTFC, dean and VCAA.
- b. The process shall begin with the review by the DTFC, followed by reviews by the academic unit head-, CTFC, dean, and VCAA. When there have been two (2) negative decisions, the review process shall cease and the decision not to reappoint shall be final except as it may be later reviewed in accordance with the provisions of Section V. The administrator or committee coordinator who made the second negative decision shall notify the faculty member of the decision not to reappoint by a simple unelaborated statement. Such statement shall be provided to the faculty member within five (5) days¹ of the administrator's or committee coordinator's decision. Each decision not to reappoint shall be communicated for information through the same administrative channels prescribed for review had the decision been to reappoint.
- c. If the initial decision not to reappoint is made by the chancellor, the faculty member who is not to be reappointed may seek review of that decision in accordance with the procedure set out in Section 604D. of The *Code*.

¹ Wherever it is used in this document, except when calendar day is specified, the word "day" shall mean any day except Saturday, Sunday, or an institutional holiday. In computing any period of time, the day in which notice is received is not counted but the last day of the period being computed is to be counted.

5. Continued Availability of Special Funding

- a. The appointment, reappointment, or promotion of a faculty member to a position funded in whole or in substantial part from sources other than continuing state-budget funds or permanent-trust funds shall specify in writing that the continuance of the faculty member's services, whether for a specified term or for permanent tenure, shall be contingent upon the continuing availability of such funds. The following exceptions to the foregoing contingency requirements may be made:
 - (i) That such a contingency shall not be included in a promotion to a higher rank if, before the effective date of that promotion, the faculty member had permanent tenure and no such condition was attached to the tenure; or
 - (ii) That such a contingency shall not be attached to the faculty member's contract if the faculty member held permanent tenure at the University on July 1, 1975 and her or his contract was not then contingent upon the continuing availability of sources other than continuing state-budget or permanent-trust funds.
- b. If a faculty member's appointment is terminated because of the non-availability of these funds, every reasonable effort will be made to give notice as set forth in Section VII.B.2.a. This notice shall include the pertinent data upon which the termination is based.

6. Provision for Less Than Full-Time Employment

- a. Special terms for less than full-time employment with commensurate compensation, or for relief from all employment obligations for a specified period, may be included in an appointment or reappointment to any faculty rank or may be added by a written amendment during the term of an appointment. Except as may be otherwise expressly provided in the documents of appointment, all appointments to any faculty rank are on the basis of a full-time employment obligation and confer the full incidents of academic tenure pertinent to the particular appointment.
- b. These provisions do not apply to informal temporary adjustments of the regularly assigned duties of faculty members by the academic unit head- who is responsible for their direct supervision or to the university's granting of extended leaves of absence with or without compensation.

7. Resignation

A faculty member shall give prompt written notice of her or his resignation with its effective date to the academic unit head-.

**SECTION IV
NON-DISCIPLINARY SEPARATION**

A non-disciplinary separation of a faculty member with permanent tenure or a faculty member appointed to a specified term of service before the term expires may occur under the conditions described below.

A. MEDICAL CONDITION OR VAGUENESS OF A MEDICAL PROGNOSIS

The faculty member is unable to perform the essential functions of the job due to a medical condition or the vagueness of a medical prognosis and the University and the faculty member are unable to reach agreement on a return-to-work arrangement that meets both the needs of the University and the faculty member's condition, and the University has demonstrated a business or operational need to fill the faculty member's position; or

B. COURT ORDER OR LOSS OF CREDENTIALS OR CERTIFICATION

Notwithstanding any unexhausted leave credits and leave benefits, the faculty member is unable to perform all of the position's essential duties due to a court order, or due to the loss of credentials or certification required for the position and that would render the faculty member unable to perform all of the essential functions of the job.

A separation under this Section is not considered to be disciplinary. A faculty member may file a grievance pursuant to Section IX with respect to a non-disciplinary separation. In the event that such a grievance is filed, the burden shall be on the University (rather than the grievant) to demonstrate that the faculty member was unavailable based on one of the grounds listed above and that the University took reasonable steps to avoid separation.

**SECTION V
DISCIPLINARY DISCHARGE, SUSPENSION OR DEMOTION**

A. A faculty member who is the beneficiary of institutional guarantees of academic tenure shall enjoy protection against unjust and arbitrary application of formal discharge, suspension, or demotion. During the period of such guarantees the faculty member may be discharged from employment, suspended without pay, or demoted in rank for the following reasons:

1. incompetence, including significant, sustained unsatisfactory performance after the faculty member has been given an opportunity to remedy such performance and fails to do so within a reasonable time;
2. neglect of duty, including but not limited to, the sustained failure to: meet assigned classes, respond to communications from individuals within the faculty member's supervisory chain, report to their employment assignment and by continuing to be absent for fourteen (14) consecutive calendar days without being excused by their supervisor, or to perform other essential duties of their position; or
3. misconduct of such a nature as to indicate that the individual is unfit to continue as a member of the faculty, including violations of professional ethics or engaging in other unethical conduct; violation of university policy or law; mistreatment of students or employees; research misconduct; financial or other fraud; or criminal, or other illegal or inappropriate conduct. To justify formal discharge, suspension or demotion, such misconduct should be either (a) sufficiently related to a faculty member's responsibilities as to disqualify the individual from effective performance of job duties, or (b) sufficiently serious as to adversely reflect on the individual's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness to be a faculty member.

Formal discharge, suspension or demotion may be imposed only in accordance with the procedures prescribed in this Section. For purposes of this Section, a faculty member serving a stated term shall be regarded as having tenure until the end of that term. Additionally, for purposes of this Section, a demotion as defined in this Section shall not include a demotion that results in the loss of a faculty member's tenure

These procedures shall not apply to non-reappointments, denial of tenure and denial of promotion (Section VI), grievances (Section IX), or separations due to financial exigency or program curtailment (Section VIII) or any other lesser employment action that is not a formal discharge, suspension, or demotion.

B. IMPOSITION OF DISCHARGE, SUSPENSION OR DEMOTION PROCEDURES

1. The Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (Provost) shall send the faculty member a written statement of intention to discharge, suspend, or demote a faculty member. The notice shall be provided in such a manner that provides proof of delivery and include the following:

- a. the proposed date of discharge, suspension, or demotion;
- b. specific reasons for discharge, suspension, or demotion;
- c. the faculty member's right to request a disciplinary hearing; and
- d. the deadline and process for the faculty member to request a disciplinary hearing in writing.

At any point during these procedures, the Chancellor or Provost shall have the discretion to either reassign the faculty member to other duties or to place the faculty member on administrative leave with pay. Reassignment or placement of a faculty member on administrative leave with pay shall not be considered a disciplinary action.

2. If, within fourteen (14) calendar days after receiving notice, the faculty member makes no written request for a disciplinary hearing, the discharge, suspension or demotion shall be final and without recourse to any University grievance or appellate procedure.

3. If the faculty member makes a timely written request for a disciplinary hearing, the Chancellor shall ensure that the hearing is accorded before the H&R Committee. The hearing shall be on the written specification of reasons for the discharge, suspension or demotion. The H&R Committee shall accord the faculty member at least thirty (30) calendar days from the time it receives the faculty member's written request for a disciplinary hearing. The H&R Committee may, upon the faculty member's written request and for good cause, extend any University imposed deadline by written notice to the faculty member. The H&R Committee should endeavor to complete the hearing within ninety (90) calendar days, except under unusual circumstances such as when a disciplinary hearing request is received during official University breaks and holidays and despite reasonable efforts the H&R Committee cannot be assembled.²

4. The disciplinary hearing shall be closed to the public. The faculty member shall have the right to legal counsel, to present the testimony of witnesses and other evidence, to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses, and to examine all documents and other evidence. A

²To meet this deadline, the H & R Committee is encouraged to consider scheduling hearings during the evening, weekend, or other non-class time. It is strongly recommended that several days and times be established for the hearing when scheduling the first day, for the eventuality that the hearing may require two or more sessions.

written transcript of all proceedings shall be kept; upon request, a copy of the transcript shall be furnished to the faculty member at the University's expense.

5. The Provost, or designee, and/or legal counsel, may participate in the disciplinary hearing to present evidence, cross-examine witnesses, examine all documents and other evidence, and to make arguments.
6. The H&R Committee shall make written recommendations to the Chancellor within fourteen (14) calendar days after its hearing concludes or after the full transcript is received, whichever is later. In reaching its written recommendations to the Chancellor, the H&R Committee shall consider only the evidence presented at the disciplinary hearing and such written or oral arguments as the H&R Committee, in its discretion, may allow. The University has the burden to prove by a showing of “clear and convincing” evidence that it had permissible grounds for the discharge, suspension, or demotion.
7. Following receipt of the H&R Committee’s written recommendations, the decision as to whether to discharge, suspend, or demote the faculty member is the Chancellor’s and shall be effective as of the date of the Chancellor’s decision and the University’s obligation to continue paying the faculty member’s salary shall cease upon issuance of the chancellor’s decision. If the Chancellor decides to discharge, suspend, or demote the faculty member, the faculty member may appeal the decision to the Trustees.

C. APPEALS OF DECISION IMPOSING DISCHARGE, SUSPENSION OR DISCHARGE

If the faculty member elects to appeal the Chancellor’s decision to the Trustees, this appeal shall be transmitted through the Chancellor and be addressed to the Trustees’ Chair. Notice of appeal shall be filed with the Trustees by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by another means that provides proof of delivery, within fourteen (14) calendar days after the faculty member receives the Chancellor's decision.

An appeal must contain a brief statement that alleges one or more of the following as the basis for the appeal:

1. that the process for making the decision was materially flawed;
2. that the result reached by the Chancellor was clearly erroneous; or
3. that the decision was contrary to controlling law or policy.

The appeal to the Trustees shall be decided by the full Board of Trustees. However, the Trustees may delegate the duty of conducting an initial review to a standing or ad hoc committee of at least three (3) members. The Trustees, or its committee, shall consider the appeal based on the record of the proceedings, and may, in its discretion, consider written or oral arguments, subject to any policies, regulations or guidelines as may be adopted by the Board of Governors, president, or Trustees. The Trustees' decision shall be made as soon as reasonably possible after the Chancellor has received the faculty member's appeal to the Trustees. This decision shall conclude the University’s appeals process.

Any appeal of a decision imposing discharge, suspension or demotion shall be in accordance with the *Appellate Policy and Procedures of the FSU Board of Trustees*.

SECTION VI
NON-REAPPOINTMENT, DENIAL OF TENURE AND DENIAL OF PROMOTION

A. DECISIONS SUBJECT TO NOTICE

The following faculty employment decisions are subject to notice as provided by this section:

1. Decision not to reappoint a tenure track faculty member after the initial contract period (“Non-Reappointment”);
2. Decision not to confer tenure to a tenure track faculty member (“Denial of Tenure”); and
3. Decision not to promote in rank a tenure track faculty member or a tenured faculty member (“Denial of Promotion”).

B. NOTICE OF DECISIONS

Notice of decisions made in accordance with this Section shall be made as follows:

1. Non-Reappointment

For a non-reappointment of a tenure track faculty member, the faculty employment decision shall be made by the appropriate institutional faculty and administrative officers early enough to permit reasonable notice to be given. For a full time, tenure track faculty member, timely notice shall be as follows:

- a. During the first year of service at the University, the faculty member shall be given not less than 60 calendar days’ written notice before the specified term contract expires;
- b. During the second year of continuous service at the University, the faculty member shall be given not less than 90 calendar days’ written notice before the specified term contract expires; and
- c. After two or more years of continuous service at the University, the faculty member shall be given not less than 12 months’ written notice before the specified term contract expires.

2. Denial of Tenure

For denial of tenure the faculty member shall be given not less than 12 months’ written notice before the faculty member’s appointment expires.

3. Denial of Promotion

For denial of promotion in rank, the faculty member shall be given written notice within a reasonable time following the final faculty employment decision not to promote.

C. REVIEW OF DECISIONS

1. Time-Frame

A faculty member seeking a review shall have 30 calendar days, upon receiving of a decision, to request a review on the grounds that the faculty employment decision was

based on an Impermissible Basis (as defined herein). The request for review must be in accordance with the process outlined in Section VI of this Policy.

If the faculty member does not request review of the decision within the 30-calendar day timeframe (timeframe), the faculty member's employment shall be terminated at the date specified in the notice and without recourse to any further review or appeal.

2. Request for Review

A request for review by a faculty member to the Hearing and Reconsideration Committee (H & R Committee) shall be written, addressed to the chairperson of the H&R Committee, and made in accordance with the timeframe noted above. The request shall specify the grounds upon which the faculty member contends that the decision was impermissibly based.

The University and faculty member should endeavor to complete the review within 90 days from the request for review.

3. H&R Committee's Review

Review of the faculty members' request shall be conducted in accordance with the process outlined in the document entitled *Procedures for the Conduct of Hearings in Non-Reappointment Cases*.

4. Impermissible Basis

A decision under this Section shall not be based upon (1) the exercise by the faculty member of rights guaranteed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, or by Article I of the North Carolina Constitution; (2) the faculty member's membership in a group protected from discrimination under state or federal law; (3) other violation of state or federal law; or (4) material violation of applicable university policies for reappointment, promotion, and tenure that materially affected the decision

5. Burden of Proof

The faculty member shall have the burden to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the decision was based on an Impermissible Basis as defined below.

6. H&R Committee Recommendation

The H&R Committee shall advise the Chancellor, in writing, whether or not the faculty member has met the burden of proof. In providing its findings to the Chancellor, the H&R Committee shall consider only the evidence presented by the faculty member and a representative(s) of the University who made the decision and the written record of the decision. The H&R Committee may submit a report to the Chancellor which includes not only its findings, but also any recommendation(s).

D. CHANCELLOR’S DECISION

If the Chancellor concurs in a recommendation of the H&R Committee that is favorable to the faculty member, the Chancellor’s decision shall be final with no appeal available. If the Chancellor either declines to accept a H&R Committee’s recommendation that is favorable to the faculty member or concurs in a H&R Committee’s recommendation that is unfavorable to the faculty member, the faculty member may appeal the Chancellor’s decision by filing a written notice of appeal with the University’s Board of Trustees.

The Chancellor shall notify the faculty member and relevant administrators of the Chancellor’s decision in writing.

E. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A faculty member may appeal the Chancellor’s unfavorable decision to the University’s Board of Trustees by filing a written notice of appeal. The notice of appeal must be submitted through the Chancellor and be addressed to the Chair of the Board of Trustees, within 14 calendar days after the faculty member’s receipt of the Chancellor’s decision. The notice must be submitted by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by another means that provides proof of delivery

The notice must contain a brief statement that alleges one or more of the following as the basis for the appeal:

- that the campus-based process for reviewing the decision was materially flawed;
- that the result reached by the chancellor was clearly erroneous; or
- that the decision was contrary to controlling law or policy.

An appeal of the Chancellor’s decision to the Board of Trustees must adhere to the *Board of Trustees Appellate Policy and Procedures*.

**SECTION VII
SEPARATION DUE TO FINANCIAL EXIGENCY OR PROGRAM CURTAILMENT**

A. REASONS JUSTIFYING TERMINATION AND CONSULTATION REQUIRED

1. Reasons for Terminating Employment

The employment of a faculty member with permanent tenure or of a faculty member appointed to a fixed or probationary term may be terminated by the University because of the following:

- a. demonstrable, bona fide institutional financial exigency; or
- b. major curtailment or elimination of a teaching, research, or public service program.

“Financial exigency” is defined as a significant decline in the financial resources of the University that is brought about by decline in institutional enrollment or by other action or events that compel a reduction in the University’s current operations budget. The determination of whether a condition of financial exigency exists or whether there shall be a major curtailment or elimination of a teaching, research, or public service program shall be made by the chancellor after consulting with the academic administrative officers and faculties as required by Section VII.A(2). This determination is subject to concurrence by

the president and approval by the UNC Board of Governors. If the financial exigency or curtailment or elimination of a program is such that the University's contractual obligation to a faculty member cannot be met, the employment of the faculty member may be terminated in accordance with the institutional procedures set out in subsection B below.

2. **Consultation with Faculty and Administrative Officers**

When it appears that the University will experience an institutional financial exigency or when it is considering a major curtailment in or elimination of a teaching, research, or public service program, the Chancellor or the Chancellor's delegate shall first seek the advice and recommendations of the academic administrative officers and faculties of the departments or other units that might be affected.

B. TERMINATION PROCEDURE

1. **Considerations in Determining Whose Employment is to be Terminated**

In determining which faculty member's employment is to be terminated for the reasons set forth in subsection Section VII.A(1), consideration shall be given to tenure status, to years of service to the University, and to other factors deemed relevant, but the primary consideration shall be the maintenance of a sound and balanced educational program that is consistent with the functions and responsibilities of the University.

2. **Timely Notice of Termination**

a. **Curtailment or Elimination of a Program.** When a faculty member's employment is to be terminated because of major curtailment or elimination of a teaching, research, or public service program and such curtailment or elimination of program is not due to financial exigency, the faculty member shall be given timely notice as follows:

- (i) One who has permanent tenure shall be given not less than twelve (12) months' notice; and
- (ii) One who was appointed to a tenure-track position and does not have permanent tenure shall be given notice in accordance with the requirements specified in Section VI.B.1.

b. **Financial Exigency.** When a faculty member's employment is to be terminated because of financial exigency, the University shall make every reasonable effort consistent with the need to maintain sound educational programs and within the limits of available resources to give the same notice as set forth in Section VII.B.2.

3. **Type of Notice to be Given**

The Provost shall send the faculty member whose employment is to be terminated a written statement of this fact by a method of delivery that requires a signature for delivery. This notice shall include a statement of the conditions requiring termination of the faculty member's employment; a general description of the procedures followed in making the decision; and a disclosure of pertinent financial or other data upon which the decision was based.

This notice shall also include a statement of the faculty member's right, upon request, to a reconsideration of the decision by the H&R Committee if the faculty member alleges that the decision to terminate the faculty member was arbitrary or capricious. This reconsideration shall be limited solely to determining whether the decision to terminate was arbitrary or capricious.

4. Faculty Assistance

- a. The University, when requested in writing by a faculty member whose employment has been terminated, shall give the faculty member reasonable assistance in finding other employment.
- b. For two (2) years after the effective date of termination of a faculty member's contract for any of the reasons specified in Section VII.A., the University shall not replace the faculty member without first offering the position to the faculty member whose employment was terminated. The offer shall be made in such a manner that provides proof of delivery to the address last given by the faculty member, and the faculty member shall have thirty (30) calendar days, calculated from the date of attempted delivery of the notice, to accept the offer.

D. RECONSIDERATION

1. Request for Reconsideration

Within ten (10) days after receiving the notice required by Section VI.B.3., the faculty member may request, by a manner that provides proof of deliver, a reconsideration of the decision to terminate the faculty member's employment if the faculty member alleges that the decision was arbitrary or capricious.

The request for review by the H&R Committee shall be written and addressed to the chairperson of the committee. The request shall specify the grounds (arbitrary or capricious) upon which the faculty member contends that the decision to terminate the faculty member's employment was based.

2. Termination If Reconsideration Not Requested

If, within ten calendar (10) days after the faculty member receives the termination notice required by Section VII.B.3., the faculty member makes no written request for a reconsideration hearing, the faculty member's employment shall be terminated on the date specified in the notice without recourse to any further review or appeal.

3. Committee's Determination

If the H&R Committee determines that the faculty member's contention has not been established, it shall, by a simple unelaborated statement, so notify the faculty member and the Provost. Such a determination confirms the decision to terminate the faculty member's employment. If the H&R Committee determines that the faculty member's contention has been satisfactorily established, it shall submit a report to the Chancellor containing the committee's findings and recommendations.

4. Chancellor's Decision

If the Chancellor concurs in a recommendation of the H&R Committee that is favorable to the faculty member, the Chancellor's decision shall be final with no appeal available. If the Chancellor either declines to accept the H&R Committee's recommendation that is favorable to the faculty member or concurs in a H&R Committee's recommendation that is unfavorable to the faculty member, the faculty member may appeal the Chancellor's decision by filing a written notice of appeal with the University's Board of Trustees.

The Chancellor shall notify, in writing, the faculty member and relevant administrators of the Chancellor's decision.

5. Appeal

A faculty member may appeal the Chancellor's unfavorable decision to the University's Board of Trustees by filing a written notice of appeal. The notice of appeal must be submitted through the Chancellor and be addressed to the Chair of the Board of Trustees, within 14 calendar days after the faculty member's receipt of the Chancellor's decision. The notice must be submitted by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by another means that provides proof of delivery. An appeal of the Chancellor's decision to the Board of Trustees must adhere to the *Board of Trustees Appellate Policy and Procedures*.

**SECTION VIII
SEPARATION DUE TO RETIREMENT**

Faculty may retire in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 135 of the North Carolina General Statutes. Tenure ceases on the effective date of retirement or resignation.

**SECTION IX
FACULTY GRIEVANCE PROCESS**

- A. Section 607 of the Code of the University of North Carolina provides a process for faculty members to seek redress concerning employment-related grievances. The function of the grievance procedure is to attempt to reach a consensual resolution of the dispute and, if that fails, to determine whether the contested decision was materially flawed, in violation of applicable policies, standards or procedures. The grievance process is not intended to second-guess the professional judgment of officers and colleagues responsible for making administrative decisions.
- B. Grievances shall include matters directly related to a faculty member's terms and conditions of employment. Grievances must be based upon a decision made by an administrator in a supervisory role over the faculty member. The grievance must allege that the decision was in violation of federal or state law, or UNC Policy or Regulation, or University policy or regulation and that the faculty member was negatively affected by such decision. However, a grievance may not be considered if such is subject to Section 603, Section 604, or Section 605 of *The Code*, or a matter that is not grievable as defined in UNC Policy 101.3.1.3[R].

- C. The faculty grievance process is a process available to current members of the faculty of the university. A faculty member whose employment ends during the pendency of a grievance proceeding is not entitled to continue to pursue the grievance. If the employment of a faculty member is terminated after the grievance is filed, the chancellor may, however, in the chancellor's discretion, determine that it is in the best interest of the University to continue the grievance process.
- D. As a prerequisite to accessing the formal grievance process outlined in Section 607 of the *Code*, a faculty member must utilize the mediation process delineated in the university's *Mediation Policy for Faculty and EHRA- Non-Faculty Employees*. Following the termination of mediation for any reason other than a settlement, the faculty member will have twenty (20) days to petition the Grievance Committee for redress.
- E. In petitioning the Grievance Committee for redress, the faculty member shall set forth in writing the nature of the grievance and against whom the grievance is directed. It shall contain any information that the faculty member considers pertinent to the case. The Grievance Committee shall decide whether the facts fall within this Policy such that the grievance is reviewable by the Grievance Committee. Submission of a grievance shall not result automatically in consideration or review of the grievance.

If, after reviewing the petition, the Grievance Committee determines that a hearing should not be granted, it shall so advise the faculty member, the dean, academic unit head-, or other respondent administrator and the chancellor. If a decision is made to grant a hearing, the process outlined for conducting a hearing in the *Procedures for the Conduct of Hearings in Faculty Grievance Cases* shall be followed.

- F. In order to prevail in the grievance process, a faculty member must establish that the faculty member experienced a remediable injury attributable to the alleged violation of a right or privilege based on federal or state law, university policies or regulations, or commonly shared understandings within the academic community about the rights, privileges and responsibilities attending university employment.
- G. **PROCEDURES FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THE HEARING**

1. Grievance Committee's Decision

If, after hearing the matter, the Grievance Committee determines that no adjustment in favor of the faculty member is appropriate, it shall so advise the faculty member, the dean, department chair, or other respondent administrator and the chancellor. If, after hearing the matter, the Grievance Committee determines that an adjustment in favor of the aggrieved faculty member is appropriate, the Grievance Committee shall so advise the faculty member, department chair, dean or other respondent administrator. If the relevant administrator does not make the recommended adjustment or a different adjustment satisfactory to the faculty member, within a reasonable period of time, the Grievance Committee shall advise the chancellor of its recommendation that an adjustment is appropriate.

2. The Chancellor's Decision

The chancellor shall base his or her decision on the recommendation of the Grievance Committee and the record from the faculty grievance hearing. The chancellor may, in his

or her discretion, consult with the Grievance Committee before making a decision. The decision of the chancellor is the final administrative decision. The chancellor shall notify the faculty member and the respondent administrator in writing of the chancellor's decision. The notification shall include a notice of appeal rights, if any, and, if the decision is appealable, it shall contain the information specified in paragraph VII. F. 3. below.

3. Notice of Appeal Rights

A faculty member who has adequate grounds for appeal may appeal the chancellor's decision to the Board of Trustees. The chancellor's notice to the faculty member of the decision concerning the faculty member's case shall inform the faculty member: (a) of the time limit within which the faculty member may file a notice of appeal with the chancellor requesting review by the Board of Trustees, (b) that a simple written notice of appeal with a brief statement of its basis is all that is required within the fourteen (14) calendar day period and, (c) that, thereafter, a detailed schedule for the submission of relevant documents will be established if such notice of appeal is received in a timely manner. The notice of the decision shall be conveyed to the faculty member by a method of mail or delivery that requires a signature for delivery.

4. Grievance Decisions Which May Be Appealed

- a. If the Grievance Committee's decision did not advise that an adjustment in favor of the grievant was appropriate, then the decision of the chancellor is final and may not be appealed.
- b. If neither the relevant administrative official nor the chancellor makes an adjustment that is advised by the Grievance Committee in favor of the aggrieved faculty member, then the faculty member may appeal to the university's Board of Trustees. The decision of the Board of Trustees is final.

5. Appeal to the Board of Trustees

A faculty member who wishes to appeal the chancellor's disposition of his or her grievance must file written notice of appeal with the Board of Trustees, by submitting such notice to the chancellor, by a method of mail or delivery that requires a signature for delivery, within fourteen (14) calendar days after the faculty member's receipt of the chancellor's decision. The notice must contain a brief statement of the basis for the appeal. If the Board agrees to consider the appeal, it will do so on a schedule established by the chancellor, subject to any instructions received from the committee or sub-committee of the Board which has jurisdiction of the subject matter of the appeal. If the faculty member fails to comply with the schedule established for perfecting and processing the appeal, the Board in its discretion may extend the period for complying with the schedule or it may dismiss the appeal. The Board of Trustees will issue its decision as expeditiously as is practical.

**SECTION IX
TENURE POLICY REVIEW**

The Chancellor, or the Chancellor's designee, shall review this Policy periodically, but at least every five (5) years, and shall report to the UNC System President whether or not amendments or revisions are appropriate. The Chancellor shall involve the faculty in this review; however, the Chancellor shall make the final decision regarding any proposed amendments or revisions.