
A Guide to Tenure, Promotion, and Periodic Review

Prepared by the
Committee on Rank
and Tenure

University of Portland

January, 2015

Introduction

Dear Colleague,

The University of Portland *Academic Administration Manual*, located in the *Faculty Handbook*, governs promotion and tenure, as well as Periodic Review. The *Handbook* can be found on the Faculty Resources page of the University website. All faculty members should familiarize themselves with this material. The primary purposes of the tenure and promotion processes are to strengthen the academic quality of the University as a learning community and to assure scholarly integrity and academic freedom of inquiry. This Guide seeks to clarify these processes.

Candidates for tenure and promotion prepare and submit their files for review. Several individuals and groups add their recommendations to the files, which are forwarded to the Committee on Rank and Tenure. The Committee reviews and evaluates the files, which are central to all deliberations and discussions. The Committee writes a letter for each file with its recommendation, forwarding it with the complete file to the Provost. The Provost reviews each file and forwards a recommendation to the President, who makes the final decision.

The Committee on Rank and Tenure also conducts the periodic review of senior faculty members. Whereas its role regarding decisions on tenure or promotion is purely advisory, the Committee makes the decision regarding the success of a periodic review.

The Committee on Rank and Tenure is organized to represent many disciplines within the University. It comprises seven senior faculty members who are ordinarily appointed on a three-year rotating basis, structured to provide continuity over time.

Faculty members should become familiar with the criteria for promotion and tenure, and with the review process and requirements as soon as possible in their academic careers. *The burden of proof that a candidate has met all criteria rests on the candidate.*

Key documents regarding procedures, policies, standards, criteria, and values have been collected here to guide candidates and evaluators by clarifying the processes and articulating expectations regarding tenure, promotion, and periodic review. If you have any questions on these matters, please do not hesitate to ask any Committee member.

The Committee on Rank and Tenure

January 2015

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To assist faculty members, Department Chairs and Deans in these matters, the Committee on Rank and Tenure has prepared the following documents:

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Further information on tenure, promotion and periodic review is provided in the *Academic Administration Manual* of the University found in the *Faculty Handbook*, on the Faculty Resources page of the University website.

Excerpt from the *Faculty Handbook, Academic Administration Manual*

The qualifications and criteria for considering the granting of advancement in rank and/or tenure are stated in the *Academic Administration Manual*. The Committee on Rank and Tenure is guided by the following in making its recommendations:

a. Teaching

Since excellent teaching is creative, both in teacher and student, there can be a variety of signs of excellence in teaching, such as: presenting subject matter with the clarity that arises from a deepening grasp of the central facts and their vital interplay; exhibiting enthusiastic commitment to seeking, possessing, and sharing knowledge; bringing subject matter, when appropriate, to bear on the present human situation; consciously creating the atmosphere that will draw students on to develop and use their powers of invention and discovery; creating the desire in students for further education.

b. Scholarship

Beyond advanced degrees earned, there must be other acceptable evidence of a habit of scholarship, such as:

- Continued study and progress in general and specialized areas of one's discipline;
- Familiarity with current scholarship and publications in one's field;
- Direction of and participation in research or in the production of creative works and/or performances of quality;
- The advancement of theory and methodology;
- Participation in scholarly symposia;
- Scholarly or professional contributions to public service, government, or industry;
- Conference papers, reviews, analyses, bibliographies, textbooks, and pedagogical works;
- Publication of significant research or creative works;
- The respect of competent colleagues and professional recognition;
- Other marks of scholarship.

Schools and departments shall provide to the administration and the Committee on Rank and Tenure statements concerning accepted scholarly practices in their disciplines.

c. University and Community Involvement

- Faculty members show a sense of responsibility in achieving the objectives of their academic unit and of the general University in carrying a share of the non-teaching duties usually expected.
- Faculty members are actively involved in professional societies in the field of their competence.
- Faculty members make a contribution to the public service role of the University through community involvement.

d. Personal Attributes

Personal attributes are those qualities of character and personality that contribute to the objectives of the University.

Document A

Time-Line: Applying for Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor

January 15	The Provost informs faculty members scheduled for tenure consideration in the following academic year. Copies of that notification shall be sent to the Dean, Department Chair (CAS), and the Committee on Rank and Tenure.
April 1	Department Chairs and senior faculty members should begin preparing their evaluations of faculty members applying for tenure and/or promotion. (See Document C.)
June 15	Deadline for applicant to submit the file, with supporting data, to their Dean. (See Document E.) Deadline for Department Chairs and senior faculty members to submit their evaluations to the Deans (either on paper or digitally).
September 1	Deadline for all materials to be received by the Chair of the Committee on Rank and Tenure. (See Document F.) Deans will scan letters as necessary to submit them all in digital form.
December 15	The Committee on Rank and Tenure submits its recommendations to the Provost, so he can begin his review and give a recommendation to the President.)
January 31	The President communicates his decisions to the applicants around this date.

Time-Line: Applying for Promotion to Professor

September 15	Inform Dean, Department Chair, and senior faculty members of your intention to apply, so that they can prepare their confidential letters for your file.
November 30	Deadline for faculty members to submit their files, with supporting data, to their Dean. (See Document E.) Deadline for Department Chair and senior faculty members to submit their evaluations to the Dean (either on paper or digitally).
January 31	Deadline for all materials to be received by the Chair of the Committee on Rank and Tenure. (See Document F.) Deans will scan letters as necessary to submit them all in digital form.
April 1	The Committee on Rank and Tenure submits its recommendations to the Provost so he can begin his review and give a recommendation to the President.
Late April	The President communicates his decisions to the applicants.

Document B

Documentation: Applying for Tenure and/or Promotion

The Committee on Rank and Tenure will review the following documentation:

- a. A current Academic Vita containing the following information:
 - Academic appointment (include institution, period, rank, tenured or tenure track)
 - Education
 - Courses taught
 - Administrative positions
 - Professional experience
 - Consulting
 - Scholarly Work (with full citation): Grants, Publications, Presentations, Research Service: University, School/College, Department; Professional; Community
 - Awards and Honors
 - Professional memberships
 - Professional meetings attended
- b. A Narrative letter of self-evaluation commenting on teaching, scholarship, service, and personal attributes according to the criteria outlined in the *Academic Administration Manual*. (See page 3 of this Guide). Twenty pages is the normal limit (12 point, one-inch margins, single-spaced).
- c. For those applying for tenure, the Dean's evaluation of one's mid-tenure review.
- d. For those applying for tenure, the annual self-evaluations and the corresponding Dean's or Chair's evaluations for year(s) subsequent to the mid-tenure review. For those applying for promotion to Professor, the three most recent annual self-evaluations and the corresponding Dean's or Chair's evaluations.
- e. A confidential letter of evaluation from the Dean. Those in CAS also have a letter of evaluation from their Department Chair.
- f. Confidential letters of evaluation from all senior members of your Department (CAS) or School. Your Dean will collect these letters, either on paper or in digital form. In extraordinary circumstances they may be sent directly to the Chair of the Committee on Rank and Tenure.
- g. Other letters of evaluation that comment on teaching, scholarship, service, or personal attributes, submitted on paper or in digital form. These may come from University of Portland junior faculty in your academic unit, faculty outside your academic unit, University of Portland staff, former students, and experts in your area of scholarship from outside the University. Limit the number of the letters from UP faculty, staff and former students to five, and from outside the University to an additional five. NB: Unsolicited letters, not

requested by the faculty member, will not be considered by the Committee, but will be forwarded to the Provost.

- h. All student evaluations for all courses taught within the last three years. Include a copy of the course evaluation form.
- i. A concise summary of these student evaluations and your analysis of their trends and patterns, your interpretation of their comments and numerical results, and your use of them to improve your teaching.
- j. Course syllabi and other course material for the past three years.
- k. Materials such as reprints of articles, reviews of performance, etc., which document the scope and quality of the scholarly work.
- l. Updates to scholarship and creative work are accepted during the fall semester after submission.

Materials are to be submitted in digital pdf format in the following manner:

Document 1: Academic Vita

Document 2: Narrative

Document 3: List of all those from whom letters were requested

Document 4: Summary and Analysis of Student Evaluations

Document 5: Course syllabi from the previous three years

Document 6: Annual Self-Evaluations/Reviews

For those applying for tenure and promotion to Associate Professor:

Mid-tenure narrative

Dean's evaluation of your mid-tenure review

Subsequent annual self-evaluation(s) and corresponding Dean's or
Chair's evaluation(s)

For those applying for promotion to Professor:

The three most recent annual self-evaluations and corresponding
Dean's or Chairs evaluations

Document 7: Course evaluation records, including summaries and individual responses from each student

Document 8: Copies of published materials and creative work, including full-text

articles, photographs, and other evidence of your scholarly and creative work, any applicable internal and external critiques. For those seeking tenure and promotion to Associate, all published materials and creative work since coming to UP must be submitted, along with any additional pieces you decide should be included to support your narrative. For those seeking advancement to Professor, include necessary published materials and creative work that support your application.

Document 9: Miscellaneous materials you feel are important to support your portfolio.

Documentation that cannot practically be submitted in pdf format, such as a book, may be provided in original form. Electronic media may be embedded using links.

Following decisions, confidential letters will be retained in a separate confidential file accessible by the President's office for three years before being destroyed. In the case of applications that are not approved, the documents will be held in a confidential file accessible by the Provost's office for a specified period of time.

DEADLINES FOR APPLICATIONS ARE STRICTLY ADHERED TO WITHOUT EXCEPTION.

Details and Suggestions: Applying for Tenure and/or Promotion

1. All faculty members are strongly advised to read the section pertaining to faculty rights and responsibilities, particularly those dealing with promotion and tenure, in the *Faculty Handbook* - See *Academic Administration Manual*.
2. All faculty members are urged to communicate with their Department Chair and/or Dean each Spring to discuss annual evaluations, and issues relating to promotion and tenure. It is extremely important that a faculty member on tenure track work closely with the Chair (CAS) or Dean during all annual evaluations to determine his/her progress toward promotion and tenure. A third-year (or half-way-to-tenure) review is mandated for those on tenure track, including those who have had a previous appointment as a regular faculty member before coming to the University. This review must be included in the tenure file.
3. As stated in President Beauchamp's memorandum of February 12, 2010: "... effective June 1, 2010, ordinarily there will be no separation of promotion to Associate Professor and tenure." Faculty appointed at the level of Assistant Professor will apply for tenure and for promotion to Associate Professor at the same time.
4. Your Narrative letter of self-evaluation brings your teaching, scholarship and service alive for the Rank and Tenure Committee. It is the foundational document the Committee uses to understand you as a faculty member. Although the Narrative should be organized with sections on teaching, scholarship, and service, the following suggestions are not meant to restrict the range and ordering of material within each section. **NB: the limit is 20 pages, 12-point, one-inch margins, single-spaced.**

Opening Section

- Discuss your background. Why did you choose to come to UP?

Teaching

- Tell the Committee about your teaching methods and the nature of your courses, in a way that makes your thinking tangible for the Committee.
- Explain how you are a reflective teacher. For example, how do you use feedback from students, colleagues, Chair or Dean to improve your courses and teaching?
- Analyze your growth as a teacher since coming to UP.
- Provide verifiable examples to support your self-evaluation.

Scholarship

- Describe your scholarship in a way that faculty outside your discipline can understand – e.g., area of specialization, methods, standard measurements of quality within the discipline, etc.
- Explain how your scholarship conforms to Departmental or School statements concerning accepted scholarly practices in its discipline.
- Explain how your scholarship contributes to your expertise and to the advancement of your field.

- Describe the manner of external review and standard measurements of quality of your scholarship.
- If your scholarship is conducted with colleagues, discuss your contributions to it.
- Describe any ways your scholarship informs your teaching.
- When applicable, describe how you have responded to feedback about scholarship in evaluations from your Dean or Chair.

Service

- Discuss your service contributions to the University, your department or school, your profession, and the wider community as it relates to your teaching and scholarship. Describe any leadership roles among these.

Personal Attributes

- Discuss why you are right for UP and why UP is right for you.

Additional information helpful to the Committee

- If you have experienced difficulties with colleagues, administration, classes or individual students, the Committee suggests that you discuss the situation in a professional manner in the appropriate section(s) above.
5. Current professional files are an integral part of the review. Student evaluations, internal and external peer reviews of scholarship, and peer reviews of teaching are very important to the Committee. Peer reviews of one's teaching may include critiques of syllabi and other course material, classroom visitation, or a review of one's student evaluation summaries. Faculty members are encouraged to begin immediately to build a file of these evaluations. Your annual self-evaluations, accompanied by the corresponding Dean's or Chair's letter, give the Committee an indication of how you respond to critique, suggestions, and recommendations.
 6. Due to the diverse nature of scholarship, it is usually the most difficult part of this review process for the Committee. Make a significant effort to *explain what your scholarship is and how you have had an external review of it* (e.g., through blind review or reviews of artistic works.) One to five letters from independent experts from outside UP are expected.
 7. The University has no expectation of 'community service' *per se*. To be considered relevant to tenure or promotion decisions, you must explain how your service to the community relates to your work as a teacher and/or scholar.
 8. It is important to provide documentation to explain your teaching, scholarship, professional and University/community contributions in sufficient detail. While a thorough review requires that this documentation be complete, it should be concise and clearly organized. Excessive material may detract from the overall strength of the file.
 9. Senior members of your Department (CAS) or School are required to write letters of evaluation. However, we recommend that you write to each person asking them to do so. A candidate's case is enhanced when the file is made available *in a timely manner* to those

writing the letters. This file should include updated Academic Vita, a summary of the past three years' student evaluations, and a draft of the Narrative. It is appropriate and helpful to invite specific comments on your work if faculty members have direct knowledge.

10. You may also request letters from UP colleagues outside your academic unit. These letters should focus on specific examples of their direct interaction with you, whether this relates to teaching, scholarship, or service.

Document C

Recommendations on the Evaluation of Applicants for Tenure and/or Promotion

1. Letters from Deans and Department Chairs should provide a *balanced* evaluation of the applicant, and make a clear, *reasoned* recommendation. If there are conflicts or apparent weaknesses, please help the Committee to interpret these. Merely writing a 'glowing' tribute will be of little benefit to the applicant. Offer *specific examples* of the faculty member's teaching, scholarship, service, and other accomplishments. Articulate your criteria for good teaching, and how it is measured. Explain how you interpret course evaluation data. All this will provide the Committee with tangible evidence with which to make evaluations.
2. All senior members of an Arts and Sciences Department or professional school are required to submit a letter of evaluation for the applicant's file. This includes those serving on the Committee on Rank and Tenure. Rather than being a summary of the applicant's vita, these letters should provide a clearly reasoned and balanced evaluation of the applicant. Letters should include a clear recommendation for the outcome of the review, positive or negative. They should offer specific examples pertaining to the applicant's teaching, scholarship, service, and collegiality. Letters are addressed to the Committee, and are ordinarily sent through the Dean's office. However, in extraordinary circumstances, they may be sent directly to the Chair of the Committee on Rank and Tenure. The Dean will inform senior faculty that letters are due. The Chair of the Committee on Rank and Tenure will inform the Provost and Deans of any unexcused failure to submit a letter of evaluation. While letters from junior faculty are accepted, the Committee discourages them unless the junior faculty member has particular knowledge that strengthens the case. Letters from UP colleagues outside your academic unit may be solicited. At least one letter from an expert in your area of scholarship from outside the University is required.
3. Applicants should provide senior faculty with files that include Academic Vita, draft of Narrative, and summaries of the student evaluations for the past three years.
4. A faculty member's development is an important factor for the Committee. The sequence of annual self-evaluations accompanied by the corresponding Dean's or Chair's evaluations provides valuable information on how an applicant has responded to suggestions and critiques. It gives data on the applicant's commitment to professional goals and to consistent progress. It is critical that the applicant receives yearly written evaluations from the Dean or Chair. A mid-tenure review is mandated for all those on tenure track.
5. Student evaluations are required by the Committee. Deans and Chairs should advise faculty members to build a file of these evaluations over several years before the time when they expect to be considered for promotion or tenure.

6. Files must be complete. It is the faculty member's responsibility to submit the required material. Deans are responsible for checking that the files are complete. Incomplete files will be returned to the Dean for completion with a letter to the Provost indicating the action. Deadlines for applications are strictly adhered to without exception.
7. More than one year is normally required to develop stronger credentials for promotion if an applicant has been denied promotion to the rank of Professor.
8. Letters that are not solicited by the candidate will be sent directly to the Provost and will not be considered by the Committee on Rank and Tenure. The Provost will decide whether or not to handle the content of the letters as a personnel matter.

Document D

Periodic Review: Timeline, Details, and Suggestions

Preceding April	The Chair of the Committee on Rank and Tenure notifies the faculty member and his/her Dean of the Periodic Review.
Fall semester	Candidate prepares materials for the file.
November 1	Faculty member provides copies of the vita, narrative, evaluation summary, and supporting materials to senior faculty and CAS Department Chairs
November 30	Submit the file to the Dean Faculty and external letters are due to the Dean, either on paper or in digital pdf form
January 31	Deadline for receipt of documentation by the Committee on Rank and Tenure from the Dean's office.
April	The Committee on Rank and Tenure communicates the results of its evaluations to faculty members.

1. Tenured faculty members are ordinarily reviewed by the Committee on Rank and Tenure every eight years. The rules and procedures governing Periodic Review are stated in the *Academic Administration Manual*.
2. If a faculty member is applying for promotion the same year as periodic review, the same file may be used for both reviews. However, the letters from senior faculty members must address the candidate's qualifications **separately** for **both** promotion and periodic review.
3. Review Criteria:
 - a. Tenured faculty members are reviewed no sooner than eight years after being reviewed for tenure or promoted to Professor, and every eight years subsequently. They will be notified in the preceding April.
 - b. Delays of review are given to faculty members who have been evaluated recently or who are on special status (e.g., sabbatical leave) or serving on the Committee on Rank and Tenure.
 - c. Those within two years of retirement are excused from the review if a written notice of intent to retire (including the expected date) is submitted to the Provost (with copies to their Dean and the Chair of the Committee on Rank and Tenure).
4. While one's complete academic and professional record is important, the documents prepared for the review should place emphasis on the most recent three years.

5. Evaluation Criteria:

The Committee judges whether the faculty member continues to manifest the qualities upon which the original grant of tenure or promotion was based. While we look for continued professional growth, faculty are not held to new standards. The minimum credentials will not ordinarily change from when one was granted tenure (e.g., those tenured without a doctorate are not ordinarily expected to earn one in order to retain tenure).

6. Documentation: Materials are to be submitted in digital pdf format in the following manner:

Document 1: Current Academic Vita (see Document B)

Document 2: Narrative Letter of Self-Evaluation:

A Narrative letter of self-evaluation that contains a thoughtful, reflective analysis of one's growth in the areas of teaching, scholarship, service, and personal attributes according to the criteria outlined in the *Academic Administration Manual*, Article II, Sections C and F. Consult the suggestions concerning the Narrative in Document B of this Guide. Due to its diverse nature, scholarship is usually the most difficult part of this review process for the Committee. Make a significant effort to explain what your scholarship is and how it has had external review, for example through blind review, funded grants, and reviews of artistic works.

Document 3: List of all those from whom letters were requested.

All senior members of a Department (CAS) or School are required to submit letters of evaluation for an applicant's file. This includes those serving on the Committee on Rank and Tenure. The Dean will inform them that letters are due. The Chair of the Committee on Rank and Tenure will inform the Provost and Deans of any unexcused failure to submit a letter of evaluation. Letters from senior colleagues are addressed to the Committee, and are ordinarily sent through the Dean's office. However, in extraordinary circumstances, they may be sent directly to the Chair of the Committee on Rank and Tenure.

Document 4: Summary of Student Evaluations

Evidence of continuing teaching effectiveness will be a very important consideration in the evaluation of tenured faculty. Therefore, provide a concise summary of your student evaluations of the past three years. Give your analysis of their trends and patterns, your interpretation of their comments and numerical results, and your use of them to improve your teaching. Include a copy of the course evaluation form. Do not include copies of your student course evaluations although the Committee may request them.

Document 5: Annual Self-Evaluations/Reviews

The three most recent annual self-evaluations, and the written responses from the Department Chair or Dean.

7. The Dean's office will send the complete file to the Committee in digital pdf form. This file will include the candidate's current Academic Vita, Narrative, summary of prior three years' teaching evaluations with Dean or Chair's evaluation, and a list of those from whom letters were requested. Unlike when applying for tenure or promotion, external letters are neither required nor expected, but you may request them if you wish.
8. Tenured faculty members will be reviewed during Spring semester. The deadline for receipt of documentation by the Committee on Rank and Tenure is January 31. The Committee will communicate its decision to faculty members in April.
9. The procedures following the Committee's decision are stated in the *Academic Administration Manual*, Article II, Section G:
If the Committee's judgment is positive, the candidate, the respective Dean, The Provost, and the President are so informed. If the Committee's judgment is negative:
 - a. A conference is held between the faculty member, the dean and a member of the Committee. If the faculty member accepts the opinion of the Committee, a program is agreed upon whereby,
 - 1) the faculty member undertakes a program to correct the deficiencies which have been brought to his/her attention, and
 - 2) the University commits itself to aid the faculty member in this program.
 - b. If the faculty member objects to the findings of the Committee, he/she may request a review of the findings by a committee consisting of five members: the Provost, a member of the Committee on Rank and Tenure chosen by the Chair of the Rank and Tenure Committee, a tenured member of the faculty chosen by the faculty member, the Chair of the Committee on Faculty Welfare, and a tenured member of the faculty appointed by the Chair of the Academic Senate. The findings of that committee will be final.
 - c. When a tenured faculty member is on a program of improvement, reports are made to the Rank and Tenure Committee each year concerning his/her progress by the faculty member, his/her department chair and the dean. The Committee determines if sufficient progress is being made and communicates this judgment to the faculty member. After two successive positive reviews, the faculty member is returned to the regular eight-year review cycle.
 - d. When a faculty member is on a program of improvement and two subsequent negative judgments are made by the Committee upon his/her progress, the Committee recommends to the Provost that the next notification of salary letter contain a statement that the following academic year will be terminal if the problem is not corrected within six months.

The Committee emphasize that negative judgments have been very rare.

Document E

Tenure and Promotions

Candidate's checklist to ensure the file is complete

- () Current Academic Vita
- () Narrative letter of self-evaluation
- () List of requested letters: senior faculty members, others internal to UP, and others external to UP
- () Concise summary of student evaluations and an analysis of their trends and patterns, an interpretation of their comments and numerical results, and a description of their use in improving teaching
- () For those applying for tenure, the Dean's evaluation of the applicant's mid-tenure review
- () For those applying for tenure, the applicant's two most recent annual self-evaluations and the corresponding Dean's or Chair's evaluations. For promotions of tenured faculty, the three most recent annual self-evaluations and the corresponding Dean's or Chair's evaluations
- () Course evaluation form; all individual student evaluations and summaries for all courses for the last three years
- () Copies of all scholarly works, previous three years course syllabi, any applicable internal and external critiques

General Suggestions

- () Has someone else reviewed the file?
- () Is your material prepared in a way that will communicate effectively with colleagues from other disciplines?

Document F
Tenure and Promotions
Dean's checklist to ensure the candidate's file is complete

Candidate: _____

The candidate's file should be organized into **one electronic folder with nine pdf documents** as follows. A copy of this page, electronically signed by the Dean, will serve as a Letter of Transmittal to the Committee on Rank and Tenure and should be included in the electronic file. Completed electronic files will be uploaded to a confidential, secure folder by your designee.

() Document 1: Current Academic Vita

() Document 2: Narrative letter of self-evaluation

() Document 3: List of requested letters: senior faculty members, others internal to UP, others external to UP; along with the confidential letters from Dean, Chair, faculty members, external evaluators, and any others

() Document 4: Concise summary of student evaluations and an analysis of their trends and patterns, an interpretation of their comments and numerical results, and a description of their use in improving teaching

() Document 5: Course syllabi from the previous three years

() Document 6: For those applying for tenure, the Dean's evaluation of the applicant's mid-tenure review, and the applicant's annual self-evaluations and the corresponding Dean's or Chair's evaluations for year(s) subsequent to the mid-tenure review OR

For promotions of tenured faculty, the three most recent annual self-evaluations and the corresponding Dean's or Chair's evaluations

() Document 7: Course evaluation records, including summaries and individual responses from each student.

() Document 8: Copies of published materials and creative work, including full-text articles, photographs, and other evidence of your scholarly and creative work, any applicable internal and external critiques.

() Document 9: Miscellaneous materials the candidate feels are important to support their portfolio.

Documentation that cannot practically be submitted in pdf format, such as a book, may be provided in original form to the Chair of Rank and Tenure. Electronic media may be embedded using links.

Dean's Review: _____

Date: _____

Document F1
Periodic Review
Dean's checklist to ensure the candidate's file is complete

Candidate: _____

The candidate's file should be organized into **one electronic folder with five pdf documents** as follows. A copy of this page, electronically signed by the Dean, will serve as a Letter of Transmittal to the Committee on Rank and Tenure and should be included in the electronic file. Completed electronic files will be uploaded to a confidential, secure folder by the School or College designee.

() Document 1: Current Academic Vita

() Document 2: Narrative letter of self-evaluation

() Document 3: List of requested letters: senior faculty members along with the confidential letters from Dean, Chair, and faculty members

() Document 4: Analysis of last three years' teaching evaluations

() Document 5: The three most recent annual self-evaluations and the corresponding Dean's or Chair's evaluations

Documentation that cannot practically be submitted in pdf format, such as a book, may be provided in original form to the Chair of Rank and Tenure. Electronic media may be embedded using links.

Dean's Review: _____

Date: _____

Document G

Standards in Teaching, Scholarship, and Service

Standards for Promotion and Tenure: Candidates for tenure and for promotion must demonstrate high achievement and promise in three areas: teaching, scholarship, and service. In order to strengthen the academic quality of the University, high achievement and promise shall be judged in comparison to one's peers in rank, and relative to the expectations for the rank toward which the candidate is applying.

Standards by Rank: High achievement and promise in all three categories are necessary conditions for tenure and promotion. No candidate will be tenured or promoted if judged to have attained less than high accomplishment and promise in all three areas. A candidate who finds that an accomplishment is relevant in more than one category is advised to present that work in whichever category seems most appropriate and to cross-reference that work in the other relevant category.

Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor: It is the University's practice in granting tenure to also confer promotion to Associate Professor, unless the candidate already holds this rank. This means that tenure is linked to senior rank, and so Assistant Professors applying for tenure must also meet the qualifications for senior rank. For tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor, the University expects verifiable teaching effectiveness; scholarly activity which demonstrates that the candidate has successfully initiated and pursued a sustained program of scholarly work, i.e., a verifiable habit of scholarship; and cooperative service in achieving the objectives of the Department, College or School, and the University. Candidates should demonstrate achievement and promise which evaluators judge to be at least equivalent to that of the group of those candidates who were tenured and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in the University over the previous few years. Evaluators shall place particular emphasis on the quality of work accomplished since joining the faculty of the University of Portland.

Promotion to Professor: Candidates who seek promotion to Professor should have advanced qualitatively, not just quantitatively, in the areas of teaching, scholarship, and service beyond the levels when last promoted. See Document G1 for further details.

Document G1

The Rank of Professor

The rank of Professor is reserved for distinguished leaders in teaching, scholarship, and service and who thereby serve as role models for the faculty. Their case for this promotion is supported by clear and demonstrable evidence. Although not a requirement, typically the candidate will have served for at least five years at the rank of Associate Professor before applying for promotion.

Distinguished Teaching

Professors have a mature vision of themselves as teachers, and can articulate what marks their teaching as exemplary. Distinguished teaching is shown through a continued dedication to refining one's approach to teaching and evidence of efforts to continue to improve as a teacher. Professors demonstrate a commitment to students and their learning. They think critically and systematically about their teaching. They are respected for their teaching expertise and may be used as a resource on teaching by their colleagues. In other words, Professors should serve as models to other teachers. They may share their teaching expertise through active mentoring of faculty at the University of Portland, advising faculty at other institutions, presenting and/or publishing on issues in pedagogy, through active involvement in programs to improve teaching at the University of Portland, and/or through informal advising of other faculty on pedagogical issues.

Distinguished Scholarship

Professors have a mature vision of themselves as scholars. While specific criteria for scholarship are delineated by departments and schools, the University considers a habit of scholarship that has qualitatively advanced beyond the level when last promoted and which distinguishes one in one's area(s) of expertise to be necessary for advancement to the rank of Professor. Professors must have an established reputation among scholars in their field and (where appropriate) a notable contribution in public service, government or industry. One or more letters from experts in one's scholarly area outside the University are necessary for promotion. Professors are leaders as scholars, in so far as they serve as role models for other faculty, mentor other faculty, and/or are called upon to serve in various capacities because of their scholarly expertise. Scholarship will be judged in the context of the faculty member's other obligations.

Distinguished Service

Professors must demonstrate leadership through service, showing a significant contribution to the University, School, and/or Department. This can take many forms. A long list of committee assignments alone is insufficient for promotion. They may also be leaders in serving their profession.

Document H

Guidelines Concerning the Relative Significance of Scholarship

In order to maintain and increase academic quality and reputation, faculty members must demonstrate the 'habit of scholarship.' Each department and school is mandated to publish and to make available to the administration, the Committee on Rank and Tenure, and all faculty members, statements concerning accepted scholarly practices in their disciplines. Candidates should consult their discipline's documents, as they are used by evaluators who are probably not in the candidate's field. The Committee uses the following guidelines to evaluate scholarship.

1. The guiding principle is that quality is the significant factor. Solid evidence is necessary in order for evaluators to judge quality. The University neither sets nor accepts any purely quantitative thresholds. Quantity cannot substitute for quality.
2. Works that appear in their final, published form are given more weight than pre-publication or unpublished works.
3. Refereed, juried, or peer-reviewed work is given more weight than non-refereed work. In general, work which is accepted as a result of highly competitive blind peer review processes is given greater weight than work which has undergone only minimal peer review.
4. Repetitive publication of essentially the same work is given less weight than the publication of further developed work or new work.
5. No greater or lesser significance is attached to single author works as compared to multiple author works. Disciplines differ with regard to the possibility, desirability, or necessity of collaboration on scholarly projects. The important consideration in evaluating multiple-author projects is the quality and importance of the candidate's contribution to the project.
6. Scholarship policies from the academic units and other portfolio materials (e.g., mid-tenure evaluations, yearly evaluations, faculty and reviewer letters) inform the deliberations of the Committee on Rank and Tenure. Scholarship policies must conform to the guidelines provided by the Committee, *Academic Administration Manual*, and the *Faculty Handbook*.

Document I

Guidelines for the Establishment of Lectureships

The request for the establishment of a lectureship must be initiated by the academic unit in which it will be placed. The request must demonstrate the need for instructional personnel whose qualifications lie outside those described for regular faculty (*Academic Administration Manual*, Article II, Section C.4) or whose duties will be limited to a range incompatible with the expectations made of regular faculty. Ways in which lectureships differ from regular faculty positions must be specified. Lecturers will not be expected to play a major role in University governance.

These differences or limitations might take a variety of forms, such as:

1. Where instruction is limited to the introductory level. Such a limited assignment might be appropriate if:
 - a. enrollments at the introductory level are such that the University anticipates continuing need for full-time staff at this level without opportunity to teach at higher levels;
 - b. the University curriculum requires courses at the introductory level but none at any advanced level.
2. Where instruction is limited to specialized forms such as laboratory instruction or field supervision.
3. Where instruction requires expertise in areas in which practice and experience, and not necessarily an advanced degree, are appropriate preparation.
4. Where the relationship to the University, although expressed in a full-time contract, implies an independence from an immediate supervisor, as for an artist-in-residence.
5. Where the appointee, while capable of offering instruction and conducting research at the university level, has gained recognition and established credentials outside the academy, as, for example, a retired executive, or in any case where the rank of the appointee must be differentiated from the progressive ranks of regular faculty.

The proposal for the establishment of a lectureship should not be linked to the appointment of a specific individual. The qualifications expected for appointment should be carefully spelled out. In authorizing such positions, the Committee on Rank and Tenure will review the criteria submitted by the academic unit to determine whether the lectureship differs from Regular Faculty positions. The Committee will not consider enrollment or finances. The lectureship must be approved by the Committee before being forwarded to the Provost and the President for their approval.

Document J

Guidelines to faculty for writing letters of evaluation

The Committee on Rank and Tenure considers a variety of materials in the process of formulating a recommendation regarding tenure and promotion, and a decision on tenure review. Letters from faculty, deans, and outside evaluators are a valuable source of information and insight. To help ensure that these letters are as effective as possible, the Committee on Rank and Tenure offers the following guidance.

- 1) Provide evidence to support evaluations and opinions. If you have not observed activity in a particular area, it is appropriate to state that and limit comments. Use rank and tenure policies from the University and the academic unit as standards. Detailed letters are typically more than one page.
- 2) Be specific in your judgment in each area (teaching, scholarship, service, personal attributes). For promotion to the rank of Professor, candidates are expected to be “distinguished” in each area.
- 3) Make a clear recommendation to the committee on the final outcome. Vague and indeterminate comments are of little use during deliberations.
- 4) Use a template like this, or something similar:

Introduction

Teaching: Specific observations and analysis, concluded with an evaluation
(outstanding, excellent, good, fair, poor)

Scholarship: Specific observations and analysis, concluded with an evaluation
(outstanding, excellent, good, fair, poor)

Service: Specific observations and analysis, concluded with an evaluation
(outstanding, excellent, good, fair, poor)

Personal Attributes: only for the initial tenure application unless there are areas of concern for promotion or tenure review

Conclusion with overall recommendation

If you have any questions about writing a letter, please contact a member of the Committee on Rank and Tenure Committee for assistance.

Document K

Suggestions to Deans

1. Clear written statement at the point of hiring noting when the individual is eligible to apply for tenure and promotion. This is clearly outlined in the Administration Manual stating that the individual must be in the sixth year of a regular appointment, and at least three of those years are completed here.
2. Annual evaluations and reflective, thorough responses must be included in the file for every year the faculty member has been at the University. And the mid-tenure review must also be in the file with any responses to it. Faculty who go up for tenure in the fourth year must also have a mid-tenure review from the dean's office at the end of the second year.
3. Make sure the faculty member explains his/her progress in teaching with specific references made to how teaching has improved because of evaluations and feed-back over their years here at the University.
4. Evidence of scholarship must be present, and external letters supporting one's scholarship should also be part of the file.
5. Service is very important, especially when going up for professor. The highest University rank presumes the individual is a senior faculty member who demonstrates leadership, generosity in service, and is respected by peers as an individual who one would look to for mentoring. Professors should be distinguished in teaching, scholarship and service.
6. Make sure that all senior faculty have read the candidate's vita, narrative and written summary (not just the numbers) of student evaluations before writing letters of recommendation. Then these letters will become a more valuable resource for the Committee.
7. Make sure your letter addresses each area of evaluation—teaching, scholarship, and service—and be clear as to whether you support or do not support the individual in each area. Dean's letters should be reflective and relate opinions, rather than just summarize the vita. Your letter should provide background information on how your school defines and measures good teaching. Any red flags should be explained by the dean so the Rank and Tenure Committee has a context to assist them in evaluating these recommendations.
8. In short, your letter must explain any discrepancies that you see in the file including negative comments or issues raised in faculty letters. The Committee should not have to guess why some things are included in the file and other things are not.

9. Anyone going up for tenure and promotion should speak with the dean prior to putting their portfolio together, and those going up for promotion to professor should also work with the dean before applying.