

II-10

Excellence Reviews and Subsequent Merit Reviews (Revised 9/18)

The Excellence Review of a Unit 18 member is intended to determine Continuing Status. Both the Excellence Review and subsequent merit reviews are intended to reward those individuals who meet specified standards of excellence. The retention of these candidates beyond the sixth year is a significant academic personnel action and the criteria and guidelines described herein must be carefully followed in the review process.

I. Requirements for Excellence Reviews and Subsequent Merit Reviews

Employment beyond the sixth year (18 quarters) will occur when two conditions are met:

1. As the result of an Excellence Review the individual under consideration is deemed excellent (Article 7B A4), thus conferring Continuing Status, and
2. Need exists in the 19th quarter (Article 7B A.6)

Article 7B E outlines the criteria and evidence to be considered when evaluating all unit members for a Continuing Appointment through an Excellence Review and for subsequent merit increases.

Evaluations of individual non-senate faculty in the unit for consideration of Continuing Appointments are to be made on the basis of demonstrated excellence in the field and in teaching, academic responsibility and other assigned duties that may include University co-curricular and community service. Reappointment to the senior rank requires, in addition, service of exceptional value to the University.

Article 7B E provides for the following measures of instructional performance:

- (1) Command of the subject matter and continued growth in mastering new topics;
- (2) Ability to organize and present course materials;
- (3) Ability to awaken in students an awareness of the importance of the subject matter;
- (4) Ability to arouse curiosity in beginning students and to stimulate advanced students to do creative work; and
- (5) Achievements of students in their field.

II. Evaluation of Performance

It is the department's responsibility to evaluate Continuing Appointment lecturers every three years. Periodic assessment of lecturers, required for any reappointment prior to the sixth year of service, may take on added significance should the individual later be proposed for a Continuing Appointment. Each department, using standards of excellence appropriate to the particular discipline or subject area should develop systematic methods and criteria for discriminating among levels of performance.

The primary criterion for review will be the demonstrated excellence in teaching. Departments must provide well-documented evidence on which the appraisal of teaching competence has been based. If during the course of the review, or at any other time, the Department Chair determines that based on the evaluation criteria there has been a significant decline in the quality of performance by the Continuing Appointee, the procedures outlined in Article 30 of the MOU must be followed.

III. Review Procedure

Excellence reviews and subsequent merit reviews will be conducted by the department in response to the annual call issued by the office of Academic Personnel. Excellence reviews are to be submitted to the Dean's office based on the schedule provided by Academic Personnel so that the campus review process may be completed by the end of the eighteenth quarter of service. Subsequent merit reviews will occur every three years, with effective dates of July 1. Cases are due to the Dean's office by March 31. A Continuing Appointee may request a one year deferral of the review. Such requests must be made via the Department Chair, to the Dean. Future eligibility for review will be based on the new review date. The department should inform the candidate of internal department deadlines and the opportunity to submit materials to be included in the case. If the candidate does not turn in materials by the departmental due date, the department will conduct the review based on the materials available in the department as of the due date.

Excellence reviews and subsequent merit reviews will be conducted by a departmental committee composed of academic appointees with sufficient knowledge in the field of expertise of the individual being reviewed. In addition, the department will make reasonable efforts to ensure that a qualified non-senate faculty member be a member of each review committee. All such service will be voluntary. If the review is conducted by an ad hoc committee rather than a standing departmental committee, the individual under review will be consulted concerning the non-senate faculty representation. If it is not practical to form a review committee within a department, the committee will be formed at the college level following established procedures. The eligible Senate faculty within the department will vote on the recommendation and provide additional analysis as appropriate.

IV. Documentation of Performance

It is recognized that there is no single standardized form of evaluation that is appropriate for all disciplines or for all courses within any single discipline, and that the most effective assessment of teaching and field supervision will often come from those familiar with the methods and approaches in teaching and field supervision in a given candidate's area of expertise. The following may be used as a basis for evaluation of excellence in teaching and field supervision:

- ESCI forms (required in all Lecturer cases)
- Field Supervision Evaluation Forms (required for all Supervisor of Teacher Education cases)

In addition, at least one of the following:

- Written comments from student evaluations
- Assessment by former students who have achieved notable professional success
- Assessment by other members of the department, or other appropriate faculty members
- Development of new and effective techniques of instruction/field supervision and materials
- Assessment from classroom visitations by colleagues and evaluators.

The individual under review may also provide:

- A self-statement of teaching
- A list of individuals from whom input may be solicited
- Letters of assessment from individuals with expertise in the field
- Evidence of completion of an Instructional Development Teaching Certificate program
- Other relevant materials to the evaluation file

It is the review committee's responsibility to submit analytical statements concerning the candidate's teaching effectiveness. These must be accompanied by evidence from the categories listed above. The review committee should make explicit the criteria it has used for assessing teaching performance.

V. Extramural Evaluations

For the Excellence Review and for promotion to Senior Lecturer, in addition to the materials listed above, the department must submit five or more letters of recommendation. These letters may be of two types:

1. Letters from extramural referees with knowledge of the candidate's professional status and teaching record including former students and graduates who have achieved notable professional success since leaving the university, reviewers who can comment on the candidate's command of the subject and continuous growth in the subject field, or any appropriate referee with knowledge of the candidate's performance.
2. Letters from UCSB Senate faculty or Continuing Lecturers, external to the department, who have conducted peer review of the candidate's teaching. Peer evaluation may include such things as classroom visits or videotaping, commentary on course syllabi, reading assignments, and examinations. Qualitative descriptions and opinions are preferable to quantitative ratings or comparative rankings in peer evaluation of teaching. Such letters are subject to the same redaction and confidentiality policies as extramural letters.

The candidate must be given the opportunity to suggest the names of persons who could be solicited for letters of evaluation, and also to indicate in writing the names of persons who, in the candidate's view, might not objectively evaluate the candidate's qualifications or performance for reasons set forth (which may include "personal reasons"). The candidate should know that a request to exclude certain potential evaluators will become part of the review file and that such requests are made regularly and should in no way jeopardize the candidate's case. Furthermore, such requests are generally honored unless they interfere with proper evaluation.

The sample solicitation letter and confidentiality statement must be used when soliciting letters of evaluation (Red Binder I-49 and I-50). Additional wording may be added describing the criteria that are relevant in a particular candidate's case. If wording is added or changed, Academic Personnel must be consulted regarding the revised language prior to sending the solicitation letter.

VI. Other Evidence

Evidence of curricular development and renewal should be documented. Critical experimentation with materials and methods for teaching improvement, publication of articles, and presentation of papers at professional meetings or workshops may be submitted as evidence of commitment to excellence in teaching.

Evidence of competence in the field, command of the subject and continuous growth in the field may be demonstrated by the candidate's participation in the discipline itself. In certain fields such as art, music, dance, literature, writing, and drama, distinguished creation should receive consideration. In evaluating artistic creativity an attempt should be made to demonstrate the candidate's merit in the light of such criteria as originality, scope, richness, and depth of creative expression. It should be recognized that in music, drama and dance, distinguished performance in design, conducting, and directing is evidence of a candidate's creativity.

VII. Service

It is expected that a lecturer will participate in activities that involve service to the department and the university. The department should make its expectations clear in this area and should take care to include this information in its review of a candidate. Such data might include records of attendance at departmental and other meetings; department assignments undertaken; accessibility to students (office hour

commitments made and kept, independent studies programs directed, student activities sponsored and advised). Any such activities should be noted and evaluated; any such activities that are assigned as part of the candidate's workload should be subjected to a more rigorous evaluation. While every faculty member is expected to have some activity in this area, it should be recognized that the opportunities for such service will vary from lecturer to lecturer. Exceptionally meritorious service should be carefully documented in preparing the recommendation.

Review of individuals for promotion to the Senior Lecturer rank must demonstrate service of exceptional value to the University. Among such activities are governance. Also included are activities that involve member's professional expertise in a context outside the University's environment. Activities in both these areas should be carefully documented.

VIII. Reviewing Agencies

1. The departmental review committee prepares the letter of recommendation after appropriate review has taken place. The letter of recommendation should accurately describe all review committee views including those of dissenting members. The departmental recommendation is determined by vote of the eligible Senate faculty. The department's recommendation, with accompanying material, is sent to the office of the appropriate Dean.
2. The Dean of the appropriate college makes an analysis and recommendation based on the materials and recommendation submitted by the department. In addition to the departmental case, however, the Dean has access to departmental and Dean's recommendations from previous reviews. The Dean has authority on merit cases. For individuals appointed at the College level the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Personnel has authority for the merit review.
3. The Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Personnel has authority for Excellence reviews and promotions to Sr. Lecturer, and may request review by the Committee on Academic Personnel when he or she determines that such a review is necessary for proper evaluation.
4. The final decision in all merit and Excellence reviews is based on the documentation presented in the departmental file, as well as the recommendations of the Dean and the Committee on Academic Personnel (in those cases where CAP is asked to review).
5. Requests for reconsideration of a final decision will be governed by Red Binder I-10.