



TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
A Member of Texas A&M University System

# Faculty Handbook

Latest Revision Oct. 11, 2010

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# TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

## FACULTY HANDBOOK

### PREFACE

*The Texas A&M International University Faculty Handbook* (hereafter *Faculty Handbook*) is the document wherein all parties may find the policies, procedures, rules and regulations that govern the role of the faculty within the University community, and the relationships of the faculty with other members of the University community and its stakeholders.

The *Faculty Handbook* serves as a basis for faculty employment contracts, and as such provides each faculty member with the basic rules of employment for Texas A&M International University faculty.

A copy of the *Faculty Handbook* will be provided to each faculty member. Copies are available on the University's website, in the Library, as well as in the offices of the Provost / Vice-President of Academic Affairs, of the Deans of each college, and of each department chair's office. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate, under the supervision of the President of the Faculty Senate, will be responsible for the maintenance of the *Faculty Handbook* and distribution of revisions.

Archival copies of the *Faculty Handbook*, reflecting previous versions and changes, are kept in Killam Library. An Appendix to this document lists the substantive changes made from the previous (2008-2009) edition.

### Faculty Handbook Revision Process

Any member of the University community may propose to the Faculty Senate additions, deletions, or revisions to the *Faculty Handbook*. The Faculty Senate will review the *Faculty Handbook* and by a majority vote of the Senate recommend to the faculty changes to the document.

Each separate addition, deletion, or revision to the *Faculty Handbook* must be approved by a vote of the faculty within 60 calendar days of having been endorsed by the Faculty Senate. With the exception of issues related directly to changes in faculty self-governance (specifically, Articles II, III, and IV of the *Faculty Constitution*; see Appendix), all changes to the *Faculty Handbook* that have been approved by a vote of the faculty also require the endorsement of the President of the University before they can be implemented.

The Secretary of the Faculty Senate will maintain an official copy of the most recent, approved revision of the *Faculty Handbook* and will make it available in print and electronic form to the University community.

# **TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

## **FACULTY HANDBOOK**

### **ABOUT TAMIU**

#### **Accreditation**

Texas A&M International University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. The teacher education programs are accredited by the Texas Education Agency. The University is affiliated with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. The A. R. Sanchez School of Business is a member of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) and has been awarded accreditation. The Canseco School of Nursing is accredited by the Texas Board of Nurse Examiners and the National League for Nursing Accrediting.

#### **Mission Statement**

Texas A&M International University, a member of The Texas A&M University System, prepares students for leadership roles in their chosen profession in an increasingly complex, culturally diverse state, national, and global society. A&M International provides students with a learning environment anchored by the highest quality programs built on a solid academic foundation in the arts and sciences. To fulfill its mission, the University offers a range of baccalaureate and master's programs and the Doctor of Philosophy degree in International Business Administration. In addition to offering excellent undergraduate and graduate programs, the University pursues a progressive agenda for global study and understanding across all disciplines.

Through instruction, faculty and student research, and public service, Texas A&M International University embodies a strategic point of delivery for well-defined programs and services that improve the quality of life for citizens of the border region, the state of Texas, and national and international communities.

#### **History**

Texas A&M University at Laredo opened its doors as the first upper-level institution in the state of Texas in September 1970. Created primarily to serve regional needs, the school represented a new philosophy of higher education in Texas. Degrees offered included the Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education, the Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, and the Bachelor of Business Administration. By the following year, a program of studies for students interested in bilingual education had been added to the curriculum. This program was designed specifically for incoming juniors majoring in elementary education. By September 1971, the number of students enrolled in the University had increased to 459.

A survey conducted in the Fall of 1972 indicated a substantial demand for graduate work. In response to this demand, authorization was requested and received from the 63<sup>rd</sup> Legislature to initiate a graduate program at Texas A&M University at Laredo.

Other changes came when the University's Board of Directors undertook a study to consider changing the name of the University. The committee, consisting of faculty and students, found that 69 percent of the University students favored a new name that would "permit the development of a separate identity, character and reputation of the institution. " In January 1977, the Texas A&M Board of Directors voted to recommend to the legislature that the name of the school be changed to Laredo State University. On September 1, 1977, Texas A&M University at Laredo officially became Laredo State University.

Also during the 1970s, the Institute for International Trade came into existence as a result of talks between the University and the Laredo business community. With such assistance, the Institute quickly became recognized as one of the nation's leading information exchanges in the field.

The Institute was structured to complement the new Master of Business Administration degree in International Trade. The new degree, besides providing the traditional classroom instruction and library research, was designed to provide first-hand knowledge of many of the international operations associated with international trade such as warehousing, transportation, freight forwarding and customs clearance. The pragmatic curriculum included special courses in customs brokerage, international distribution, foreign freight forwarding, and international trade simulations. Furthermore, the prestige that came with the new Master of Business Administration in International Trade allowed the University to lure students from countries around the world such as Malaysia, Taiwan, Ethiopia, Iran, Nigeria, Liberia, Canada, Ghana, Venezuela, Sierra Leone, and Mexico.

Another dimension of the University, which received considerable attention, was the University's Reading Clinic. The clinic trained University students to diagnose and correct reading problems of area school children. With a large percentage of the students in the clinic functionally bilingual in both Spanish and English, the clinical studies allowed students to become professionally qualified for careers which required bilingual skills.

With increased curriculum and degree offerings, students were able to obtain Master's degrees in education, business administration, and international trade for the first time, and the number of students at LSU reached 637 by September 1972; 756 by September 1974; and 852 by January 1975.

One result of the addition of graduate degrees to the University was the expansion of the holdings of the Harold R. Yeary Library, which the University shared with Laredo Community College. By 1978, the University had accumulated one million dollars worth of books and periodicals. Designated an official regional depository of materials by the United States Superintendent of Documents, the Library also boasted 47,335 government documents. In the decade that followed, Harold R. Yeary Library would continue to expand, and by 1990 it had 164,664 books, 309,432 microforms, 5,477 audiovisuals, and was receiving 1,134 periodicals.

At the February 1976 meeting of the University System of South Texas Board of Directors, funds were appropriated for a building site feasibility study on the Laredo State University campus. The action was spurred by the announcement that the University had again reached a record enrollment and was quickly running out of space.

In 1988 talks were initiated with the Texas A&M University System that would eventually lead to a merger of the University System of South Texas with the Texas A&M University System. After more than sixty meetings over a period of eighteen months, the University System of South Texas Board of Directors voted to dissolve the system and clear the way for a merger. Within two weeks the Texas A&M System Board of Regents also voted unanimously for a merger. The Texas Legislature hastily approved a merger of the two systems, and on September 1, 1989, Laredo State University became a part of the Texas A&M University System.

State Senate Bill 6, adopted by the 73<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, changed the name of the University from Laredo State University to Texas A&M International University in Fall of 1993. It also authorized the University to expand from upper-level to four-year status beginning in the Fall of 1995, and established an initiative to expand the scope of degrees offered to include doctoral degrees. It also uniquely authorized the awarding of joint degrees with colleges and universities in Mexico and Canada.

After several abortive attempts to establish a mechanism by which the faculty might have an active voice in the governance of the institution, the Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs reconstituted the Texas A&M International University Faculty Senate in the Fall of 1994 for the purpose of allowing faculty to share in the responsibilities of governance of the University. This new group institutionalized the concept of a Faculty Senate with the creation, approval and adoption of the Faculty Constitution (Appendix B). The University adopted a collegiate structure and now consists of the following Colleges: Arts and Sciences, Education, Nursing and Health Sciences, and the A.R. Sanchez Jr. School of Business.

In the Fall of 1995, the Texas A&M International University moved to its new home at 5201 University Boulevard, located on 300 acres of land donated by the Radcliffe Killam family, and occupied the first phase of the first university campus of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. This \$42 million phase included the Sue & Radcliffe Killam Library, Bob Bullock Hall and a second academic building, and a physical plant facility. The \$30 million second phase of the campus includes buildings for the Sanchez School of Business and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, a kinesiology/convocation center, and another physical plant building. Phase II became available in the Fall of 1996.

For the Spring 1996 semester there were 2,464 students enrolled in the University's graduate and undergraduate programs. The number of full-time faculty reached 98.

## **Governance and Administration**

### **The TAMUS Board of Regents (hereafter the Board)**

The Board shall provide the policy direction for the System and its component universities and agencies. The Board shall formulate, update, and publish official policies for the System.

The Board shall exercise the traditional and time-honored role for such boards as their role has evolved in the United States and shall constitute the keystone of the governance structure. (TAMUS Policy 2.011).<sup>1</sup>

## **President**

The President of the University is appointed by the Board of Regents upon the recommendation of the Chancellor, and serves under the direction of the Chancellor.

The duties of the President shall include, but are not limited to, the administration of the total program of the institution under the President's jurisdiction (TAMUS Policy 2.05).<sup>1</sup>

## **Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs (hereafter the Provost)**

The Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs of the University is the Chief Academic Officer and serves under the direction of the President. The duties of the Provost include, but are not limited to, the administration and supervision of all academic programs within the institution.

In the event that the President of the University is unable to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the office of the President, those duties and responsibilities will pass to the Provost until such time as the President is ready to resume those duties.

## **Vice-President for Finance and Administration**

The Vice-President for Finance and Administration (VPFA) is the Chief Financial Officer of the University and serves under the direction of the President. The duties of the VPFA will be defined by the President.

## **Vice-President for Institutional Advancement**

The Vice-President for Institutional Advancement (VPIA) is the primary liaison between the University community and various external entities. The duties of the VPIA will be defined by the President.

## **Academic Deans**

The University is comprised of several colleges and schools, including; the College of Arts and Sciences, the A. R. Sanchez Jr. School of Business, the College of Education, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and the Sue & Radcliffe Killam Library.

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<sup>1</sup> Copies of TAMUS Policy Manual are available in the Offices of the President, Provost, Deans, Human Resources, President of the Faculty Senate, and the Library, and on the World Wide Web at <http://sago.tamu.edu>.

An Academic Dean serves as the chief academic and administrative officer of each college and school, and serves under the direction of the Provost.

### **Department Chairs**

Colleges may be divided into academic departments<sup>2</sup> and/or schools or divisions under the administrative direction of a faculty member designated as a department or division chair or school director (hereafter equivalent to department chair).

Department Chairs serve under the direction of the Academic Dean of the college to which their department is assigned. Faculty teaching load may be reduced for a faculty member serving as department chair. (TAMUS Policy 12.03 Section 3.3). Normally, department chairs will be given annual, twelve-month contracts.

### **Other Academic Affairs Administrators**

In most matters, the Director of the Library will hold status equivalent to a department chair, except in budgetary matters, wherein the Director's status would be the equivalent of an academic Dean.

## **General University Governance**

### **University Executive Council**

The University Executive Council is composed of the President, the Provost, the Vice-Presidents and other members of the University Community as designated by the President.

### **Council of Deans**

The Council of Deans is chaired by the Provost, and consists of all Academic Deans and the Dean for Students Success, as well as any other members of the University Community as designated by the Provost or the President.

### **Council of Chairs**

The Council of Chairs is chaired by the Provost, and consists of all heads of academic departments, divisions, and schools, as well as other members of the University Community as designated by the Provost or the President.

### **Student Government Association**

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<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of this document the Sue & Radcliffe Killam Library (hereafter the Library) is considered an academic department; where references are made, herein, to departmental requirements those references will apply equally to the Library and its faculty. Likewise, since the Library supports all Colleges but is not an administrative part of any individual College, in cases where a reference is made, herein, to College requirements those references will apply equally to the Library and its faculty.

The Student Government Association is empowered to act as the representative authority of the Student Body.

### **Staff Senate**

The Staff Senate is empowered to act as the representative authority of the University's administrators and staff.

### **Faculty Assembly**

The University President, or the Provost, or the President of the Faculty Senate may call the faculty of Texas A&M International University into a general meeting; if a general meeting is called, the meeting shall be known as a Faculty Assembly. The faculty shall have authority over all matters pertaining to educational and academic policy.

### **Faculty Senate**

As specified in Article II, Section 1-3 of the Faculty Constitution (Appendix B), the Faculty Senate is empowered to act as the representative and resolving authority of the faculty. The Faculty Senate President will receive release time during the Fall Semester, and the Faculty Senate Secretary will receive release time during the Spring Semester to carry out additional duties as required by their respective positions.

### **Faculty Senate Committees**

At-large Senators may be deemed to represent their colleges for the purpose of committee assignments. Senators from the Canseco School of Nursing and Killam Library may be assigned committees in the same way as any other Senator, but they are not required to be on any particular committee. Faculty Senate Committees, whose meetings are open to the public, include these seven standing committees:

- 1. The Budget and Finance Committee.** The purpose of this committee is to monitor financial matters affecting the faculty, instructional matters, and other matters deemed within the purview of the Senate, and assist in the University budgeting process. Membership in the committee will be by appointment by the President of the Senate; members will be Faculty Senators, including at least one Senator from each of the three colleges, with the Chair elected by the committee membership.
- 2. The Academic Oversight Committee.** The purpose of this committee is to Evaluate and make recommendations to the Senate pertaining to all matters relating to the faculty that do not fall within the purview of the other Senate Committees. Membership in the committee will be by appointment by the President of the Senate; members will be Faculty Senators, including at least one Senator from each of the three colleges, with the Chair elected by the committee membership.

3. **University Ethics Committee.** The purpose of this committee is to consider issues and proposals related to academic honesty and integrity and ethical practices involving students and faculty and other university employees, and to report to the Senate and make such recommendations as are deemed advisable. Membership in the committee will be by appointment of the President of the Senate; members will be Faculty Senators, including at least one Senator from each of the three colleges, with the Chair elected by the committee membership.
4. **The Committee on Creation, Composition, and Responsibilities of Committees.** The purpose of this committee is to make recommendations to the Senate concerning the management of University committees and to provide guidance to the colleges with regard to the composition of college and department-level committees. Membership in this committee will be by appointment by the President of the Senate; members will be Faculty Senators, including at least one Senator from each of the three colleges, with the Chair elected by the committee membership.
5. **The Committee on Faculty Work Environment and Morals.** The purpose of this committee is to monitor and make recommendations to the Senate regarding campus issues and administrative policies that affect the work environment and/or morale of the faculty. Membership of this committee will be by appointment by the President of the Senate. Members will be Faculty Senators, including at least one Senator from each of the three colleges, with the Chair elected by the committee membership.
6. **The Faculty Handbook Revision Committee.** The purpose of this committee is to receive proposals for Faculty Handbook revision from any member of the University community, to consider those proposals, and to submit draft proposals to the Faculty Senate for consideration, following the process described in the Preface to this handbook. Membership in this committee will be by appointment by the President of the Senate; members will be Faculty Senators, including at least one Senator from each of the three colleges, with the Chair elected by the committee membership.

## University Committees

At the University level, there will be various standing committees as deemed necessary by the administration and faculty to ensure the accomplishment of the mission of the University. Additionally, ad hoc committees may, from time to time, be appointed as needed and as approved by the Faculty Senate. The exact number of these committees will change over time. The control and administration of these committees is the responsibility of the Faculty Senate; by concurrence it is meant that the Senate shall ensure that committee assignments are apportioned equally and that no individual is assigned to an inordinate number of committees. In the interest of clarity and flexibility, the phrase "free-standing academic unit" applies to any academic unit (e.g. the Killam Library) not aligned with one of the colleges and whose head, therefore, reports directly to the Provost. In cases where the appointments are made by department chairs, it is

understood that chairs will do this in consultation with their Deans. Standing committees include the following:

1. **The University Committee on Admission Standards and Exceptions.** Faculty Composition will be two representatives from each academic college and one representative from each free-standing academic unit; faculty appointments will be made by deans (or heads of academic units), who will submit their choices through the Provost to the Faculty Senate for concurrence. Administrative composition will be the University Registrar, the Director of Admissions, Director of Financial Aid, and the Executive Director of the University College, with the Dean for Student Success as Chair. Faculty appointments to this committee will be for staggered terms of two years.
2. **The University Curriculum Committee.** Composition will be one representative per academic department or division or free-standing academic unit and the University Registrar, faculty appointments will be made by department chairs (or heads of academic units), who will submit their choices through the Provost to the Faculty Senate for concurrence. The Associate Provost will chair the committee as an ex-officio member.
3. **Technology Advisory Council.** Composition will be two representatives per college or free-standing academic unit (appointed by the Dean or academic unit head), one member of the Faculty Senate (appointed by the Senate), one representative for each administrative Vice President (or Associate Vice President with the approval of the appropriate Vice President), and one member from each of the following areas: Public Relations, Marketing, and Information Services, the Student Government Association, and the Office of Graduate Studies and Research. One faculty member of the council will be selected as chair by the council. Appointments will be submitted through the Provost to the Faculty Senate for concurrence. The Associate Vice President for Information Technology/CIO will serve ex-officio. The Technology Advisory Council will have a standing Instructional Technology Committee, and may generate additional ad hoc subcommittees; standing committees and ad hoc subcommittees must be chaired by a member of the Technology Advisory Council, but they may contain membership from outside the Technology Advisory Council.
4. **University Library Committee.** Composition will be one representative per academic department or division or free-standing academic unit, with the Chair appointed by the Provost from the faculty membership; faculty appointments will be made by department chairs (or heads of academic units) who will submit their choices through the Provost to the Faculty Senate for concurrence. The Director of the Library or his/her designate will serve as ex-officio member.
5. **The University Risk Management Committee.** Composition will be one representative per academic department or division or free-standing academic unit and one representative per administrative division, with the Chair appointed by

the Provost from the committee membership. Faculty appointments will be made by department chairs (or heads of academic units); administrative appointments will be made by heads of administrative divisions. Appointments will be submitted through the Provost to the Faculty Senate for concurrence.

- 6. The University Promotion, Tenure and Retention Committee.** Membership in this committee will consist of one tenured representative per academic department or division or free-standing academic unit, and two at-large tenured representatives appointed by the Provost. Faculty must have at least two years of experience as faculty at TAMIU to be eligible to serve on this committee. All tenured faculty members serve on their departmental promotion and tenure committees, but none may serve on both college and University promotion and tenure committees. In cases where an academic unit does not have the equivalent of a departmental committee, then tenured faculty members may serve on both their unit's promotion and tenure committee and the University committee. The Faculty Senate Parliamentarian and Elections Officer, assisted by the Faculty Senate Committee on Committees, will solicit a slate of candidates from each academic department, division, and free-standing academic unit, prepare a ballot for election of this committee and supervise the election. Deans, associate deans, department chairs, and heads of academic units may not serve on this committee. Terms will be established for two-year periods. The committee shall be presided over by the Provost, who will hold non-voting status as the presiding officer.
- 7. The University Grievance Committee Pool.** This pool will be comprised of six tenured faculty from the College of Arts & Sciences, four tenured faculty from each of the other colleges, and two tenured faculty per free-standing academic unit, to be elected in the same manner and at the same time as PTR elections; additionally, the Provost will appoint, within one week of the Grievance Pool election, two tenured at-large faculty representatives. Since the Grievance Pool provides the membership of Grievance Committees as well as a majority of committee members for appeals of promotion or tenure decisions its membership should be established early in the year before individual grievances or appeals emerge. Once elections and appointments are complete, the pool will consist of twenty-one members, enough to manage for grievances or four appeals without duplication of personnel. Deans, associate deans, department chairs, and heads of academic units may not serve on this committee. When a grievance is filed, each party will select two committee members from the pool, and the Faculty Senate President will select a fifth member from the pool. In the event of the Faculty Senate President's involvement in the grievance, the Vice President will select the fifth member. The resulting five-member committee for each grievance will elect its own Chair from its membership. Once the Grievance Pool has been constituted, it will meet to elect a secretary to manage the receipt of complaints and requests for information and to keep a record of ongoing activity, which will be filed each semester with the Secretary of the Faculty Senate. Since membership on a grievance committee can be a strenuous experience, no member of the Grievance Pool should participate in more than one proceeding in the same

academic year. If events require additional members to be added to the pool, a special election will be held for an appropriate number of additional members at the earliest possible time. The number of members necessary will be determined for each situation by the Grievance Pool members, chaired on this occasion by the Faculty Senate President.

- 8. Committee of Professors.** A committee composed of all Professors of the University whose current duties are primarily those of faculty and not administration will study applications by Associate Professors and Associate Librarians for promotion to the rank of Professor or Librarian and make recommendations to the Provost by the deadlines established for the University Promotion and Tenure Committee. The Committee of Professors will solicit external reviews of an applicant's work prior to developing a recommendation. The Provost will also receive independently the recommendations of the department chair and Dean of each applicant.
- 9. Faculty Development Leave Committee.** The Faculty Development Leave Committee (FDLC) shall be chaired by the current President of the Faculty Senate and shall consist of one tenured faculty member from each college and free-standing academic unit, with the exception of the College of Arts and Sciences, which shall have two representatives. The Faculty Senate will conduct elections during April, polling faculty from each College to determine its representative. Members elected in April will begin their terms the next school year, beginning in September. Faculty members are not eligible for faculty development leaves during their tenure on the committee.
- 10. Honor Council.** The Honor Council consists of faculty and students who have been elected by their peers or appointed by the Provost and who have undergone training in order to serve as case investigators and/or hearing panelists. The Honor Council serves to provide students with a means by which they may report academic dishonesty, to provide students with a means of appealing charges of academic dishonesty, and to provide the Provost with recommendations regarding general academic sanctions or remedial efforts appropriate to specific cases. This council shall have authority to create processes and operating procedures to implement the Honor System and to enforce the rules described in the Honor Code. Through the Provost's Office, this council shall be the central body responsible for maintaining records and for coordinating communication, prevention, training, remediation, and adjudication efforts for the Honor System. The Honor Council shall consist of nine members; four students elected by the student body, three faculty members elected by the faculty at large, and two faculty or student appointees of the Provost. The Student Government Association will conduct the elections of the student representatives, and the Faculty Senate will conduct the elections of the faculty representatives. Members must be elected and appointed by September 1 of each academic year and will serve through the following August. The Honor Council will hold general meetings at least twice each semester, and members of the council will serve on

3-5 member hearing panels when selected by the Chair of the Honor Council and the Provost.

### **Committee Assignment Procedure**

While both the composition and general standards will be set by the Senate with regard to University committees, only standards will be promulgated to the colleges pertaining to committees at the college and department level. The intent is to provide equality in the area of committee assignments for members of the faculty. In that regard, the following guidelines are established pertaining to committee service by faculty and the functioning of committees at all levels within the University.

1. No person shall chair a committee, when the purpose of that committee is to Provide advice or oversight to a department or function that is under the direct control of that person.
2. It is expected that positions on all University committees will be filled by full-time teaching faculty, except as noted in the committee compositions above (for example, the Associate Provost chairs the University Curriculum Committee ex-officio). Other exceptions may be made in cases of necessity (for example, if not enough qualified faculty members are available in a department or unit) or for other compelling reasons. However, as noted above, faculty with administrative appointments (Deans, associate deans, department chairs/division chairs, and heads of academic units) cannot serve on the University Promotion, Tenure and Retention Committee or the University Grievance Pool.
3. No person shall be compelled (Rev. 5-19-00 Item #13) to serve on more than a total of three committees at any given time, regardless of level (i.e. Texas A&M System, University, college or department), without the express consent of both the Provost and the Faculty Senate. This applies to both standing and ad hoc committees.
4. Service as a member of the Faculty Senate and its standing committees constitutes University committee participation.
5. At the end of each academic year, before the final spring meeting of the Faculty Senate, a listing of all committees to convene in the fall, to include membership of each, will be provided by the chair of each department/division or head of each free-standing academic unit to the Provost, who will then provide a copy to the Faculty Senate. This will be accomplished no later than April 30 of each academic year. The Faculty Senate will be responsible for reviewing committee assignments at all levels to ensure compliance with the guidelines established herein.
6. In the event that a faculty members is inadvertently assigned to more than three Committees outside of the Senate, the Chair of the Senate Committee on the

Creation, Composition, and Responsibilities of Committees will notify the Provost immediately upon discovery. The Provost and/or the Senate will seek a qualified and available faculty member to replace the faculty member previously identified.

7. Aside from the Committee on Admission Standards and Exceptions and the Grievance Pool, standing University committees with faculty membership will meet only during the nine-month academic calendar.

## **Graduate Council**

### **Responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of the Graduate Council to review all proposals for graduate degree programs and courses and, at its option, existing programs; and to establish and review the criteria for membership on the Graduate Faculty. Furthermore, the council is to establish the minimum admission standards, the standards for continuation of graduate students, and the residency requirements; to act upon petitions and appeals from the decision of the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research; and to consider any other matters relevant to the Office of Graduate Studies and Research.

### **Composition**

The Graduate Council shall be composed of the following members:

- The Dean of Graduate Studies and Research (Chair);
- One appointed member from each college or school;
- One member elected by each college or school;
- Four at-large members with no more than two from any single college or school;
- University Registrar (ex-officio);
- Graduate Student, appointed by Provost (ex-officio); and
- Faculty Senate President or his or her representative (ex-officio).

### **Membership**

With the exception of the graduate student representative, the University Registrar, and the Faculty Senate President, all members of the Graduate Council shall be full or associate members of the Graduate Faculty. Elected or appointed members shall serve a term of two years from the beginning of the Fall Semester following their election or appointment, which shall occur in the spring.

Terms for elected or appointed members shall be staggered.

## **Elections and Appointments**

All tenured and tenure-track faculty with a terminal degree are eligible to vote in council elections.

College representatives to the council shall be elected by April 21 of the appropriate year of selection. Such representatives may be nominated by all tenured and tenure-track faculty; the election will be conducted at the time and in the manner of the Faculty Senate elections conducted by the Faculty Senate Parliamentarian and Elections Officer.

The Deans' and Provost's appointments shall be made by May 1.

## **Library and Instructional Support**

### **Library Policies**

The Sue & Radcliffe Killam Library offers reserve service to faculty members so that students may have access to printed materials for class assignments. Circulation Desk staff can answer questions about reserve policies and assist faculty in putting items on reserve.

Reference librarians are available for pre-scheduled tours and class instruction sessions. Instruction may cover general information about the Library or may cover sources available in a particular discipline or for a specific research project, according to the preferences of the faculty member requesting the session. Any one of the reference librarians can provide further information and assist in scheduling a tour or class. Please make your requests at least one week in advance to permit for schedule changes made necessary by the sessions and to allow the librarians to prepare instructional materials.

Also available is the TexShare card, which gives TAMIU faculty the ability to check out books at approximately 50 other public universities in Texas. Applications for the TexShare card can be filled out at the Circulation Desk.

## **APPOINTMENT AND ADVANCEMENT OF FACULTY**

### **Terms of Appointment**

Texas A&M International University, a part of The Texas A&M University System, recognizes that the faculty is the heart of any teaching institution and much care is given to the selection of each faculty member. A serious attempt is made to include a variety of geographic, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds and to represent a distribution of undergraduate and graduate colleges and universities. In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Executive Order of 11236, Texas A&M International University is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## **Contract Form**

The University shall provide all faculty members with an annual statement in writing of the terms of their employment, including special conditions, responsibilities, and any special prerequisites. Such a document should cover such items as rank, salary, tenure provisions, whether the position is full-time or part-time, and the inclusive dates of service. When the document includes a reference to a specific rule of the institution, the rule should be excerpted from its source and affixed to the document. If the document refers to a large part of a lengthy publication (*TAMIU Faculty Handbook* or TAMUS Policy Manual), a copy of the publication should be placed in several readily accessible locations or be provided to the faculty member. (TAMUS Policy 12.01 Section 6).

## **Search, Appointment, and Orientation of New Faculty**

### **Search Procedures**

The faculty search procedures employed by Texas A&M International University will strive to recruit the most qualified faculty members without discrimination or violation of appropriate equal opportunity policies. Faculty positions will be advertised in recognized national scholarly publications. The University is also committed to the principle that faculty should participate actively in the writing of job descriptions for faculty positions, in the screening of applicants, in the selection and interviewing of finalists, and in the formation of hiring recommendations to be submitted to department chairs and Deans or directors. To ensure maximum faculty participation and to provide the University with the largest pool of qualified applicants, the search process for permanent, full-time tenure-track faculty (excepting Library faculty) should commence and end, whenever possible, within the regular academic year and not carry over into the summer. Search policies are available from the Office of Human Resources.

### **Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action**

Texas A&M International University shall provide equal opportunity for employment to all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, or veteran status, and shall strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunities for faculty and staff employees. This University will not enter knowingly into any contractual agreement for services or supplies with any firm failing to follow fair employment practices. (TAMUS Policy 33.02).

### **Application for Employment**

Applications for teaching positions are normally submitted to the Dean of the college wherein the position exists. Normally applications are accompanied by a complete curriculum vita. Appropriate transcripts are required, and letters of recommendation may be required.

## **Appointment Procedures**

Potential new faculty will be notified by an academic administrator of the University's offer to appoint the faculty member to the faculty. The notification will include all terms and conditions of employment as well as an acceptance deadline.

## **Orientation**

New faculty members will receive an academic orientation from senior faculty and/or academic unit administrators assigned to the academic unit wherein the new faculty has been assigned. Insofar as resources permit, new faculty members (especially faculty members in their first tenure-track appointment) may expect to be assigned to a senior faculty member.

## **Pre-employment**

### **Employee's Affidavit**

Each faculty member is required to sign an Employee's Affidavit prior to the beginning of employment. This affidavit consists of an oath of office, a statement concerning holding more than one office or position, a statement regarding nepotism, and certification of receipt of certain state laws relating to accountability and responsibility for state-owned property, legislative influence, political aid, and use of state-owned automobiles.

### **Faculty Handbook**

During orientation the new faculty member will be given the current version of the TAMIU *Faculty Handbook*, which is the basis for the employment contract of all faculty. Acceptance of the employment contract is an explicit acceptance of the terms and conditions of employment described in the TAMIU *Faculty Handbook*.

## **Personnel Records**

Personnel records on employees are maintained in the President's Office, the Office of the Provost, the Office of the Deans of the colleges, and the Office of Human Resources. It is important to keep these records updated when significant changes occur in professional training or qualifications. This is accomplished by notifying the chair of the respective department; the chair will in turn notify the President's Office, the Office of the Provost, the Office of the Dean, and the Office of Human Resources.

### **Official File**

The "official file" for each faculty member is maintained in the Office of the Provost. The Human Resources Office maintains records of all salary data, elections, deductions, etc.

## **Grievance File**

If a faculty member is party to a grievance, the records of that proceeding will become a part of the "official file."

## **Major Faculty Responsibilities**

While academic preparation, experience, and professional responsibilities form the basis for faculty competence, faculty seeking promotion and tenure must demonstrate achievements in the areas of Teaching, Service, and Scholarship.

### **Teaching**

Texas A&M International University considers teaching its primary mission. Teaching includes knowledge in the field, quality in teaching, and academic advisement and career counseling. Consistent with its strong commitment to instruction, the University requires that teaching effectiveness count in promotion to all ranks. Each college must maintain a clear and fair process for evaluating teaching effectiveness. Student evaluation, peer review, and self-evaluation are recommended avenues for evaluating teaching performance. Teaching activities encompass classroom instruction as well as those professional development activities aimed at making one a better teacher or enhancing one's expertise in the teaching subject area.

The teaching responsibility for Library faculty is fulfilled through Professional Assignment. Professional Assignment includes acquisition of materials in various forms, organization of those materials for retrieval, aiding patrons in their use, electronic connection to the world, and responsible management of all resources. Texas A&M International University places a high value on the opportunity for students and faculty to engage in independent learning and scholarly research. Consistent with its recognition of the importance of library service, the University requires that effectiveness in Professional Assignment count in promotion to all ranks. Self-evaluation, including position description as the basic criterion, with review by each librarian's supervisor, is the recommended avenue for evaluating performance.

### **Service**

Service encompasses a variety of professionally related activities through which members of the faculty employ their academic expertise for the benefit of the University, the community, and the profession. Texas A&M International University places a strong emphasis on service to the University and its mission. A faculty member provides service to the University through active participation and leadership in college and University committees, councils, special projects, or duties for which the faculty member is held accountable.

As a comprehensive University located on the South Texas-Mexico border, Texas A&M International University encourages community service in areas related to the development of multi-cultural and international issues. It also recognizes the emerging role of the institution in business and industrial development, work force development, and community, educational,

health, and social development. For purposes of evaluation, however, activities must relate to one's academic field or discipline or else be clearly approved by the University.

The University encourages participation and leadership in professional activities and associations. A professional activity may be considered service when it does not include peer review. Certificates of recognition, letters of appreciation, official minutes, newsletters, products of projects, and other tangible evidence of service rendered may document Service of all types.

## Scholarship

Fundamental to any definition of scholarship is the expansion and application of knowledge and understanding about the world in which we live. For an endeavor to be considered scholarship the following criteria must apply:

1. Scholarship involves a product, a more or less tangible result, something that observers can examine. In the case of oral presentations, some material evidence of the event must be provided.
2. Scholarship involves academic peer review of both the quality and quantity of the scholarly products.
3. Scholarship implies an activity that is novel, creative, imaginative, ingenious, or original, yet not accidental. Not necessarily all of these but at least some must apply to the outcome or it is not "scholarly."

Scholarship at Texas A&M International University consists of three separate yet interconnected elements: Scholarship of Discovery, Scholarship of Integration and Teaching, and Scholarship of Application.

1. *The Scholarship of Discovery.* The Scholarship of Discovery involves the search for new knowledge and for a richer understanding of the existing knowledge. Creative achievements in the fine arts are considered enterprises of discovery. Productivity may be documented in the form of scholarly books, articles, oral presentations of research, artistic productions, and performances.
2. *The Scholarship of Integration and Teaching.* The Scholarship of Integration and Teaching emphasizes fitting one's own research, or the research of others, into larger intellectual patterns. It involves making connections across the disciplines, placing the discipline in a larger context, illuminating data or concepts in a revealing way, and evaluating new pedagogical approaches. In addition to the more traditional forums for scholarship, such as academic writing, productivity may take the form of a textbook, multi-media production, writing that makes one's field accessible to a wider audience, cross-curricular innovations, and interdisciplinary instructional achievements.

3. *The Scholarship of Application.* The Scholarship of Application brings learning and knowledge to bear upon the solution of practical problems. It flows directly from one's professional expertise, encompassing activities that relate directly to the intellectual work of the faculty member. Productivity may take the form of publications and presentations derived from consultation, technical assistance, policy analysis, and program evaluation.

For Library faculty the Scholarship responsibility is fulfilled by Professional Enrichment activities, which include professional development and scholarly activities. Professional development is defined as activity that enhances the professional skills, knowledge, and abilities of the Library faculty member to contribute to the mission of the Library and the University and to the library profession. Productivity may take the form of course work and continuing education activities, documented study and reading with an end product which leads to the improvement of library services, and participation in professional societies as a member and by attendance at professional meetings, documented by reports of findings or new knowledge acquired. Scholarly activities are defined as activities in librarianship or another academic discipline which demonstrate the librarian's research and scholarship in the chosen discipline. Productivity may take the form of professional and scholarly publications (including electronic publications).

## **Definition of Faculty Status**

For the regularly appointed full-time faculty, there are four levels of academic rank: Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor. For regularly appointed full-time Library faculty, there are three levels of rank: Assistant Librarian, Associate Librarian, and Full Librarian.

### **Instructor**

An individual entering the academic profession usually holds this rank. In addition to fulfilling faculty responsibilities, faculty holding this rank must meet the following requirements:

1. **Academic Preparation:** A minimum of a master's degree.
2. **Experience:** Individuals holding a master's degree are required to supplement their degree by professional or work experience in the field, special certification, license or other certification of proficiency in the field.
3. **Teaching:** Instructors must demonstrate a basic knowledge of the teaching area, careful classroom preparation, and a willingness to assist students. They must show continuing progress in teaching by expanding knowledge in the teaching specialty and developing effective instructional strategies and techniques. They must also participate in academic advisement and be familiar with University core curriculum, college degree requirements, and other matters related to academic advisement.

4. Service: Instructors must participate at an introductory level of responsibility in service to the college and University through committees, councils, and special projects.
5. Scholarship: They must show clear evidence of understanding advancements in scholarship that are related to the teaching specialty.

### **Assistant Professor**

This rank is usually the entry level for a tenure-track position. In addition to fulfilling faculty responsibilities, the following qualifications must be met for consideration of appointment to this rank. The achievement of this academic preparation and experience does not in itself ensure appointment to this rank.

1. Academic Preparation:
  - a. Holds the earned doctorate or equivalent terminal degree, or
  - b. Is in the final stages of a doctoral dissertation or terminal degree project.
2. Experience: Part-time teaching experience or related professional/work experience is required.

In addition, to be promoted to Assistant Professor, the faculty member must meet the following requirements:

1. Teaching: Show continuing progress in teaching proficiency by expanding knowledge in the teaching specialty and developing the expertise needed to teach graduate as well as undergraduate courses. Participate in professional development activities aimed at making one a better teacher or at enhancing one's expertise in a teaching subject area. Understand University and college degree requirements and other matters related to academic advisement as well as requirements for graduate study and professional entry into the field. Actively participate in academic advisement and career counseling.
2. Service: Participate in service to the college and University through committees, councils, and special projects. May also participate and lead in professional and community service insofar as the activities relate to the candidate's discipline and/or serves the University's mission.
3. Scholarship: Continue to advance in scholarly or creative activity beyond instructional assignments. Areas of accomplishment are appropriate to the academic discipline.

### **Associate Professor**

This rank represents maturity, experience and leadership in the academic profession. In addition to fulfilling faculty responsibilities, the following qualifications must be met for

consideration of appointment to this rank. The achievement of this academic preparation and experience does not in itself ensure appointment to this rank.

1. Academic Preparation: An earned doctorate or equivalent terminal degree.
2. Experience: A minimum of five years experience in full-time faculty employment at an accredited institution of higher education, including at least three years in the rank of Assistant Professor.

In addition, to be promoted to Associate Professor, the faculty member must have a minimum of two full academic years of experience at Texas A&M International University prior to applying for promotion and must meet the following requirements:

1. Teaching: Has a broad knowledge of the discipline and an in-depth knowledge in one or more parts of the field. Has the ability, experience, and expertise to teach both undergraduate and graduate courses. May be involved in experimental, innovative teaching. Knows degree requirements for both undergraduates and graduates and is experienced in academic advisement and career counseling. Serves as a mentor for students desiring advanced degrees and career entry.
2. Service: Has begun to assume a position of leadership in the college and the University by serving on committees or special projects. May also participate and lead in professional and community service insofar as the activities relate to the candidate's discipline and/or serve the University's mission.
3. Scholarship: Has demonstrated competence and productivity in scholarly or creative activities related to the candidate's discipline.

### **Full Professor**

This is the summit of academic rank, representing a position of leadership in the University. Faculty promoted to the rank of Full Professor should model to junior faculty the highest professional, scholarly, and ethical standards of academic life. In addition to fulfilling faculty responsibilities, the following qualifications must be met for consideration of appointment to this rank. The achievement of this academic preparation and experience does not in itself ensure appointment to this rank.

1. Academic Preparation: An earned doctorate or equivalent terminal degree.
2. Experience: A minimum of ten years of full-time faculty employment at an accredited institution of higher education, including at least five years in the rank of Associate Professor.

In addition, to be promoted to Professor, the faculty member must be tenured and have a minimum of three full academic years of faculty employment at Texas A&M International University prior to applying for promotion and meet the following requirements:

1. Teaching: Has demonstrated maturity and skill in teaching, a proven record of teaching excellence, and continued demonstration of interest in improving pedagogical skills. Has assumed leadership in curriculum development and issues related to teaching improvement in the discipline. Is thoroughly familiar with University and college degree requirements and other matters related to academic advisement, career development and opportunities, and placement. Is a teacher and advisor to colleagues.
2. Service: Has assumed a position of leadership and service to the University on committees, councils, and special projects. May also participate and lead in professional and community service insofar as the activities relate to the candidate's teaching or research and/or serve the University's mission.
3. Scholarship: Has recognized achievements in scholarly or creative activities and is capable of advising colleagues in such activities.

### **Assistant Librarian**

This rank is the entry level for a tenure-track position, assigned to individuals who are beginning their Library professional careers. In addition to fulfilling Library faculty responsibilities, Library faculty holding this rank must meet the following requirements:

1. Academic Preparation: An earned master's degree in library science (MLS) from an American Library Association (ALA) accredited program (ALA recognizes the MLS as the terminal degree for librarians).
2. Professional Assignment: Demonstrate a basic knowledge of librarianship, professional responsibilities, and a willingness to assist Library patrons.
3. Service: Participate at an introductory level of responsibility in service to the Library and University through committees, councils, and special projects.
4. Professional Enrichment: Participate in professional development activities and demonstrate understanding of current developments in librarianship.

### **Associate Librarian**

This rank represents maturity, experience and leadership in the academic library profession. In addition to fulfilling Library faculty responsibilities, the following qualifications must be met for consideration of appointment to this rank. The achievement of this academic Library preparation and experience does not in itself ensure appointment to this rank. The deciding factor in promotion to Associate Librarian is the evaluation of Professional Assignment.

1. Academic Preparation: An earned master's degree in library science from an ALA-accredited program.

2. Experience: A minimum of five years experience in full-time library professional employment, including at least three years in the rank of Assistant Librarian, and a minimum of two years experience at Texas A&M International University.

In addition, to be promoted to Associate Librarian, the Library faculty member must meet the following requirements:

1. Professional Assignment: The Associate Librarian has a broad knowledge of librarianship and an in-depth knowledge in one or more parts of the field; has the ability, experience and expertise to perform all duties in assignment area and is able to contribute to new services and innovative programs; assists in the training of new librarians and/or other employees; and demonstrates consistently meritorious professional performance.
2. Service: Has begun to assume a position of leadership in the Library and the University by serving on committees or special projects. May also participate and lead in professional community service.
3. Professional Enrichment: Has actively pursued opportunities for professional development in areas related to academic librarianship. May also have produced scholarly publications or engaged in other scholarly activities.

### **Full Librarian**

This is the summit of Library academic rank conferred by the Library and is reserved for individuals whose performance judged over an extended period of time has been considered exemplary. The standard of performance required for promotion to Full Librarian is substantially higher than that required for promotion to Associate Librarian. The deciding factor in promotion decisions is the evaluation of Professional Assignment; however, the other criteria apply. The achievement of this academic Library preparation and experience does not in itself ensure appointment to this rank.

1. Academic Preparation: An earned master's degree in library science from an ALA-accredited program.
2. Experience: A minimum of ten years experience in full-time library professional employment, including at least five years in the rank of Associate Librarian.

In addition, to be promoted to Full Librarian, the Library faculty member must have a minimum of three years of full-time experience at Texas A&M International University and meet the following requirements:

1. Professional Assignment: Has demonstrated maturity and skill in library specialty, a proven record of outstanding performance and continued demonstration of interest in improving Library services. Has assumed leadership in areas related to library specialty, developing and managing new programs and services for the

Library and improving existing programs and services. Is familiar with basic issues and developments in all areas of the Library and library profession. Trains and acts as mentor to less-experienced librarians and other employees and is an advisor to colleagues.

2. **Service:** Has assumed a position of leadership and service to the University on committees, councils, and special projects. May also participate and lead in professional and community service insofar as the activities relate to the candidate's discipline or serve the University's mission.
3. **Professional Enrichment:** The Full Librarian has established a consistent record of professional development; assists in the professional development of other librarians; and has produced a significant output of scholarly activity.

### **Others with Faculty Status**

From time to time it may become necessary to add members of the faculty whose ranks and positions have not been previously defined. At the time of appointment, these definitions need to be clarified. Typical of ranks and positions not elsewhere defined are the following: Lecturer, Adjunct, Special Appointment, Emeritus, Visiting, and Administrators with Faculty Rank.

1. **Lecturer.** Lecturers may be either full-time or part-time faculty members. Typically, they will not be appointed to a tenure-track position. Normally they will not possess the academic or professional qualifications necessary to be appointed to the rank of Instructor.
2. **Adjunct.** Adjunct faculty may be appointed at any rank for which they are qualified, on either a full-time or part-time basis. Normally the appointment is of a temporary or part-time nature, and is made to ensure that classes that could not be offered by otherwise qualified full-time tenure-track faculty may be offered. These appointments are made at the discretion of the various academic Deans, with the guidance and approval of the Provost.
3. **Special Appointment Faculty.** From time to time the University may appoint a faculty member as a Poet-, Writer-, or Artist-in-Residence. Special Funding faculty, or as some other title not elsewhere defined. Normally these appointments are of a temporary nature (usually one year or less), and they are not normally positions that can be tenured.
4. **Emeritus.** The Emeritus title is conferred upon individuals who have made significant contributions to the University through long and distinguished service in administration, teaching, research, and/or service while holding positions identified by these titles. As a general rule, over ten years of employment would be considered long service. Emeritus titles are granted by action of the Board of Regents upon nomination by the President and recommendation of the

Chancellor. (For more detail see TAMUS Policy 31.08 Section 1).

5. **Visiting.** Visiting faculty may be appointed at any rank. They are not eligible for the rights and privileges granted to tenure-track and tenured faculty until they are given a tenure-track appointment. Normally these renewable appointments (at the University's option) are of one-year duration.
  
6. **Administrators with Faculty Rank.** Anyone who holds faculty status is expected to participate in the teaching process a minimum of once per year. Failure to participate in the teaching process for a period of more than two years is justification for the Faculty Senate to request that the Provost seek revocation of the faculty status, rights, and privileges of the non-participating party. If faculty status is revoked, the administrator would be entitled to appeal as specified in the sections of the *Faculty Handbook* describing appeals in the promotion and tenure process.

## **ETHICS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

### **Principles of Ethical Conduct**

#### **Conflicts of Interest and Outside Employment**

Appropriate outside activity for a faculty member which enhances his or her performance of duties in the teaching staff is encouraged as furthering the interest of both the individual and the University. Consulting, professional performance and other appropriate outside activities can contribute to the effectiveness of the faculty member as a teacher and as a productive scholar, and can meet the institution's obligations of public service.

Full-time faculty are expected to devote their time and talents on a full-time basis to their assigned duties and responsibilities at the University. Outside employment may be authorized provided that the following conditions are met: (Section 1, TAMUS Policy 3 1.05)

- It does not interfere with the regular work of the faculty member;
- It is reasonable in amount;
- It avoids unfair competition with private business and those in private professional practice;
- It does not cause a conflict between the personal interests of the faculty member and the interests of the state of Texas;
- It does not involve the unauthorized use of any resources (facilities, equipment, or personnel) of the Texas A&M University System or the University;
- It is approved in advance by the appropriate TAMUS or component official, and all reports required by policy are properly filed;
- The standards of conduct prescribed by law for state employees are observed; and

- Any research done in connection with such outside employment is conducted in an objective and scientific manner, and in accordance with the highest ethical standards of the employee's profession.

Faculty carry the prestige of the University with them in all places and at all times, and they have a responsibility to protect and preserve that prestige in all actions and utterances. Exercise of professional integrity by a faculty member includes recognition that the public may judge his or her profession and institution by statements made by the faculty member. Therefore, when speaking or acting as a private person, the faculty member should strive to be accurate, to exercise appropriate restraint, to show respect for the opinion of others, and to avoid creating the impression that he or she speaks or acts for the college or University.

A faculty member desiring to engage in outside activity relevant as described above, whether paid or not, shall, previous to making a firm commitment in this matter, submit a "Plan for Continuing Outside Activity." Unless advised to the contrary in writing, the faculty member may consider the plan operative. If a faculty member intends to receive credit on the Professional Performance Profile for a continuing activity, he or she must have submitted the appropriate "Plan." All authorizations terminate on August 31 of each year.

It is presumed that the professor's presence at assigned classes and at posted office hours is of considerable importance to the University and the students; any serious failure to meet these obligations will adversely affect the performance legitimately expected of a full-time faculty member. As a practical guideline in this matter, however, it is presumed that such additional responsibilities may be approved if the professor's absence from a regular class meeting during a given semester for the purpose of outside public activity (but for which adequate alternative plans are made) does not exceed the number of times that class is scheduled to meet in a week of that semester. The Provost may make exceptions to this rule.

Faculty members should consider that outside public activity in excess of an average  $\frac{1}{4}$  time load may adversely affect professional performance. Outside employment by or consulting work through a firm or company in which the employee is a principal owner is also governed by this policy.

### **Use of Property and Equipment**

No employee of the University shall use for his or her own personal benefit or pleasure any property of the University, except books from the Library and other such items of well-established usage. Property and equipment of all types, either owned by the University or entrusted to the University by others, are to be used only for official business. Should there be a need to use property or equipment off campus, for official purposes, the off campus property use permit must be completed and approved. Personal telephone calls are not to be charged to official telephones.

## **Professional Standards**

All personnel of Texas A&M International University shall conform in every respect to the laws of the state of Texas relative to their employment. Each employee must understand the Standards of Conduct of State Officers and Employees adopted by the Legislature of Texas (outlined below) and of the specific matters of conduct stated in the General Appropriations Act.

The following rules are cited from the Standards of Conduct of State Officers and Employees (Section 572.051 of the Texas Government Code):

“A state officer or employee should not:

- (1) accept or solicit any gift, favor, or service that might reasonably tend to influence the office or employee in the discharge of official duties or that the officer or employee knows or should know is being offered to him with the intent to influence the officer’s or employee’s official conduct;
- (2) accept other employment or engage in any business or professional activity that the officer or employee might reasonably expect would require or induce the officer or employee to disclose confidential information acquired by reason of the official position;
- (3) accept other employment or compensation that might reasonably be expected to impair the officer’s or employee’s independence of judgment in the performance of the officer’s or employee’s official duties;
- (4) make personal investments that could reasonably be expected to create a substantial conflict between the officer’s or employee’s private interest and the public interest; or
- (5) intentionally or knowingly solicit, accept, or agree to accept any benefit for having exercised the officer’s or employee’s official powers or performed the officer’s or employee’s official duties in favor of another.”

## **Professional Ethics**

The fundamental responsibilities of faculty members as teachers and scholars include maintenance of competence in their field of specialization and the exhibition of professional competence in the classroom, studio, or laboratory, and in the public arena through activities such as discussions, lectures, consulting, publications and participation in professional organizations and meetings. (TAMUS Policy 12.01 Section 2.1).

Faculty members should be professional in their conduct in the classroom and in their relationships with students. They should maintain respect for the student and for the student’s

posture as a learner and should be appropriately available to students for consultation on course work. (TAMUS Policy 12.01 Section 2.5).

## **Sexual Harassment**

The employment and educational environment of the University shall be free from all forms of sexual discrimination and sexual harassment. Conduct constituting sexual harassment is specifically prohibited and will result in appropriate sanctions. Sexual harassment, as defined in TAMUS Policy 34.01. Section 2, is a Class A misdemeanor under the Texas Penal Code.

## **Political Activity**

### **Non-elective State or Federal Office**

TAMUS employees may hold non-elective offices with boards, commissions, and other state and federal entities provided that the holding of such office, (1) is of benefit to the state of Texas, or is required by state or federal law, and (2) is not in conflict with the employee's position within TAMUS. The responsible CEO must approve such appointments. Prior to the Chancellor or a CEO accepting an invitation to serve in an additional non-elective office, the Board of Regents must determine that the appointment meets the two requirements stated above. The Board must also make an official record of any compensation to be received by the Chancellor or CEO from such appointment, including salary, bonus, per diem or other types of compensation. (TAMUS Policy 7.01 Section 6.1).

### **Positions of Employment with Government Agencies**

TAMUS employees may hold other positions of employment with agencies, boards, commissions, or other entities of government so long as the holding of such positions is consistent with the prohibitions against dual office holding in the Texas Constitution. Consulting arrangements with federal, state, or local governmental agencies of a detached and independent advisory nature are not considered to be appointments with such agencies. (TAMUS Policy 7.01 Section 6.2).

### **Public Officials and Political Activities**

*Entertainment:* If a TAMUS component provides tickets to a public official to allow the official and/or his or her guests to attend an event, an officer or employee of the TAMUS component will serve as host to the official, and must attend the event. (TAMUS Policy 7.01 Section 7.1).

*Perishable Food Items:* TAMUS components may provide public officials with small, infrequent gifts of perishable food items delivered to their offices if such gifts are unsolicited and are not offered in exchange for action or inaction on the part of the public official. (TAMUS Policy 7.01 Section 7.2).

*Expenses for Public Officials:* TAMUS components may pay expenses in order to furnish information to state officials relevant to their official position, including presentations about the programs and services of TAMUS. (TAMUS Policy 7.01 Section 7.3).

### **Use of Official Authority Prohibited**

No TAMUS employee may use his or her official authority to influence or permit the use of a program administered by TAMUS to interfere with or affect the result of an election or nomination of a candidate or to achieve any other political purpose. No TAMUS employee may coerce, attempt to coerce, command, restrict, attempt to restrict, or prevent the payment, loan, or contribution of any thing of value to a person or political organization for political purposes. Any TAMUS employee who violates either of these provisions is subject to immediate termination of employment, in accordance with the Texas Government Code. (TAMUS Policy 7.01 Section 7.4).

### **Use of TAMUS Funds or Property**

No TAMUS employee shall expend or authorize the expenditure of any TAMUS funds, services or supplies for the purpose of financing or otherwise supporting the candidacy of a person for an office in the legislative, executive, or judicial branch of state government or of the government of the United States, or influencing the outcome of any election, or the passage or defeat of any legislative measure. No appropriated funds may be expended for the payment of full or partial salary of any employee who is also required by the Texas Government Code Chapter 305 to register as a lobbyist. TAMUS facilities may be used as polling places for local, state, and national elections. (TAMUS Policy 7.01 Section 7.5).

### **Voting and Political Participation**

As employees of the state of Texas, TAMUS employees have the rights of freedom of association and political participation guaranteed by the state and federal constitutions, except as limited by valid state laws. TAMUS employees shall be allowed sufficient time off to vote in public elections without a deduction from pay or from accrued leave time. (TAMUS Policy 7.01 Section 7.6).

### **Political Campaign Events on TAMUS Property**

See System Regulation 33.01.01 (TAMUS Policy 7.01 Section 7.7).

### **Employees as Candidates and Officeholders**

TAMUS employees may run for election and serve as members of the governing bodies of school districts, cities, towns, or other local governmental districts. No campaign activities may be conducted during official business hours unless the employee has requested and received permission to use leave time for such a purpose. Any employee elected to such a position may not receive any salary for serving as a member of such governing bodies. (TAMUS Policy 7.01 Section 7.8.1).

If an employee wishes to announce as a candidate and seek election to other than a local office, such employee must seek approval to be granted unpaid leave of absence until the final election is over. If the employee is elected, a resignation from employment is deemed to be automatic and the employment ends when the person assumes office. If the chief executive officer is not willing to grant a leave of absence for the election process, the employee must choose between the position of employment and the desire to be elected to another position. (TAMUS Policy 7.01 Section 7.8.2).

### **Political Contributions from Employees**

TAMUS employees may make personal contributions to candidates for office and political organizations, with the exception that no TAMUS employee may contribute personal services, money, or goods of value to a candidate campaigning for Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives. (TAMUS Policy 7.01 Section 7.9).

### **External Relations**

#### **Communications Channels**

Except as explicitly stated elsewhere in this document, communications channels are the lines of authority presented in the Organization Chart (Appendix A).

#### **Publicity for Faculty Activities**

Using their standard policies and procedures, the Office of Public Information should disseminate publicity for all University activities. All items will be submitted to media outlets, but their use is not guaranteed.

#### **Grants Policy**

Grant policy is disseminated through the offices of the Deans of the colleges.

#### **Use of Institutional Letterhead, Trademarks, Trade Names**

Personal use of institutional letterhead, trademarks, and trade names is not allowed. However, faculty members are entitled to use the institutional letterhead, trademarks, and trade names for professional activities. Only official institutional letterhead, trademarks, and trade names are to be used. Faculty and staff of TAMIU are not authorized to design their own. The resolving authority concerning legitimate use of the institutional letterhead, trademarks, and trade names is the Office of the Vice-President for Institutional Advancement.

#### **Fund Raising**

Fund raising is encouraged, but it must be coordinated through the Office of the Vice-President for Institutional Advancement.

# EVALUATION AND PROMOTION OF FACULTY

## Annual Review

By a majority vote of its faculty, and with the approval of the Provost and the Faculty Senate, each college<sup>3</sup> will establish procedures and criteria for evaluating faculty performance and development on a yearly basis. Each college will establish the forms, documents, and other materials to be used in the evaluation process. These materials will be consistent with the five major areas of Academic Preparation, Experience, Teaching, Service, and Scholarship, and they should all further the goals of recognizing and rewarding excellence and of identifying opportunities for professional growth. Documents on procedures, criteria, and forms to be used in the evaluation process will be filed with the Faculty Senate and the Office of the Provost. As a result of the annual evaluation, the non-tenured faculty member should have an understanding of his or her progress toward tenure.

Formal evaluation is the responsibility of department chairs and will be conducted by them. Each year the department chair will provide a written evaluation and hold an evaluative conference with each faculty member of the department prior to the beginning of final exams for the Spring Semester. The criteria for promotion (as listed in the section concerning academic rank) will be used as the basis of evaluation. The written evaluation should identify faculty strengths, recognize areas of excellence, and note opportunities for future professional growth. If a faculty member's performance is "seriously deficient" in some area, the department chair or director will outline corrective measures (e.g. updating or modifying course syllabi or reviewing techniques of presentation or revising scholarly or service activities).

## College Evaluation Procedure

The College Evaluation Procedure document must include the following:

1. A provision for the faculty member to receive a written evaluation, to review the evaluation, and to respond to it in writing. This response will be placed in the faculty member's personnel file in the college. The faculty member must receive the written evaluation and have an opportunity to meet with the evaluating chair or director prior to the beginning of final examinations for the Spring Semester.
2. A provision for a review of the evaluation by the Dean of the College (if the Dean was not involved in the initial evaluation procedure) and by the Provost.
3. A provision for the Dean of the College and the initial evaluator(s) to meet with the faculty member if the faculty member or the chair or director deems that further discussion of the evaluation is necessary after the initial evaluation conference.

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<sup>3</sup> *Wherever the term "college" appears in the Evaluation section of this document, it also applies to the Library and to schools.*

## College Evaluation Criteria

The college's statement of criteria to be used in evaluating faculty performance must:

1. Specify the criteria to be used in evaluating Academic Preparation, Experience, Teaching, Service, and Scholarship.
2. Include a provision for a faculty member to identify, with the chair or Dean's approval, an area of primary academic development or activity for the coming year. This area is to be selected in the light of requirements for promotion, tenure, and professional development and mentioned in the written evaluation.
3. Describe the kinds of evidence to be considered in the evaluation. Indicate, wherever applicable, the priority given to items of evidence within an area.
4. Assure that the criteria and the evidence are consistent with those widely accepted for the development of faculty in the given discipline.

## Evaluation of Teaching

In addition to above-listed requirements, college evaluations of teaching performance must be based on a teaching portfolio created by individual faculty members. Teaching portfolios must include student evaluations and may include other documents such as peer review of teaching, a statement of teaching philosophy, grade distributions, course syllabi, examples of graded course work, recommendation letters from students, documentation of teaching development activities (such as conferences or workshops), publications about teaching, and evidence of honors for teaching. Each college will establish clear guidelines for its faculty in regards to the materials to be included in teaching portfolios.

## Midpoint Review of Faculty

At the midpoint of the probationary period of a faculty member on the tenure track, the faculty member will receive a more thorough midpoint review addressing progress toward tenure based on established performance expectations. This normally occurs at the end of the third year of a six-year probationary period. The promotion and tenure committee of the department (or school or division or Library) will meet, review the performance record of the faculty member, and make a recommendation to the chair or director. Based on this recommendation, and his or her own observations, the chair or director will write a midpoint evaluation report, indicating one of the following possibilities:

1. *The faculty member's performance is strong in all areas. Areas of particular strength may be enumerated and detailed. Progress toward tenure requires that present performance levels be maintained.*
2. *The faculty member's performance is strong overall, but includes areas of weakness, which must be enumerated and detailed. Progress toward tenure requires that these weaknesses be addressed. Specific suggestions for improvement should be*

*included as appropriate.*

3. *The faculty member's performance is not sufficient to indicate any realistic possibility of tenure. The faculty member should be offered a terminal contract.*

The exact wording of the midpoint report would be appropriate to the situation, as determined by the chair or director. The three options above indicate the information that must be presented to the faculty member and are not required text.

Should the faculty member at the time of hiring receive, because of experience or seniority, time toward tenure, the formal review will come at the midpoint between beginning work and reaching the sixth year of employment.

These reviews are intended to indicate to the individual the general degree of successful development which the faculty member has attained. In addition, these reviews are intended to strengthen the accomplishments of all non-tenured faculty members and to provide them with a preliminary view of the possible results of a tenure decision.

## **Post-Tenure Review**

### **Introduction**

In the Western academic tradition, universities have fostered excellence in teaching and in research by creating an intellectual environment in which faculty members and students are able to discover new knowledge and reexamine and contest old truths through the free exploration and exchange of ideas. Essential to creating and maintaining this spirit of free inquiry are the protections offered by academic tenure. Faculty members who earn tenure have proven over an extended period of time to both their peers and the University's academic administration that they perform at admirably high levels as both teachers and scholars. By granting faculty members tenure, the University expresses its faith in their ability to continue to teach, conduct research, and serve the University and the community at sufficiently high levels of proficiency. Granting tenure to the best faculty benefits the University by greatly increasing the likelihood of retaining their professional services, a considerable benefit in an often competitive job market. With tenure, faculty members benefit from the protections of academic freedom and job security to exercise their professional expertise in the pursuit and expression of new and occasionally unpopular or simply misunderstood knowledge.

The post-tenure process that follows is intended to promote the continued professional development of tenured faculty by reaffirming their continued excellence in Teaching, Research, and Service, or by providing a process by which tenured faculty who have fallen below acceptable norms of performance in one or more areas are able to receive the benefit of a peer-coordinated plan for returning to their former productivity.

## **Post-Tenure Review**

The process for post-tenure review at Texas A&M International University will consist of annual performance reviews by department chairs and Deans of the Teaching, Research, and Service of tenured faculty members. These evaluations will be used to determine eligibility for merit pay increases as well as reaffirming the tenured faculty member's continued satisfactory performance. Should tenured faculty members receive unsatisfactory performance evaluations, they will pursue a professional development plan as delineated below when and if they meet the conditions also delineated below.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

In each college or school, the faculty, with the approval of the Dean of the College or the director (in the case of Killam Library) will develop specific criteria for determining the evaluation weight given to Teaching, Scholarship, and Service for tenured faculty pursuing different professional paths. Evaluation of tenured professional librarians will be based on their specific job duties. Thus, those tenured faculty members receiving release time for research and a reduced teaching load would be expected to have a higher percentage of their performance evaluation dedicated to an evaluation of their research than would be the case with a tenured faculty member teaching a full load of classes and having no release time for research. The faculty of each college or school, with the approval of the Dean or director, will develop a general standard for determining whether a tenured faculty member's overall performance is deemed seriously deficient. These general standards may be refined, as needed, by the faculty within individual departments and approved by the chair of the department and the Dean or director.

## **General Evaluation Process**

Faculty members will be given a written evaluation of their performance in the previous calendar year before the commencement of final examinations for the Spring Semester. All evaluations should identify documented strengths and weaknesses of the faculty member. The written evaluation will be given to the faculty member by the department or division chair at a conference in which both will discuss the evaluation and the faculty member's professional plans and expectations for the future year. The intent of this provision is to celebrate continued excellence and also to identify areas in which faculty members may further develop professionally.

## **Evaluation Process for Faculty with "Serious Deficiencies"**

For those faculty members whose annual performance reviews indicate serious deficiencies in one or more areas, as determined by the department or division chair and documented on the evaluation form, the chair must meet with the faculty member within two weeks of the written evaluation to develop written plans for improvement within the next year. Both the evaluation and the written plan for improvement will be submitted to the Dean of the College or the director of the Library. It is the intent of this provision to provide tenured faculty members with immediate identification and means of remedying any professional shortcoming.

In those rare cases in which a faculty member's deficiencies are deemed egregious, the chair must immediately notify the faculty member in writing during the course of the year and work with the faculty member to remediate those deficiencies as quickly and as reasonably as possible. Should those "egregious deficiencies" not be remedied by the time of annual evaluation, the chair, with the approval of the Dean or director, may require that the faculty member immediately engage in the Professional Development Plan process outlined below. For purposes of this process, "egregious deficiencies" shall be defined as behavior that compromises the learning environment for our students and/or faculty.

### **Professional Development Plan**

If tenured faculty members receive two consecutive annual performance reviews that indicate serious deficiencies or if on a single evaluation they have been found to have "egregious deficiencies" requiring immediate remediation, they must undergo a professional review. When serious and mitigating circumstances exist for faculty members who would otherwise be required to undergo professional review, department or division chairs may request in writing from their Deans or directors approval of an exemption from the professional review process, with final approval of the Provost and notification of the President. The purposes of performance reviews will be to identify and acknowledge patterns of seriously deficient performance, to create plans of action to eliminate these deficiencies, and to monitor the progress of faculty members as they implement their Professional Development Plans.

The professional review process must follow this procedure:

- First, department or division chairs will notify affected faculty in writing that they are subject to professional review. They will also explain in writing the details of the process.
- Second, an ad hoc professional review committee of three faculty members will be created by the Dean with the consultation and agreement of the chair and the affected faculty member. If the Dean, chair, and faculty member cannot come to an agreement on the composition of the committee, then the following guidelines must be followed by the Dean in appointing a committee: two of the members must be selected from the college's promotion and tenure committee, one selected by the Dean and one selected by the faculty member; and the final member of the committee will be selected by the Faculty Senate President (or by the Faculty Senate Vice-President if the Faculty Senate President has a conflict of interest).
- Third, within one month of being notified of the need for professional review, the faculty member will prepare a dossier to present to the committee. The dossier should contain all documents and supporting material that the faculty member wishes the professional review committee to consider. While it may contain much more, at the very least the dossier will include a current curriculum vitae, a teaching portfolio (with the exception of librarians), a description of recent university and community service, and a description of recent scholarly or creative work.

- Fourth, the chair will add to the dossier any additional material that the chair considers relevant to the development of the Professional Development Plan for the faculty member under review. The faculty member under review may examine these materials and respond in writing prior to their submission to the ad hoc professional review committee; the faculty member may also add additional materials to the dossier at any time during the review process.
- Fifth, within one month of receiving the complete dossier, the ad hoc professional review committee will review it, meet with both the faculty member under review and the department chair, and issue a report. The report must be submitted in writing to the faculty member, the department chair, the Dean or director, and the Provost. The report may reach one of three possible conclusions:

*No Deficiencies.* The committee reports that it identified no deficiencies of any consequence. The committee’s report negates and supersedes the “unsatisfactory” prior annual review of the faculty member originally submitted by the department chair.

*Some Deficiencies.* The committee reports that it did identify some deficiencies of consequence but that these deficiencies were not substantial or chronic, much less egregious, and thus no Professional Development Plan is required. The committee report, however, must describe these deficiencies, and it is expected that the faculty member and the chair will work together to ensure that these minor deficiencies do not become serious and do not result in “unsatisfactory” evaluations in the future.

*Serious Deficiencies.* The committee reports that chronic or substantial deficiencies do indeed exist and must be addressed by a Professional Development Plan. The report must elaborate on the nature of these deficiencies.

- Sixth, within two weeks of receiving the committee’s recommendation, the Provost must accept, reject, or modify the findings of the committee and submit back to the committee, the chair, and the faculty member a written report that announces and justifies his or her ruling.
- Seventh, within two weeks of the Provost’s issuing of a ruling that “serious deficiencies” exist, the ad hoc professional review committee must meet with the faculty member and the department chair to begin working to create a Professional Development Plan to submit to the Dean and the Provost for approval.

The Professional Development Plan describes in detail how the faculty member will remedy the specific deficiencies identified by the ad hoc professional review committee. The written plan must be created with the collaboration of the ad hoc professional review committee, the faculty member, the department chair, and the Dean or director, and it should meet the needs

of the faculty member, the department, and the college or school. It is the responsibility of the faculty member to cooperate fully in the development of this plan and to make a good faith effort to implement it. It is the responsibility of the committee, the chair, and the Dean to insure that the plan is designed to be a meaningful and effective means of returning the tenured faculty member to full professional productivity.

Plans must be tailored to the specific circumstances of the faculty members for whom they are developed, but all plans must: (1) describe specifically the deficiencies to be addressed by the plan; (2) identify specific goals that must be met to remedy the deficiencies; (3) describe what the faculty member will do to meet these goals; (4) establish intermediate and final time lines for the completion of the activities necessary to meet the goals of the plan; (5) identify the specific criteria to be used in assessing the faculty member's annual progress toward meeting the goals of the plan; and (6) identify the resources that the University will devote to the support of the faculty member's efforts to complete the plan.

In general, Professional Development Plans may allow up to three years for the faculty member to return to full productivity. However, in those cases in which the faculty member's deficiencies are deemed "egregious," the plan may require reasonable improvement within as short a time as one year. The faculty member and the chair will meet at the end of each semester to discuss the faculty member's progress toward fulfilling the Professional Development Plan. At the end of the academic year, the chair will submit a written progress report to the ad hoc professional review committee, to the Dean, and to the Provost. A copy of the chair's written report must be sent to the faculty member. The chair's regular annual evaluation of the faculty member in question should draw upon the findings of the progress report.

As soon as the faculty member has completed the Professional Development Plan, or by the deadline established by the plan, the department chair must write a final report to the faculty member, the ad hoc professional review committee, the Dean, and the Provost. Because it is the commitment of the faculty and administrators involved in the process to support faculty members fully in their efforts to return to full productivity and thus benefit not only the faculty member but the entire university, it is expected that in all but a very small minority of cases the final report will be positive. These findings become final upon certification by the Provost.

On those rare occasions when a faculty member has not been successful in completing the Professional Development Plan, the chair will consult with the ad hoc professional review committee, the Dean or the director, and the Provost prior to writing a negative report. If the committee, the chair, the Dean, and the Provost agree that the faculty member's failure to meet the goals of the plan are minor and likely temporary, then they may grant the faculty member an additional year to remedy the remaining deficiencies. If they deem the faculty member's failure of such seriousness that they constitute separately good cause for dismissal under all current policies regarding tenure, academic responsibility, and academic freedom, then the Provost may initiate dismissal proceedings. These findings become final upon certification by the Provost.

## **Appeals**

If a faculty member disagrees with the finding of “serious deficiencies” by the ad hoc professional review committee, the faculty member may appeal the decision to the Dean or the director first and then the Provost.

When a faculty member, department chair, and the Dean or director cannot agree on a Professional Development Plan, then the University Promotion, Tenure and Retention Committee will intercede, mediate the dispute, and issue a draft of the plan for the review and approval of the Provost.

If at any stage in the post-tenure review process a faculty member believes that the provisions of the process are being applied unfairly, the faculty member may file a grievance as outlined in GRIEVANCES section of the *Faculty Handbook* (below).

## **Voluntary Post-Tenure Review**

Faculty members have the right to request that an ad hoc professional review committee review their work and counsel them on their career. To initiate this process, faculty members must make a request in writing to their department chairs.

## **Tenure and Promotion**

### **Promotion of Faculty**

Appointment or promotion to an academic rank is based on past and anticipated success in performance, accomplishments and leadership in the following five areas: Academic Preparation, Experience, Teaching, Service, Scholarship (Discovery, Integration and Teaching, and Application).

As they progress in rank, faculty members are expected to achieve increasing success both by progressively mastering all five areas and by improving in individual areas. The consistently sustained performance of faculty responsibilities is a requisite for all faculty promotions (see Major Faculty Responsibilities, above, p. 15).

Requirements for promotion from one faculty rank to another are outlined above under Definition of Faculty Status, beginning on page 18. Faculty members who believe that they have met the minimum appropriate Education, Experience, Teaching, Service, and Scholarship requirements for promotion to all faculty ranks but Full Professor must send a letter to their Dean by August 1 preceding the academic year in which they intend to apply for promotion. Associate Professors / Librarians wishing to apply for promotion to Full Professor must send their letters to the Provost by August 1. The Dean must certify in writing within two weeks that the appropriate Education and Experience standards have been met. Should the Dean fail to certify that appropriate Education and Experience standards have been met, the faculty member has the right to appeal the case to the Provost, who shall make a final decision and respond to the faculty member in writing within two weeks. The Provost will follow the same procedure for certifying

that Associate Professors / Librarians have met the appropriate Education and Experience standards to apply for promotion to Full Professor / Librarian, with the President the person to whom faculty may appeal the Provost's decision.

Administrators holding faculty appointments who apply for promotion and tenure must meet the same criteria for promotion and tenure as required of other faculty members. Thus, the merits of their applications will be based on their overall work as faculty members, not as administrators.

## **Tenure**

Tenure means the entitlement of a faculty member to continue in an appointed academic position, unless dismissed for adequate cause. Professional incompetence, continuing or substantial neglect of professional responsibilities, moral turpitude, mental or physical disablement of a continuing nature adversely affecting the performance of duties, unprofessional conduct adversely affecting the performance of duties, and bona fide financial exigency or the phasing out of institutional programs requiring reduction of faculty constitute adequate causes for dismissal of a tenured faculty member. A faculty member with tenure will not be dismissed until he or she has received reasonable notice of the cause for dismissal and has an opportunity for a hearing that meets the requisites of established procedures of due process. At this hearing, the institution will bear the burden of proving that the cause of dismissal is adequate.

To be eligible to apply for tenure, a faculty member must be a full-time employee of Texas A&M International University and must hold the academic rank of Assistant Professor or above. Faculty members who hold joint appointments with other state, federal, or private agencies or with two or more parts of The Texas A&M University System may be entitled to tenured status as faculty members, if they meet the aggregate requirements for tenure and meet the minimum time in rank at Texas A&M International University. Administrative positions *per se* are not subject to tenure.

Beginning with appointment to the rank of full-time Assistant Professor / Librarian or above, the probationary period for a faculty member will not exceed seven years of full-time service at Texas A&M International University. Up to three years of appropriate full-time service at other institutions may be included as a portion of the probationary period if agreed on in writing at the time of initial employment. Acceptance of credit toward promotion and tenure obligates the faculty member to apply for promotion and tenure on the accelerated schedule agreed to in the letter of employment. Tenure is granted only by the affirmative action of the Board of Regents upon recommendation of the President of the University. At the conclusion of the probationary period and the tenure application procedure, the President will notify the faculty member in writing of the decision of the Board of Regents.

All tenure track faculty members must come under tenure consideration no later than the sixth year of their service at Texas A&M International University. A faculty member who believes his/her Teaching, Scholarship, and Service record merits early tenure may apply during the fifth year of service toward tenure.

For a tenure track faculty member to be considered for tenure, the college Dean must notify the faculty member of his or her eligibility by May 1 of the academic year preceding the year in which the faculty member is eligible for tenure. Should the Dean fail to notify the faculty member of his or her eligibility by May 1, the faculty member should seek written confirmation of eligibility from the Dean. If the Dean does not certify eligibility, for whatever reason, the faculty member has the right to appeal the case to the Provost, who shall respond to the faculty member in writing within two weeks. Once certified as eligible to apply for tenure, the faculty member must send a letter to the Dean by August 1 preceding the beginning of the academic year in which the faculty member desires consideration.

Prior to the beginning of the last year (the seventh year) of the probationary period, the faculty member who has not received notice of a decision granting tenure should make a written request for such a decision from the Provost, and the Provost must respond within 30 days. If the decision is not to award tenure or if the candidate withdraws his or her application, the faculty member is entitled to serve for one additional year following the term or semester in which the notice is received. Faculty members who do not apply for tenure at the required time will have their positions revert immediately to non-tenure-track status.

### **Promotion and Tenure Deadlines**

May 1	Deans notify prospective applicants for tenure of eligibility
August 1	Eligible faculty submit letter of intent to Dean or Provost
September 1	Documentation (dossier) submitted to department office for all tenure and all promotions except to Professor; applicants for promotion to Professor submit documentation to the Provost.
September 15 <sup>4</sup>	Deadline for departmental committee to vote on candidates
October 1	Department chair's recommendation to college committee and Dean
October 15	Deadline for college committee to vote on candidates
November 1	Dean's recommendation to University Promotion, Tenure and Retention Committee and Provost
November 15	Deadline for University Promotion, Tenure and Retention Committee to vote on candidates; deadline for Committee of Professors to make a recommendation to the Provost on applications for promotion to Professor
December 1	Provost's recommendation to President
January 2	President's recommendation regarding award of tenure to Board of Regents.

### **Promotion, Tenure, and Retention Committees**

See description of University Promotion, Tenure, and Retention Committee on p. 8 of the *Faculty Handbook*.

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<sup>4</sup> Unless circumstances prohibit it, all Promotion and Tenure committees will meet on the Friday afternoon preceding the deadlines stated above.

College committees consist of departmentally elected representatives who serve on the college committee primarily as representatives of their departments' views on the merits of candidates' qualifications. They are not, however, bound to vote as the majority in their departments voted. Department and college committees should consist of at least five tenured faculty members. If a department does not have a sufficient number of tenured faculty to constitute a committee, then the Provost, in consultation with all tenured and tenure-track faculty of the department and the Dean, must appoint to the committee one or more tenured faculty members from related disciplines. Members appointed from other academic units must not exceed 50% of any college, department, or unit promotion and tenure committee, even if this reduces the number of committee members to fewer than five. All members of promotion and tenure committees are required to vote positively or negatively on each candidate (no abstentions), with the exception of members who have a familial relation to the candidate. In such cases, the committee member cannot participate in either the deliberations or the vote.

### **Replacement of Faculty on Promotion, Tenure, and Retention Committees**

Members of promotion and tenure committees are expected to give first priority to scheduled committee meetings (see dates above) and to attend scheduled meetings unless exceptional circumstances arise. Should such an unavoidable circumstance arise for a department or division committee member, he or she must notify the department chair immediately, and the chair will reschedule the meeting to allow all members to attend and the committee to meet its deadline. The chairs, Deans, and the Provost will announce the specific meeting time for their committees as far in advance as possible. If, for some reason, an inalterable scheduling conflict arises or for another reason an elected representative cannot attend a meeting, the representative must immediately resign his or her committee by notifying the department chair in writing. If the chair determines that sufficient time remains for a nomination and election process and for the new representative to study application materials, then the vacancy must be filled through a departmental election. If the vacancy is for the college committee, then the chair will conduct the election; if for the University committee, the Faculty Senate will conduct it.

If the chair determines that there is not sufficient time for an election, then the Faculty Senate President, in consultation with the department chair, would name an eligible replacement. If no faculty member in the department remains eligible for service, then the Faculty Senate President, in consultation with the department chair, would name an eligible replacement from a related discipline.

### **Chairs of Promotion, Tenure, and Retention Committees**

Department chairs serve as the chair of their department committees; Deans serve as the chairs of their college committees; and the Provost serves as the chair of the University Promotion, Tenure and Retention Committee. In all cases, the role of the chair is to ensure that applicants' dossiers are available to committee members, to call the meeting, to review the role of the committee, to ensure that the committee considers the merits of each application for promotion and tenure, to conduct secret balloting to determine the committee's recommendation for each applicant, and to oversee the count and announcement of ballot results. Because the

committee's purpose is to form a recommendation to make to the administrator chairing the committee, the chair is to observe but not participate in the deliberations.

### **Confidentiality**

The recommendation of a promotion and tenure committee regarding an applicant for promotion and tenure is to be determined by secret ballot. Committee members are to keep the deliberations regarding the merits of an application confidential.

At each stage of this process, all previous reviews and recommendations will be forwarded to the next level of review. On tenure issues, the President of the University presents his or her recommendations to the Board of Regents, which makes the final decision. At each level of review, candidates will be informed in writing within one week by the committee chair of recommendations concerning their applications. If there is a negative vote, candidates may withdraw their applications.

### **Documentation and Presentations in Support of Applications**

Candidates for promotion and tenure must submit supporting documentation following the schedule specified above. Dossiers can comprise no more than twenty pages. Ancillary materials will be included under separate cover. Dossiers will include an extended vita with an overview of materials that make reference to the supplementary documents. Examples of supplementary documentation are copies of articles, conference presentations, letters of reference, course syllabi, final examinations, grant proposals, and bulk student evaluations.

The candidates for promotion and tenure shall be allowed to address the promotion and tenure committees or to make presentations at the department, college, or University level for up to five minutes at each level of consideration, and be available to answer any questions or clarify any of the written documentation. The committee at each level may at its discretion extend the time for presentation, provided that all candidates receive equitable consideration.

### **Final Promotion and Tenure Decisions**

The President makes the final decision regarding faculty promotions and will communicate his or her decision in a timely manner after receiving the recommendation of the Provost.

The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System makes the final decision regarding applications for tenure. The official decision by the Board of Regents to grant tenure will be conveyed in writing by the President to the individual faculty member as soon as possible after the Regents have voted to confer tenure. In the same manner, a decision of non-reappointment will be provided to the faculty member as soon as the decision has been reached. This communication will be provided by the department chair and may bear also the signature of other appropriate administrators. The formal notification of non-reappointment will be a simple statement to that effect and will not include any of the reasons for that decision.

## Procedure for Appeal of Promotion and Tenure Decisions

At the conclusion of the promotion and/or tenure process, a faculty member who is not granted a promotion and/or not granted tenure may file an appeal with the Provost. The intention to appeal must be stated in writing and delivered to the Office of the Provost within twenty calendar days of receiving written notice of the decision not to grant a promotion and/or tenure. Appeals must be based on one or more of the following three claims: that the decision was made in violation of the individual's academic freedom, that the decision was made for illegal reasons, or that the decision was made without adequate consideration of the individual's record of professional achievement. For purposes of this section, an illegal reason is defined as a decision based on race, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin, religion, creed, color, or disability unrelated to the performance of duties; or made in retaliation for the faculty member's exercise of protected First Amendment rights.

An appeals committee will consist of a total of seven faculty members: four members of the University Grievance Pool (two selected by the faculty member and two by the Provost) and three Faculty Senators appointed by the Faculty Senate President. No member of the appeals committee can have participated at any level in making the decision being appealed, nor can any member have any other relevant conflict of interest. The committee shall meet within fifteen calendar days of the faculty member's written notice of appeal and determine if the faculty member has established a *prima facie* case that the decision was made in violation of the faculty member's academic freedom, for an illegal reason, or without adequate consideration of the faculty member's record of professional achievement. If the committee determines that the faculty member has not alleged a *prima facie* case, the allegations shall be dismissed and the decision not to recommend promotion and/or tenure shall stand. If the committee determines that the allegations do establish a *prima facie* case, the matter shall be referred for an evidentiary hearing by the same appeals committee. A *prima facie* case for purposes of this subsection means that the faculty member's evidence, alone and un rebutted, would establish that a violation as defined above may have occurred.

In any evidentiary hearing, the burden of proving that the decision was made in violation of academic freedom or for an illegal reason or without adequate consideration of the faculty member's record of professional achievement shall rest with the faculty member. The burden of proof must be met by a preponderance of the evidence, i.e., that which is more convincing, more credible, and of greater weight than contrary evidence. Both the faculty member and the administration have the right of representation at this hearing. The committee shall complete its report to the Provost within fifteen calendar days of the completion of the hearing. If the faculty member appealing the decision names the Provost as a party to the appeal, namely, charging the Provost with having violated his or her academic freedom, with having based the decision on an illegal reason, or with not having adequately considered his or her professional achievements in making the decision, then the committee's report would go to the President. If the President is a party to the appeal for any of the reasons cited above, then the committee would submit its report to the Chancellor.

## **FACULTY WORKLOAD**

### **Teaching**

The full-time teaching assignment for TAMIU is twelve Semester Credit Hour Equivalents (SCH) per semester. A commitment to excellence in Teaching is the first requirement for all faculty at TAMIU. Faculty should be expected to provide evidence of intellectual contributions to their discipline, the University, and the community at a level that ensures that they remain current in their fields. Because of the unique and extensive growth at this moment in the University's history, expectations for Service are high for all. The administration, in conjunction with the Faculty Senate and faculty, will establish for all faculty a peer review process, including a portfolio, to evaluate and improve Teaching. Classes must be scheduled at times suited to the demonstrated needs of our students. At the same time, chairs are expected to try, insofar as possible, to schedule classes so as to reduce the number of preparations. Expectations, outcomes, and rationale must be clear for any faculty member who teaches fewer than twelve SCH.

### **Release Time for Research**

Tenure-track faculty are eligible for release time in order to establish their research agenda and to demonstrate scholarly productivity during their probationary period. The amount and terms of their release time will be negotiated with the Dean or director of their school or college at the time of their initial appointment. This process is separate from release time for research for tenured faculty.

Tenured faculty are eligible to apply for a two course release time per year to pursue research. Expectations for excellence in Teaching remain the same for faculty awarded release time for research as they do for all faculty. For faculty receiving release time for research, scholarly efforts should continue with the same scope and intensity as during probationary period (see Baseline Expectations below). An application (submitted by filling out a common form) will outline the research plan. Research plans will be renewed every year.

1. A College Research Committee, represented proportionately by all departments and whose members are elected by tenured faculty, will determine the acceptable level of research and review research plans.
2. The College Research Committee will make recommendations to the Dean or director of its college or school.
3. Recommendations will be forwarded to the Provost, who will make the final decision.

### **Baseline Expectations for Faculty Awarded Release Time for Research**

1. Documentation of scholarly effort each year.

2. Normally, a publication or equivalent in the second year.
3. Normally, faculty should plan to make at least one scholarly presentation or equivalent every year.

If faculty do not meet Baseline Requirements, they must submit a written explanation justifying continuance for release time to the College Research Committee, who will forward their recommendations to the Dean. Recommendations will be forwarded to the Provost, who will make the final decision on whether release time will be awarded in the following year.

### **Additional Release Time for Intensive Research**

Faculty whose scholarly achievements are characterized by consistently high levels of productivity over a sustained period of time are eligible to apply for one additional course release time per academic year, or a total of three courses release time per academic year, to support their research efforts. Faculty receiving three courses release time under the terms of this policy are expected to produce one refereed article per year or to make substantial progress toward completion of a book or the equivalent. Expectations for excellence in Teaching remain the same for all faculty. Faculty members with three courses of release time for research should pursue all appropriate avenues for securing sponsored research through grants. The review process for faculty seeking three courses release time for research is the same as for faculty seeking two courses release time for research, with the following additional requirement: faculty requesting three courses release time for intensive research must submit their application for external review.

### **General Considerations**

Considerations other than the merit of proposals or the performance of faculty may, from time to time, be a factor in the number of tenured faculty who teach full-time or who have research release time. Such considerations may include changes in college or department missions or programs, college commitments to equitable support for disciplines within the college or for faculty careers, and budgetary considerations. In the event that University resources are insufficient to fund all qualifying applications, the President in consultation with the Provost will determine the amount of release time that will be made in a given year.

Faculty teaching a doctoral seminar will receive one course release time in the semester prior to the semester in which the seminar is delivered, and one course release time during the semester is delivered. Faculty teaching a doctoral seminar are expected to engage in a level of scholarly activity consistent with that of faculty receiving release time for research. Faculty teaching exclusively graduate level courses may receive appropriate release time in recognition of the need for extensive research and course preparation. It is expected that faculty will follow the application and review process for release time and will meet or exceed the Baseline Expectations for research.

Faculty may submit proposals of a more limited scope, requesting a one-course release for one semester. An outcome clearly achievable in a short time should accompany the proposal.

Additional release time may be granted for research projects of exceptional merit that require an extensive commitment of time.

The minimum teaching load for full-time faculty who do not have administrative assignments and who are not on development leave is six semester credit hours or equivalent per semester. Exceptions must be approved by the President upon the recommendation of the chair, Dean, and Provost.

### **Summer Teaching**

Unless specifically stated otherwise, some faculty members are employed for nine months and are thus not guaranteed employment during the summer session. Nonetheless, a significant number of faculty have the opportunity to teach during the summer based on student enrollments, department and/or college needs, and budgetary considerations. When possible, all faculty will be offered the opportunity to teach one session (i.e., class) in the summer. Any additional classes would be offered to faculty based upon rank / seniority within the department.<sup>5</sup>

## **GRADUATE FACULTY**

All Graduate Faculty must demonstrate commitment to the academic community, institution, discipline, and students. In addition, they must possess a high level of competence in Teaching. At the Full level in particular, the faculty must demonstrate research capability and competence in directing independent investigation.

### **Categories and Requirements for Membership**

#### *Associate / Masters Membership*

Associate members of the Graduate Faculty must:

- Be tenured or on tenure track on the Texas A&M International Faculty;
- Have earned a doctorate or other terminal degree, or of such level of distinction in one's field as to make the degree irrelevant. In case of such exception, a letter of verification by the person making the nomination should be submitted to such effect. Associate membership allows for terminal degrees such as the M.F.A., masters' degrees, qualified first-time faculty applicants, and faculty with doctorates who have less than exceptional evidence of continued productive scholarship);
- Produce tangible evidence of continued productive scholarship as normally defined within the discipline concerned; and
- Be recommended, at their request or with their consent, to the Graduate Council via the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research by the department chair or school

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<sup>5</sup> *Texas A&M International University offers two sessions each summer. As of September 1996, a "full-time teaching load" is defined as six semester credit hours, or the equivalent, per summer session.*

director or department (or college) promotion and tenure committee. The chair or Dean may consult with and seek approval of the Full members of the Graduate Faculty within the department. College Deans will make the recommendations where department chairs do not exist.

Appointment to Associate membership on the Graduate Faculty is for a term of five years and will be subject to re-evaluation at the end of the term. This membership must be approved by the Graduate Council.

Review of the Associate member's qualifications for possible advancement to Full membership shall be made by the chair of the department with optional assistance of the Full members in the department. When advancement appears to be warranted, the department chair shall recommend in writing such advancement to the Graduate Council via the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, and shall include a rationale for the recommendation based on the stated criteria for the higher membership classification.

Associate members of the Graduate Faculty are eligible to:

- Direct masters theses;
- Teach graduate courses (but not doctoral courses);
- Serve on masters-level committees;
- Sit on the Graduate Council, and in that position help set policies for the Office of Graduate Studies and Research; and
- Sit on standing and special committees of the Graduate Council.

#### *Full / Doctoral Membership*

Full members of the Graduate Faculty must meet all the requirements for Associate membership, and in addition:

- Hold the rank of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor or Full Professor; and
- Have earned a doctorate in the teaching discipline or a related discipline.

Full members are appointed to the Graduate Faculty for a term of five years and will be subject to re-evaluation at the end of the term. This membership must be approved by the Graduate Council.

Full members of the Graduate Faculty have all the prerogatives of Associate members, and in addition are eligible to:

- Direct doctoral dissertations and other graduate research;
- Teach doctoral courses;
- Serve on doctoral-level committees;
- Serve as officers (chair, etc.) of the Graduate Council; and,
- Chair standing committees of the Graduate Council.

### *External Membership*

This category is for persons not on the TAMU faculty. External members of the Graduate Faculty must:

- Have a terminal or master's degree, or be considered an outstanding person from government, industry, the professions, education foundations, a TAMU System component institution, or another academic or professional institution of higher education who holds a visiting or part-time faculty position at TAMU;
- Show actual involvement in the department graduate program either in teaching graduate-level courses or serving on graduate student committees; and
- Be recommended, at their request or with their consent, to the Graduate Council via the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research by the department chair or Dean. The chair or Dean may consult with and seek approval of the Full and Associate members of the Graduate Faculty within the department. College Deans and school directors will make this recommendation where department chairs do not exist. The recommendation from the chair or Dean must state how the external member will be involved in the graduate program, especially noting whether the candidate will be teaching doctoral-level courses.

Appointment to External membership on the Graduate Faculty is for a term of three years and will be subject to re-evaluation at the end of the term. This membership must be approved by the Graduate Council.

Other provisions regarding External membership:

1. Each candidate will be certified by the Graduate Council and Dean either to teach doctoral and masters-level courses or to teach only masters-level courses, in accordance with the statement of involvement in the candidate's letter of verification (see description below).
2. External members who are to be involved in doctoral programs must hold an earned doctorate in the teaching discipline or a related discipline.
3. External members who are to be involved in masters' programs must hold a master's degree at minimum, and if the doctorate is not held, must have demonstrated such a level of distinction in their fields as to make the degree irrelevant. In case of such exception, a letter of verification by the person making the nomination should be submitted to such effect.
4. In order to chair a graduate student committee, External members must hold a terminal degree or its equivalent.

External members of the Graduate Faculty are eligible to:

- Co-chair masters-level or doctoral student committees, depending on credentials and certification (ineligible to chair such committees);
- Teach masters-level or doctoral courses, depending on credentials and certification; and
- Serve on masters-level or doctoral student committees, depending on credentials and certification.

### *Temporary Membership*

This category is for those who teach masters-level courses and are not otherwise involved in the departmental graduate programs.

Any faculty member holding the master's degree or what is generally considered to be a terminal degree in his or her discipline may be appointed, at his or her own request or with his or her consent, as a Temporary member of the Graduate Faculty upon approval by the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research of a request in writing from both the faculty member and the chair of the faculty member's department. The college Dean or school director will present the corresponding request where department chairs do not exist.

Review of the Temporary member's qualifications for possible advancement to a higher membership category shall be made as for advancement from Associate to Full member (above). Appointment to Temporary membership is for a one semester period. This membership need be approved only by the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research. Temporary members of the Graduate Faculty are eligible to teach masters-level courses.

### **Procedures for Nomination to the Graduate Faculty**

Nominations are received by the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research and kept on file. The DGSR will annually report to the Graduate Council the current membership in each category.

The Graduate Council will act to evaluate nominations which have been questioned. The membership committee will report their recommendations to the Graduate Council.

The executive committee of the Graduate Council will hear complaints from faculty who feel they were not treated fairly in matters of graduate appointment.

The responsibility for keeping records of the terms of the various classes of members, and notifying department chairs or college Deans of those faculty members up for periodic review or re-nomination, will be that of the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research.

## **GRIEVANCES**

### **Faculty Complaint, Grievance, and Appeal Procedures**

Each faculty member will have free access through proper channels to the offices of immediate and higher supervisors, Human Resources representatives, or other official alternate dispute resolution programs to discuss problems and complaints regarding the employment relationship. (TAMUS Policy 32.011). A faculty member of Texas A&M International University has the right under the statutes of Texas to present grievances concerning wages, hours of work, or terms and conditions of work, individually or through a representative, provided such representative does not claim the right to strike or bargain collectively. (TAMUS APRM B.4.5).

Grievances or disputes involving faculty can be categorized by the participants to the disagreement. These categories are:

Faculty – Student

Faculty – Faculty

Faculty – Administrative service or Administration (hereafter Administrator).

It is assumed that attempts at reconciliation and/or mitigation will occur immediately and the grievance or dispute procedures will not be activated. Nevertheless, if the dispute or grievance cannot be resolved, the procedures outlined below will be followed.

The time periods given in the procedure are deliberately brief in order that grievances may be resolved swiftly and in order to preserve the grievant's right to other remedies within state and federal statutes of limitation. The time limits within the faculty-student procedures are briefest of those described, so that students will be able to return to their studies with as little disruption as possible; however, all three parties in any given step (i.e., the grievant, the person against whom the complaint has been filed, and the mediator / mediating committee) may agree in writing to extend or shorten the deadline. If the health or well-being of one of the parties is involved, the period of time allowed for each step will be accelerated (see below). Whenever a step in the procedure is not accomplished within the given time period (or the time agreed upon by all parties), the matter will proceed immediately to the next step.

#### **Faculty-Student**

##### *Disputes over Academic Matters*

Faculty members are responsible for determining the curriculum of a course, for developing appropriate methods of evaluating student learning, for evaluating fairly, for upholding academic standards, and for enforcing policies concerning academic honesty. Decisions made by faculty members regarding the quality or honesty of student work – especially decisions about course grades – are, as a matter of routine, accepted as authoritative and cannot be overturned by administrative officers. Students, however, have a right to expect faculty members to have defensible course policies and to implement them in a reasonable,

equitable manner. Students who believe that they have grounds for challenging faculty members' decisions regarding academic issues – excepting those pertaining to matters of academic freedom – may appeal using the procedure outlined below [based on one recommended by the *American Association of University Professors in Policy Documents & Reports*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition, Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press and AAUP, 2001, pp. 113-14]. It should be noted that in cases of academic dishonesty students may be subject not only to grade sanctions in courses but to disciplinary action (see Student Violations of Academic Integrity under STUDENT AFFAIRS below). Faculty members are required to report such serious breaches of academic honesty to their chair, their Dean, the Provost, the Honor Council, and the Dean of Student Success.

Grade sanctions may be imposed only by faculty members, but suspension or expulsion may be imposed only by the Provost, as specified in the *Student Handbook*. As with disputes about course grades, students may appeal grade sanctions for academic dishonesty only by following the procedure outlined below. However, if they wish to appeal the Provost's decision to suspend or to expel them because of academic dishonesty, they must initiate their appeal with the President of the University following the procedure the President has established for such cases.

Except under unusual circumstances, the process outlined below for student appeals of faculty academic decisions should be completed within three academic work weeks (15 working days) after the student's first meeting with the faculty member to question the faculty member's decision.

1. The student must first meet with the faculty member and discuss the faculty member's decision. This meeting should occur as soon as possible after the decision has been made, normally within one week of the student's being notified of the decision. The faculty member is expected to listen to the student, to provide an explanation for his or her decision, and to be willing to change the grade or decision should the student's argument be persuasive. To change final course grades, a faculty member must submit a "Grade Change Form" and attach an accompanying memorandum justifying the decision to change the grade. The faculty member's department chair and Dean must approve the change.
2. If the faculty member refuses to alter his or her decision or grade, the student may then discuss the matter with the faculty member's department chair or immediate academic supervisor (hereafter, "chair" will be used to mean either the department chair or the immediate academic supervisor). If the chair believes that the student's claims may have merit, the chair would discuss the matter with the faculty member.
3. If the student is not satisfied with the chair's assessment of the issue or if the faculty member refuses to alter his or her decision after discussing it with the chair, the student may then request that an ad hoc committee of faculty members review the matter. This committee would consist of three tenured faculty members within the same discipline or department. If in some unusual case the

chair determines that a sufficient number of tenured faculty members cannot be selected from the same discipline or department, then the chair may add tenured faculty members from closely related disciplines. From the pool of eligible tenured faculty members designated by the chair, the faculty member, the student, and the chair would each nominate one faculty member to serve on the committee.

4. The ad hoc committee of faculty members would hear from the student, the faculty member, and the chair and examine relevant documents. If the committee concludes that the faculty member's original decision was justified, then the committee would provide the student with a written statement explaining the reasons for the committee's decision. The student may request in writing that the committee reconsider its decision and provide reasons for so doing. If the committee refuses to reconsider or if it reaffirms its original recommendation, then the matter is considered settled and the faculty member's original decision stands. If the committee concludes that the faculty member should alter his or her original decision, the committee would provide the faculty member with a written recommendation explaining the committee's reasons. If the faculty member disagrees with the committee's recommendation, he or she must provide the committee with a written explanation for the refusal.
5. If after considering the faculty member's explanation for refusing to alter his or her decision the ad hoc committee is still persuaded that in the interest of justice to the student the decision should be overturned, then the committee may recommend in writing to the chair that the faculty member's decision be overturned. The committee may also make this recommendation to the chair if the faculty member fails to alter his or her decision and also fails to respond to the committee's original recommendation. The faculty member would receive a copy of the recommendation to the chair and would have a final opportunity to alter his or her original decision. If the faculty member does not do so, then the chair, and only the chair, would be empowered by the written recommendation of the committee to override the faculty member's original decision, and, if pertinent to the case, to alter the student's course grade. In order to certify that the grade dispute process outlined above has been followed appropriately, the Dean of the college or the school and the Provost will review all decisions by chairs to change grades against the will of a faculty member.

### *Grievances*

Conflicts between faculty members and students that do not relate to faculty decisions regarding such academic issues as course policies and grades will be considered the subject of grievances. The process for resolving grievances between faculty members and students is as follows.

1. Before a grievance is filed, the aggrieved faculty member or student must make a good faith effort to meet with the other party about his or her concerns. If the

other party is unwilling to meet, if the aggrieved party has reasonable concerns about his or her physical safety, or if the meeting produces no resolution to the conflict, then the aggrieved party may initiate a grievance by following the steps outlined below.

2. If the grievant is a faculty member, he or she will file a written complaint with the Director of Student Affairs. If the grievant is a student, he or she will file a written complaint with the faculty member's department or division chair. In either case, both parties will receive a written acknowledgement of the complaint within five working days.
3. The student and faculty member will meet with the Director of Student Affairs (or a designated staff member from Student Affairs) and the faculty member's chair. Both the faculty member and the student must be present, unless one party waives that right. This meeting will take place within five working days of the acknowledgement of the grievance.
4. If the complaint remains unresolved after meeting with the department chair and the Director of Student Affairs, then within five working days of the meeting with the chair and the Director of Student Affairs, both the student and the faculty member will meet with either the Dean of the respective college (or academic administrator to whom the chair reports) if the grievant is a student, or with the Dean of Student Success if the grievant is a faculty member. Both the faculty member and the student must be present, unless one party waives that right.
5. If the complaint remains unresolved after that meeting, it will then be heard within five working days by an ad hoc committee consisting of the faculty member's department or division chair, the Director of Student Affairs (or a designated staff member from Student Affairs), a member of the Student Government Association selected by the President of the Student Government Association, a member of the Faculty Senate selected by the Faculty Senate President, and a person selected by the non-grieving party from his or her peers. The chair of the committee will be the Director of Student Affairs (or the Dean of Student Success's designate) if the grievant is a faculty member, or the department chair if the grievant is a student. The chair of the committee will ensure that the committee is formed appropriately and meets on schedule. After hearing from both sides in the dispute and examining whatever documentation has been provided by the parties involved, the ad hoc committee will make its recommendation in writing to either the Provost or the Dean of Student Success, as appropriate. Both parties involved in the complaint should receive the written recommendation within three working days after the committee concludes its deliberations.
6. The Provost or the Dean of Student Success will notify in writing both parties of his or her final decision to resolve the grievance within three working days of receiving the committee's recommendation.

7. If the complaint is unresolved to the satisfaction of either party, he or she may appeal in writing to the President within three working days after receipt of the written decision of the Provost or the Dean of Student Success. Should the President choose to do so, he or she may seek the advice of a University Grievance Committee. In the special case of faculty-student grievances, the President may expand the University Grievance Committee to balance faculty representation with an appropriate number of representatives selected from the Student Government Association or from the professional staff in Student Affairs or some combination of both. The President's decision is final.

### **Faculty-Faculty**

The grievant will file a written complaint with the next immediate academic superior to both parties with the following stipulations:

1. If both faculty members are members of the same department or division, then the complaint would go to the chair. If the faculty members reside in different colleges, then the complaint would immediately go to the Provost.
2. If one of the faculty members is the department or division chair, then the complaint would go to the Dean of the college wherein the department or division resides.
3. If one of the faculty members is the Dean of the college, then the complaint would go to the Provost.
4. If the Provost is one of the parties to the complaint, then the complaint will be filed immediately with a University Grievance Committee, which must be formed from the University Grievance Pool (see under University Committees above). Both parties will receive a written acknowledgement within five working days.

The original recipient of the complaint will have fifteen working days in which to meet with the parties. If a satisfactory resolution is not found, the grievance may be appealed to the next line of authority, until it reaches a University Grievance Committee. No step may take more than fifteen working days. If the health of one of the parties is at stake, then the period allotted to each step of the process will be no more than five working days.

If a complaint reaches a University Grievance Committee, the committee will hear appropriate evidence and witnesses. Both parties may be represented; however, the committee may define the role of the representatives as appropriate. The committee will write its recommendations and submit them to the President or the Chancellor, as the Grievance Committee deems appropriate. It will advise the parties to the grievance of its recommendation, in writing, within five working days after the hearing. The Faculty Senate will maintain records of the hearing for a period of not less than ten years.

## **Faculty-Administrator<sup>6</sup>**

A grievant must file a written complaint with a University Grievance Committee, which must be formed from the University Grievance Pool (see under University Committees above) and which will issue a written acknowledgement to both parties within five working days.

Within fifteen working days, the University Grievance Committee will hear appropriate evidence and witnesses. If the health of one or more of the parties is at stake, then the period allotted to each step of the process will be no more than five working days. Both parties may be represented; however, the committee may define the role of the representatives as appropriate. The committee will write its recommendations and submit them to the President or the Chancellor, as the Grievance Committee deems appropriate. It will advise the parties to the grievance of its recommendation, in writing, within five working days after the hearing. The Faculty Senate will maintain records of the hearing for a period of not less than ten years.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES INFORMATION**

### **Personal Leaves**

#### **Sick Leave**

Eligible employees earn sick leave at the rate of eight hours per month or a fraction of a month's service. Part-time eligible employees earn sick leave in the same proportion as their work is to full-time employment. Sick leave may be accumulated without limit and there is no waiting period before sick leave may be taken.

A continuing employee who reduces employment to less than is necessary to qualify as an eligible employee shall earn no additional sick leave nor use any sick leave while holding the non-qualifying position.

Sick leave may be taken when sickness, injury, or pregnancy and confinement prevent the employee's performance of duty, or when the employee is needed to care for and assist a member of the employee's immediate family who is actually ill. For purposes relating to sick leave, immediate family is defined as those individuals related by kinship, adoption, marriage, or foster children who are certified by the Department of Human Services who are living in the same household.

An employee's use of sick leave for family members not residing in that employee's household is strictly limited to the time necessary to provide care and assistance to a child or parent of the employee or parent of the employee's spouse that needs such care and assistance as a direct result of a documented medical condition.

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<sup>6</sup> *Grievances against academic administrators with faculty status will follow the procedures in the Faculty-Faculty section.*

A sick leave pool is available for all eligible employees who have exhausted their sick and vacation leave due to a catastrophic illness or injury. The pool is intended to ease the hardship caused by an illness or injury which would otherwise force the employee to lose income from the state. For purposes of this procedure, a catastrophic illness or injury is a severe condition or combination of conditions affecting the mental or physical health of the employee or the employee's immediate family which requires the services of a licensed practitioner for a period of time in excess of thirty calendar days.

### **Military Leave**

Leaves of absence are granted for military training and active duty. Military leave is generally unpaid. However, if an employee is a member of the National Guard or Reserves, he or she will be granted paid leave for up to fifteen days each federal fiscal year for military training or duty. Such an employee is also entitled to emergency leave with pay if he or she is a member of a National Guard unit called to emergency active duty by the Governor.

### **Civic Duty**

Jury Duty Leave is authorized as an excused absence for full-time faculty in order to meet the institution's civic responsibilities. It is the faculty member's responsibility to notify the respective department chair and the Provost in order to make appropriate arrangements. The faculty member must submit a completed Leave of Absence form and a Jury Duty Certification form to the Office of the Provost to cover the leave of absence. Forms should be forwarded to the Human Resources Office. A faculty member will be granted a leave of absence with pay for jury service. A deduction shall not be made from the salary or wages of any faculty member who is called for jury service, nor shall such faculty members be required to account to the University for any fee or compensation received.

### **Emergency Leave of Absence**

Emergency leave with pay will be granted to eligible employees upon request because of the death of the employee's spouse, or the employee's or spouse's child, parent, brother, sister, grandparent, or grandchild.

### **Parental Leave of Absence**

Employees are entitled to a parental leave of absence, not to exceed twelve weeks, for the birth of a natural child or the adoption of a child under three years of age. This period begins with the date of birth or the first day the adoptive child is formally placed in the home. Employees may elect to use any combination of available vacation leave, compensatory time off, or leave without pay for this period.

## **Family and Medical Leave**

The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) provides eligible employees up to twelve weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave each fiscal year for the following family and medical reasons:

- For the care of the employee's child immediately following birth or placement in his or her home for adoption or foster care;
- For the care of the employee's spouse, child or parent who has a serious health condition; or
- For a serious health condition that causes the employee to be unable to perform his or her job.

Employees are eligible if they have at least one year of service with the state and have worked 1,250 hours for the state in the twelve calendar months immediately prior to the beginning of the leave.

All eligible paid leave must be taken before using unpaid leave, and advance notice and medical certification is required prior to the commencement of leave. If medically necessary, intermitted or reduced leave may be taken.

Jobs and benefits are protected while on FMLA leave. Upon return from FMLA leave, employees are restored to the original or equivalent position with equivalent pay, benefits, and other employment terms, unless the employee would not otherwise have been employed at that time.

For the duration of FMLA leave, the state will pay its contribution toward employees' insurance coverage under the condition coverage would have been provided if the employee had continued working.

## **Vacation**

Details are available from the Office of Human Resources, and they will be provided to a new faculty member during his or her orientation.

If a faculty member is to be absent from normal duties, he or she is expected to prepare a Faculty Leave Request and submit it to his or her department chair or Dean prior to the absence, or as soon thereafter as possible.

## **Other Human Resources Information**

Information regarding benefits, salary schedules, and payroll deductions is available in the Office of Human Resources, and will be provided to new faculty members during their orientation. Faculty members will be notified when changes occur.

## **NEW FACULTY INFORMATION**

### **Alcohol and Drug Abuse**

Texas A&M International University considers the abuse of alcohol and/or illicit drug use by its faculty, staff and students to be unacceptable. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, sale, possession, or use of illicit drugs or alcohol and the abuse of alcohol are strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Any employee found in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, and may be required to participate in an appropriate abuse assistance or rehabilitation program.

### **Bulletin Boards**

Bulletin boards are provided at several campus locations. Faculty members may use these bulletin boards for appropriate and approved general communications.

### **Communicable Diseases**

In accordance with federal and state laws and regulations regarding health and safety, measures will be taken to protect the health and safety of students, faculty, employees and visitors to the University.

### **Emergency Closing**

In the event of emergency, appropriate notice will be provided via radio and/or television and/or electronic mail and/or other public broadcast media.

### **Keys**

Keys will be issued to faculty through the various academic administrators. Keys remain the property of the University and will be returned upon request or separation. Keys are not to be duplicated.

### **Leave of Absence**

Information concerning, but not limited to, vacation leave, sick leave, emergency leave, parental leave, family and medical leave, civic duty leave, and military leave is available from the University's Department of Human Resources.

### **Mail and Email**

Faculty members may expect the University to provide normal mail services to facilitate the accomplishment of the faculty members' professional responsibilities. It is assumed that mail services provided by the University will be protected by appropriate federal and state law,

and the privacy of the faculty member's mail, both electronic and paper, will be respected by the University.

## **Purchase Orders / Requisitions**

Faculty members may initiate purchase requisitions. Complete purchasing policies and procedures are available through the Purchasing Office.

## **Telephones**

Telephone service is provided to the faculty to permit and facilitate the accomplishment of the faculty members' professional responsibilities. Abuse of telephones and/or long distance access will not be tolerated.

From time to time, faculty members may need to make personal telephone calls during working hours. Normally, such use does not result in additional costs or damage to TAMIU and generally will not hinder the day-to-day operation of an office. Incidental use of TAMIU phones during working hours by faculty members for local calls is not considered a misapplication of state property, and is permissible so long as it does not unduly interfere with the faculty member's assigned responsibilities or the normal functioning of an office. Use of telephones, facsimile machines, electronic mail, and other means of communication is considered to be a misapplication of state equipment if it results in additional costs being incurred by TAMIU, including long distance charges or damage to equipment.

## **University Awards**

The annual faculty awards are an attempt on the part of the faculty to recognize outstanding professionalism among its peers. The faculty recognize that exceptional professionalism is measured by different criteria in different disciplines; however, it is the opinion of the faculty that it is extremely important that, regardless of how it is measured, professionalism be recognized. These awards provide a public recognition for quality, as defined by colleagues, peers and fellow professors.

Annually, a circular medallion attached to an appropriate ribbon is presented by the Provost, prior to (or during) Spring Graduation, to the selected faculty members. The medallion will be appropriate for, and should be worn as a part of, the recipients academic regalia. The medallion should be inscribed, "University Scholar, [year]," or "University Teacher, [year]." Special parking and a small stipend may also be included. In addition, the University Scholar and Teacher of the Year will be invited to give short lectures during Fall Convocation.

## **Procedure**

During the Fall Semester an open nomination process will be conducted for the Minnie Piper Stevens teacher award and nominees for the previous year's Teacher of the Year will be strongly encouraged to participate. At the beginning of each Spring Semester, each college's promotion and tenure committee will call for nominations for the college's Scholar of the Year

and Teacher of the Year. Each college's promotion and tenure committee will decide how the nomination process will work within their purview (whether that be an open nomination process or one in which departments forward nominees to the college's P&T committee). The only limitation to eligibility will be that a faculty member must not be in his or her first year of employment at Texas A&M International University.

Nominees for college Scholar of the Year and Teacher of the Year will be required to submit a brief (no more than 20 pages) portfolio highlighting their achievements (similar to the promotion/tenure portfolio) for the use of the respective P&T committees in the decision-making process.

College P&T committees will meet no later than March 31 to review nominees' portfolios and select the college Scholar and Teacher of the Year award recipients. The College of Arts and Sciences will choose two Scholars and two Teachers of the Year; the A.R. Sanchez School of Business, the College of Education, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and Killam Library will each choose one Scholar and one Teacher of the Year. These winners then become the nominees for the University Scholar and the University Teacher of the Year.

Once College / School award recipients have been designated, the chair of each college's P&T committee will forward their colleagues' names in a recommendation letter to the chair of the Faculty Senate Work Environment and Morale Committee. The college winners' portfolios will be made available to members of the Faculty Senate for their information and review during the month of April.

At the May meeting of the Faculty Senate, the entire Senate will vote for a University Scholar of the Year and University Teacher of the Year from the nominees for each award. The winner of the University Teacher of the Year will be the University's nominee for the next year's Golden Apple Award. Award recipients, as well as the college winners in both categories, will be announced at Spring Graduation and Fall Convocation. Once recognized as University Scholar or Teacher of the Year, faculty members will not be eligible for consideration for any additional faculty award for three years.

## **NON-REAPPOINTMENT, DISMISSAL, AND SEPARATION OF FACULTY**

### **Phasing Out of Programs or Financial Exigencies**

#### **Notice of Reduction in Force**

The phasing out of institutional programs or financial exigencies, which causes a reduction of faculty, may require exceptions to the normal tenure policy. In these cases, the faculty involved in the reduction will be given every advanced notice possible and every effort will be made by the University to place the affected faculty in other available positions in the University's employment for which they are qualified (TAMUS Policy 12.01, Section 7.2).

## **Hearings**

Faculty members whose reappointments are to be terminated as a result of phasing out of institutional programs or financial exigencies which cause a reduction in faculty will be entitled to a hearing before an appropriate faculty committee. The hearing shall include the following procedures (TAMUS Policy 12.01, Section 7.3.4):

1. The faculty member will be furnished with adequate written statements of the basis for the initial decision to lay off;
2. The faculty member will be provided with a reasonably adequate description of the manner in which the initial decision was made;
3. The faculty member will be provided with adequate disclosure of all information and data upon which the decision-makers have relied; and,
4. The faculty member will be provided with adequate opportunity to respond.

In a hearing the burden of proof rests with the faculty member to establish a preponderance of the evidence that his or her termination was based upon an illegal reason or was arbitrary or unreasonable. Also, any faculty member involved in such a readjustment process has the right to reappointment to his or her previous position if it is re-established within two calendar years (TAMUS Policy 12.01, Section 7.3.5).

## **Individual's Value to Program**

A person's value to a department will be the prime consideration in a staff reduction. Tenured faculty will have retention preference over non-tenured faculty unless the termination of the program would result from the loss of the non-tenured member. In the latter situation, if deemed feasible by the department chair involved, a tenured person may be given an opportunity to become competent in an area essential to a program and thus regain priority. In situations where all other factors are equal, decisions will be based on merit, rank, and then length of service.

## **Non-reappointment**

Notice of non-reappointment, or of intention not to reappoint a tenure-track faculty member, shall be given in writing in accord with the following standards:

1. Not later than March 1 of the first academic year of probationary service, if the appointment expires at the end of the academic year; or, if a one-year appointment terminates during a year, at least three months in advance of its termination;
2. Not later than December 15 of the second year of probationary service, if the appointment expires at the end of that academic year; or if an initial two-year

appointment terminates during an academic year, at least six months in advance of its termination;

3. At least twelve months before the expiration of a probationary appointment after two or more years in the institution.

Good cause for dismissal of a faculty member with tenure will related directly and substantially to the performance of professional duties, and may include, but shall not be limited to (TAMUS Policy 12.01, Section 4.3):

1. Professional incompetence;
2. Continuing or repeated failure to perform duties or meet responsibilities to the institution or to students or associates;
3. Failure to successfully complete a post-tenure review Professional Development Plan;
4. Moral turpitude adversely affecting the performance of duties or the meeting of responsibilities to the University, or to students or associates;
5. Violation of System policies, System regulations, University or agency rules, or laws substantially related to performance of faculty duties or meeting of responsibilities to the institution, students, or associates;
6. Conviction of a crime substantially related to the fitness of a faculty member to engage in teaching, research, service/outreach, and/or administration;
7. Unprofessional conduct adversely affecting to a material and substantial degree the performance of duties or the meeting of responsibilities to the University, or to students or associates;
8. Falsification of academic credentials;
9. Bona fide financial exigency or the phasing out of institutional programs requiring reduction of faculty (see previous section); bona fide financial exigency means a pressing need to reorder the nature and magnitude of financial obligations in such a way as to restore or preserve the financial stability of any component of The Texas A&M University System; a bona fide financial exigency may exist without the entire component being affected (TAMUS Policy 12.01, Section 8.2.1); or,
10. The reduction or discontinuance of institutional programs based on educational considerations and requiring the termination of faculty members.

A faculty member with tenure shall not be dismissed until she/he has received reasonable notice of the cause for dismissal and only after an opportunity for a hearing, which shall meet the established procedures of due process and in which the University shall bear the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence good cause for dismissal.

A non-tenured faculty member, having a grievance regarding the non-renewal of his or her contract, has the right to have a hearing before a University administrator (TAMU Board of Regents Agenda Item #35, July 28, 2000).<sup>7</sup> The procedure at Texas A&M International University, approved by the President, September 3, 2000, ordains that the grieving faculty member will select a dean, other than that of his or her own college, who will hear the grievance. The outcome of the hearing will be communicated to the faculty member concerned and the Provost, who will in turn present the report together with a recommendation to the President. The President's decision will be final. In cases in which the faculty member challenges the non-renewal on grounds of discrimination, infringement of academic freedom, or the existence of an illegal reason [e.g., a decision based on race, sex, age, national origin, or made in retaliation for the faculty member's exercise of protected First Amendment rights], he or she is entitled to the due process procedures as provided under Discharge for Cause, below.

## **Separation**

### **Resignation**

As professional educators and scholars, it is expected that a statement of resignation will be made in writing, and it will be presented to the appropriate college Dean and department chair with adequate notice so as not to inconvenience the student body.

### **Retirement**

Employment of a formerly tenured faculty member after retirement will be on a non-tenured status. Such post-retirement employment does not accrue toward the resumption of tenure status. These positions filled by retired faculty may not exceed a total of ten percent of the FTE positions in a college. Complete retirement conditions, definitions and constraints are detailed in TAMUS Policy 31.07 and are available from the Office of Human Resources.

### **Failure to Meet Standards**

All employees of the University, including faculty, are employed with the expectation that they are able to fulfill the standards of the position for which they were hired or into which they were promoted.

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<sup>7</sup> *This portion of the text constitutes explanatory text that was added to the State's directive.*

## **Discharge for Cause – Criteria and Procedure**

The procedure for non-renewal of non-tenured faculty at the end of any term contract (other than a one-year-only contract which has not been renewed) shall have the following components.

1. The University is not legally required to give a non-tenured faculty member a reason for a decision not to reappoint for another term or to provide a hearing. Generally, faculty members are entitled to see their personnel files and to obtain a copy of those files at the faculty member's expense.
2. A decision not to reappoint a non-tenured faculty member may not be made in violation of the academic freedom of the individual or for an illegal reason. If a non-tenured faculty member makes allegations concerning the decision not to reappoint which, if proved, would establish a violation of academic freedom or the existence of an illegal reason (e.g., a decision based on race, sex, age or national origin, or made in retaliation for the faculty member's exercise of protected First Amendment rights), the faculty member is entitled to the due procedures provided in the following subsections to determine the validity of his or her allegations. It is the responsibility of the faculty member to make the administration aware of his or her allegations, in writing.
3. On request, the faculty member is entitled to a preliminary consideration by a faculty committee of his or her allegations of a violation of academic freedom or the existence of an illegal reason for the decision not to reappoint. If the committee determines that there is adequate evidence to support the faculty member's allegations, then the faculty member will be entitled to the due process procedure as specified below.

### *Due Process*

Due process, as set forth in this statement, embodies a course of professional proceedings in line with the rules and principles recognized in the academic community. Among these is the right of tenured and non-tenured faculty members, during the term of their contracts, to a fair hearing before a faculty hearing committee.

1. When a reason arises to question the fitness of a faculty member, the appropriate administrative officers should discuss the matter with the faculty member in a personal conference. The matter may be resolved by mutual consent or it may be taken up by an advisory committee.
2. The Faculty Senate will appoint the advisory committee. It will make such inquiry as it deems necessary, offer confidential advice to both the faculty member and administration, and attempt to affect an adjustment or resolution.

3. The Provost may initiate a hearing whether or not one is recommended by the advisory committee or requested by the faculty member within 30 days of the notification of termination.
4. The Provost shall notify the faculty member, in writing, within 30 days of the decision to conduct a hearing, that the hearing is to be initiated, and that there is reasonable cause to believe that the charges constitute good cause for dismissal.
5. If the faculty member desires a hearing rather than resigning or accepting termination, he or she should notify the Provost within 30 days of notification of non-renewal. The Provost and the Faculty Senate will assign a hearing committee, and notify the President that a hearing has been requested. From a panel selected by the Faculty Senate, the Provost should appoint the hearing committee. This committee should not overlap the advisory committee.
6. Both the University and the faculty member have the right to call witnesses and to be represented during the hearing. The faculty hearing committee will review evidence, written and oral statements, and determine its findings. The hearing procedure shall be spelled out, known in advance, and shared with the concerned parties.
7. The findings of the hearing committee and its recommendations will be conveyed in writing to the faculty member, the President, the Provost, and other appropriate administrative officers.
8. The faculty member may appeal the decision to the President. The faculty member should submit a written appeal to the President within 20 days of the forwarding of recommendations to the President. The President will make a final decision within 20 days of the receipt of an appeal. Decisions regarding non-renewal of non-tenure-track faculty members made by the President are final.
9. If the President recommends termination of the faculty member, the recommendation will be forwarded to the Chancellor according to TAMUS Policy.

## **RESEARCH INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES**

### **Copyright**

“Copyright is the ownership and control of the intellectual property in original works of authorship that is subject to copyright law. Copyright ownership and the rights thereof are defined by Federal law. It is the policy of the Texas A&M University System that all rights in copyright shall remain with the creator of the work unless the work is supported by direct allocation of funds . . . for the pursuit of a specific project, is commissioned by the System, . . .

or otherwise subject to contractual or legal obligations, or is a ‘work made for hire’ as that term is defined in the Copyright Law.” (TAMUS Policy 17.02 Section 2).

## **Hazardous Waste**

The Texas Hazard Communication Act of 1985, Texas Civil Statutes, Article 5182b requires that Texas A&M International University provide faculty with certain specific information concerning the use and disposal of hazardous materials. For a complete description of the statute and its implications, see TAMUS Policy 34.02 Section 2.

## **Human Subjects**

All research projects conducted by members of the TAMIU community involving human subjects must be approved by the University’s Institutional Review Board (IRB) or be exempt from IRB review by federal statute. Both faculty and student researchers must contact the Office of the Provost for the latest information regarding IRB approval and exemption procedures.

The University’s IRB number registered with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is as follows: IRB 00002613. The Federal-Wide number for the Assurance for the Protection of Human Subjects (see DHHS website) is as follows: FWA 00003404.

## **Inventions, Patents, and Creations**

TAMUS policy regarding inventions, patents, and creations is outlined in TAMUS Policy 17.01. The ownership rests with the creator, unless the University commissions the creation.

## **Scientific Misconduct and Animal Research**

TAMUS research policies, restrictions and constraints are outlined in TAMUS Policy 15.01.

## **Study Leave and Faculty Development Leave**

Faculty on leave will be given the same considerations as faculty on campus with regard to salary, tenure, seniority and all other rights and privileges, except as explicitly exempted in the terms of the request for leave and the approval of the leave.

### **Study Leave**

*Without Pay.*

Upon recommendation and approval of the Dean, Provost and President and submission to the Chancellor for approval by the TAMUS Board of Regents, a leave of absence without pay for travel or study may be granted to a teaching member of the faculty who has been employed for at least three years. A leave will not be granted for longer than twelve months at one time, but an extension for additional time may be granted if conditions warrant and permit it.

*With Pay (Faculty Development Leave)*

The purpose of this procedure is to meet the objectives of faculty development as outlined in the Texas Education Code, Section 51.102: to provide a program of leaves of absence that would enable faculty members to engage in study, research, writing, and similar projects. In effect, the legislature aims to improve higher education by providing opportunities for professional growth at colleges and universities, thereby increasing the value of the recipient's sustained contribution. Thus, faculty development leaves are part of a plan of compensation for faculty.

Faculty development leave may be granted to persons employed by Texas A&M International University who are full-time tenured faculty or equivalent. Faculty duties include teaching, research, administration (who have no more than ¼ release time for administration) and/or professional services. Faculty development leave may not be granted to persons in the classified personnel system of the University.

Eligibility is limited to tenured, full-time faculty members:

- With at least seven years of service at this University;
- With at least six years of service since their last development leave; and
- Who have submitted acceptable report(s) from previous leave(s).

The Faculty Development Leave Committee (FDLC) shall be chaired by the current President of the Faculty Senate and shall consist of one tenured faculty member from each college and/or free standing academic unit, with the exception of the College of Arts and Sciences, which shall have two representatives. The Faculty Senate will conduct elections during April, polling faculty from each college to determine its representative. Members elected in April will begin their terms the next school year, beginning in September. Faculty members are not eligible for faculty development leave during their tenure on the committee.

All elections shall be for three-year terms. When vacancies occur, the Faculty Senate shall designate a replacement to fill the unexpired term. The President of the Faculty Senate is responsible for all matters pertaining to the election of FDLC members.

The FDLC will recommend an application deadline to the Provost who, in turn, will notify the faculty. Normally, the application deadline will be no later than November 1 of the Fall Semester preceding the academic year for which the award is sought. For example, if faculty members were seeking leave during the fall and/or spring term of 2009-2010, they would apply in November 2008.

An applicant will submit a completed application for approval to the appropriate department head in accord with the deadline established by the FDLC. Upon receipt of the applications by the academic department, further routing will be as follows: from the department chair to the Dean, and to the Office of the Provost. The department chair must indicate how the faculty member's classes will be covered (including an estimate of costs). Each administrative

officer will have one week to comment and forward the application packet. The Provost will then forward packets to the FDLC for ranking.

The FDLC will return rankings to the Provost, who will review and forward the rankings to the President. The FDLC reserves the right to interview applicants when needed for clarification in ranking applications. Leaves will be considered final upon recommendation by the President, who will cause to be provided written acknowledgement of approval to all applicants and the FDLC.

The FDLC determines and reports the criteria to be used in making its selection recommendations to the Provost. Current criteria are those cited in Chapter 51, Section 51.102 of the Texas Education Code:

“On the application of a faculty member, the governing board of an institution of higher education may grant a faculty development leave of absence for study, research, writing, field observations, or other suitable purpose, to a faculty member if the board determines that the faculty member is eligible by reason of service, that the purpose for which a faculty development leave is sought is one for which a faculty development leave may be granted, and that granting the leave will not place on faculty development leave a greater number of faculty members than that authorized.”

Requests for faculty development leave must be approved or disapproved by the department chair. Impact of the leave on the applicant’s department or program (i.e. describe how the leave will benefit the institution), and other pertinent information, should be addressed in the department chair’s decision.

Faculty members may hold faculty development leaves for one academic year at one-half their regular salary, or for one-half an academic year at their full salary. An academic year is defined as the nine-month period contained in the Fall and Spring semesters; development leaves are not authorized for summer sessions.

Faculty members having signed a legal agreement to serve one full academic year after completion of the leave shall be required to reimburse the University in the amount they receive as salary and fringe benefits if they should fail to fulfill the year of service after the leave. Permanent disability attested to by a medical doctor would constitute reason for exemption, or an equivalent condition as judged by the Provost.

Faculty members on leave will retain their rights and eligibility for benefits to hospitalization, medical insurance, income protection, life insurance, and other such programs (including retirement) in force for full-time faculty members. The University administration shall cause to be deducted from the leave recipient’s salary the cost of such benefits as permitted by law.

Within three months of their return from leave, recipients of faculty development leave must provide a written report of their activities to their respective department chairs, who in turn

will route the report to the Dean and the Provost. Recipients will also conduct a forum for discussion with members of their respective colleges. A copy of the written report, and the agenda for the college discussion, will be submitted to the FDLC, who will report their work to the Faculty Senate at the September meeting of the Faculty Senate.

This program is restricted to those departments or academic units that are able to release a faculty member without affecting their academic functions and without hiring a replacement, unless funds are available.

Appropriate funding for faculty development leave is authorized by Title 3, Chapter 51, Section 51.105 of the Texas Education Code:

“a. The governing board may grant to a faculty member a faculty development leave either for one academic year at one-half of his [sic] regular salary or for one-half academic year at his [sic] full salary. Payment of salary to the faculty member on faculty development leave may be made from the funds appropriated by the legislature specifically for that purpose, or from such other funds as might be available to the institution.

b. A faculty member on faculty development leave may accept a grant for study, research, or travel from any institution of higher education or governmental agency. A faculty member on faculty development leave may not accept employment from any other person, corporation, or government, unless the governing board determines that it would be in the public interest to do so and expressly approves the employment.

c. It is not required that faculty members obtain matching funds to be eligible for development leave; however, faculty members who are granted development leave are encouraged to seek additional funding from authorized and appropriate external sources. Applicants must follow guidelines established by the Office of Grant Resources when seeking additional funding.”

The University will supplement the faculty member’s grant or salary paid by the entity sponsoring the development program so that the University compensation will equal half the faculty member’s regular salary for one academic year or his or her full regular salary for half an academic year, subject to availability of funds. In order for the faculty member to remain eligible for state-paid benefits, the department must submit a Memorandum of Employment covering the absence period and attach a copy of the approval of the faculty member’s development leave request to the Office of Human Resources.

As stated in Title 3, Chapter 51, Section 51.106, not more than six percent of the faculty members of any institution of higher education may be on faculty development leave at any one time. Additionally, the actual leaves awarded are dependent upon the availability of funds as well as the extent to which proposed leave requires funding.

## **STUDENT AFFAIRS**

### **Student Handbook**

The Office of the Dean of Student Success publishes the *Student Handbook*. It is available from the Office of the Dean, the Division of Student Affairs, and the Library. The Student Conduct Code, Student Discipline Code, and student rights and responsibilities are defined in the *Student Handbook*.

### **Sponsorship / Organizations**

A complete list of chartered organizations may be found on the Internet at [www.tamtu.edu](http://www.tamtu.edu). The Office of Student Affairs maintains regulations and procedures for the establishment of student organizations.

### **Student Violations of Academic Integrity (Cheating, Plagiarism)**

Students are expected to maintain high ethical standards in their academic work, and faculty members are expected to maintain the fairness and integrity of course grades. Students who are caught claiming credit for work that they did not do – whether the dishonest consists of cheating on exams, intentionally plagiarizing papers or course projects, or other forms of academic misrepresentation and dishonesty – can expect to receive failing grades in the course in question. Faculty members are required to report such serious breaches of academic honesty to their chair, their Dean, the Provost, and the Director of Student Affairs.

In addition to grade penalties, students guilty of academic dishonesty may be placed on probation, temporarily suspended, or permanently expelled from the University by the Provost, as specified in the *Student Handbook*. The Honor Council reviews each case reported to the Provost and makes recommendations. (See the Honor Code in the Appendix.)

## **TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES AND RELATED INFORMATION**

### **Academic Freedom**

Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good. The common good depends upon a free search for truth and its free expression. Hence, it is essential that the faculty member be free to pursue scholarly inquiry without undue restriction, and to voice and publish conclusions concerning the significance of evidence considered relevant to those conclusions. The faculty member must be free from the corrosive fear that others, inside or outside the University community, because their vision may differ, may threaten his or her professional career or the material benefits accruing from it.

Each faculty member is entitled to full freedom in the classroom in discussing the subject which he or she teaches, including the absence of pressure from the institution or from

regulations which violate the First Amendment in insisting on orthodoxy in the classroom, but should be careful not to persistently introduce controversial matters which have no relation to the classroom subject.

Exercise of professional integrity by a faculty member includes recognition that the public may judge his or her profession and institution by statements made by the faculty member. Therefore, when speaking or acting as a private person, the faculty member should strive to be accurate, to exercise appropriate restraints, to show respect for the opinion of others, and to avoid creating the impression that he or she speaks or acts for the college or University.

Faculty members have constitutionally protected rights as citizens to freedom of expression on matters of public concern. A faculty member's comments are protected even though they may be highly critical in tone or content, or erroneous, but such statements are not protected free speech if they either substantially impede the faculty member's performance of daily duties or if they are part of a continuing pattern of expression of such nature as to destroy the ability to work cooperatively and undermine the morale of a division, department, or college.

False statements and/or falsification of scholarly work made with knowledge of their falsity or in reckless disregard of the truth are not entitled to constitutional protection. Furthermore, public statements may be without sufficient foundation so as to call into question the fitness of the faculty member to perform his or her professional duties. In cases where the facts are in dispute, hearings will be conducted by a committee of academic administrators and faculty appointed by the Provost from persons recommended by the Faculty Senate. Due process will be followed. The controlling principle is that a faculty member's expression of opinion as a citizen cannot constitute grounds for dismissal unless it clearly demonstrates the faculty member's unfitness for his or her position, as described in the Non-reappointment Section of this Handbook. Extramural utterances rarely bear upon the faculty member's fitness or job performance. Moreover, a final decision should take into account the faculty member's entire record as a teacher and scholar.

## **Faculty Responsibilities**

### **Teaching Faculty**

Texas A&M International University is committed to excellence in instruction, a concern for students, and the integrity of the institution. As such, all teaching faculty are expected to:

1. Make known to students in writing the goals and requirements of each course, the nature of the course content and the methods of evaluation to be employed.
2. Meet classes as scheduled.
3. Instruct so as to meet course objectives.
4. Maintain competence in teaching fields.
5. Be professional in conduct, in the classroom, and show respect for the students.

6. Be available to students for consultation on course work during regular published office hours.
7. Serve as academic advisor in accordance with college policy on advisement.
8. Engage in Service activities according to requirements for performance by rank as stated in this Handbook, and applicable college and department policies.
9. Engage in Scholarly activity according to requirements for performance by rank as stated in this Handbook, and applicable college and department policies.

While these responsibilities provide the foundation of good teaching and professionalism, they do not alone qualify one for tenure or promotion. See relevant sections of this Handbook for additional information concerning promotion and tenure.

### **Library Faculty**

All Library faculty are expected to:

1. Adhere to the American Library Association Code of Ethics.
2. Maintain knowledge and competence in their areas of specialization.
3. Be professional in conduct and show respect for patrons.
4. Perform their professional assignments in a manner that supports the Library's mission within the University.
5. Engage in Service activities according to requirements for performance by rank as stated in this Handbook, and applicable Library policies.
6. Engage in Professional Enrichment activities according to requirements for performance by rank as stated in this Handbook, and applicable Library policies.

### **Academic Services and Support (Media, Computer, etc.)**

A faculty member should reasonably expect support from the University for the successful accomplishment of the faculty member's Teaching, Scholarship, and Service responsibilities. The faculty member should expect to utilize adequate care to ensure that the support provided by the University is not misused.

### **Program Evaluation**

It is the responsibility of every faculty member to remain current in his or her area of expertise. If in their expert opinion, a program should be added, revised, or dropped, the faculty

member has a responsibility to share their opinion with the appropriate curriculum committee or to bring their opinion to the Academic Oversight Committee of the Faculty Senate.

### **Student Advising**

Each full-time faculty member is expected to advise and council a designated group of students concerning academic course requirements, as well as personal matters related to their overall educational experiences. The faculty member's basic responsibilities are to assist assigned graduate and/or undergraduate advisees in enrolling in appropriate courses as specified by individual degree plans provided by the Office of Admissions and Advisement, and to monitor each student's total course load with respect to degree of difficulty and the student's non-academic responsibilities, e.g., full-time work or familial responsibilities.

### **Student Records (FERPA)**

The University accumulates data and keeps records to enable staff and faculty to plan educational opportunities to meet the needs of individual students, to better understand students to counsel them more effectively, and to assist to placement in graduate education or employment programs after graduation. These records should be considered confidential and the privacy of the student protected.

Preliminary (first day) class rolls are distributed as soon as possible after registration. These rolls should be checked by faculty and discrepancies reported to the Office of the Registrar. Corrections are incorporated in the final class roll, which reflects registration as of the official census date (twelfth class day for long semesters, fourth class day for summer sessions). These final class rolls must be signed by the instructor as correct and returned to the Office of the Registrar in a timely manner.

Forms for assigning grades are distributed after the final day for dropping classes. These forms must be completed by faculty and returned to the Office of the Registrar by the specified due date. The Office of the Registrar will not release grades to students until the final reports are prepared and mailed.

These records are required by the state of Texas and may be audited as part of the funding process.

### **Posting Grades**

Faculty are legally prohibited from publicly posting student grades in such a fashion that students can be identified by anyone other than themselves or their designated representatives; however, it is often necessary to disseminate information outside the classroom about student performance. Therefore, when such necessity occurs, instructors may post grades in such a way that the student's privacy is protected. This means that student names or complete Social Security numbers may not be used. Instructors may use whatever method they devise so long as individual privacy is protected.

## **Office Hours**

Each faculty member is expected to establish, post and maintain a reasonable number of office hours. The determination of the number of office hours will be made in consultation with the faculty member's department chair. The following constraints should be considered:

1. All faculty members are expected to have office hours.
2. Office hours will be scheduled for the convenience of students.
3. Office hours must be posted outside the faculty member's office, and recorded with the department chair.
4. All faculty members, regardless of their assignments, are expected to maintain an absolute minimum of three and an absolute maximum of forty office hours per week.

# APPENDIX A

## Changes to Faculty Handbook Since 2008-2009

### Texas A&M International University

This document is organized such that the items and their corresponding section number from Faculty Handbook 2008-2009 (i.e. History 1.1) are listed along with the new page number and where necessary new title as well as any notes (which are marked by the purple writing in the committee's recommendation).

#### PREFACE

- Reworded paragraph regarding the list of changes to say *"Archival copies of the Faculty Handbook, reflecting previous version and changes, are kept in Killam Library. An Appendix to this document lists the substantive changes made from the previous (2008-2009) edition."*
- Deleted paragraph starting *"The Faculty Handbook was designed and written by the Faculty Senate in collaboration with several University offices, primarily the Office of the President, the Office of the Provost, the Office of Human Resources, and Offices of the Deans."*
- Moved Faculty Handbook Revision process (formerly 1.7 - pg 14) to this section

#### ABOUT TAMIU

- Purpose, Organization and Governance is changed to ABOUT TAMIU
- Accreditation (formerly 1.3 Pg 11) - inserted "and Doctoral" to degrees, and changed name of Business college to A.R. Sanchez School of Business.
- Mission Statement (formerly 1.2 Pg 10) – Minor
- Pg 2 A Brief History of TAMIU (formerly 1.1 beginning on Pg 8) - this is the version currently in the handbook. A second version has been provided by Dr. Lem Railsback, and will be considered for inclusion in the future.
- Pg 5 Governance and Administration (formerly 1.4 Governance and Administrative Structure Pg 11) Numbering and lettering removed in favor of sub-Titles
- Pg 6 continues the list of governing positions and corrects some titles (such as "A.R. Sanchez Jr. School of Business."
- 1.5 Organization Chart (pg 13) – REMOVED
- Pg. 6 - General University Governance (formerly 1.6 General University Governance) - lettering removed
- Pg. 6 Staff Senate name changed (formerly 1.6.F. Administrative Advisory Council)
- Pg 6 - 1. 6. D Faculty Senate and Faculty Assembly (pg 13) is broken into two separate sections: Faculty Assembly (finishing at sentence *"shall have authority over all matters pertaining to educational and academic policy."* Faculty Senate begins with *"As specified in Article II, Section 1-3 of the Faculty Constitution..."*
- Pg. 6 FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEES (formerly 2.29.C.1 Faculty Senate Committees Pg 63-64) lists all the Faculty Senate Committees - note that in each committee there is a line marked green that the committee feels are worthy of reconsideration.

- Pg. 7 University Committees takes the verbiage from section formerly 2.29.C.2 on pg. 64. NOTE Section 1.6.G (pg 14) and the paragraph at section 2.29.C (pg. 62) are REMOVED as being redundant.
- Pg. 10 - University Promotion, Tenure, and Retention Committee - there is a sentence marked in blue about faculty having 2 years of service at TAMIU that I cannot trace to source
- Pg. 10 - Committee of Professors (formerly 2.29.C.2 - h pg. 67) was voted by faculty in 2009 to be removed
- Pg 12 - Committee Assignment Procedure (formerly 2.29.C.3 pg 68)
- Pg 13 / 14 GRADUATE COUNCIL (formerly 7.2 on pg 92)
- Pg 14 Library and Instructional Support (formerly 3.1 Library Policies Pg 82). Note: Committee recommends that this section should also include sub-headings and information on Library cards, ILL, Services for off-campus users, etc

#### APPOINTMENT AND ADVANCEMENT OF FACULTY

- Terms of appointment (pg 13) comes from Section 2.9 (pg 34)
- Contract form (pg 14) comes from 2.10 (pg 34)
- Search Process (pg 14 / 15) formerly 2.11. A (Pg 34)
- Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action (pg 15) formerly 2.11.B (pg 35) is a statement of TAMUS policy and may be deleted.
- Pg 15 continues - formerly pg 35 with numbering / lettering removed
- Major Faculty Responsibilities (pg 16) formerly 2.3 Major Faculty Responsibilities (pg 17)
- Definition of Faculty Status beginning on pg 18 is formerly Section 2.4 (beginning on pg 19)
- Pg 19 formerly 2.4.A (pg 20) and 2.4.B (pg 20)
- Pg 20 contains info on 2.4.B and 2.4.C (formerly pg 21)
- Pg 20/21 contains info on 2.4.D (formerly pg 22)
- Pg 21/22 contains info on 2.4.E. and 2.4.F (formerly pg 23)
- Pg 22 contains info on 2.4.G and pg 23 contains 2.4H (formerly pg 25)
- Pg 23 CHANGE to wording of sentence regarding "Others with faculty status" to include *and Administrators with Faculty Rank*.

#### ETHICS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS (Beginning on Pg 24) is a new heading.

- Pg. 24: Principles of Ethical Conduct - a paragraph labeled "Conflict of Interest" (formerly section 2.22 pg 49) was DELETED
- Pg. 24 - Sections 2.22, 2.23, 2.25 are combined to create the section "Conflicts of Interest and Outside Employment" as follows
- opening paragraph originally comes from 2nd paragraph of 2.25 (pg 53\_
- Beginning with "Full-time faculty are expected to devote....." to end of bullet points comes from 2.23 (pg 50)
- Beginning with "A faculty member desiring to engage...." comes from 2.25 (pg 53), however, the final sentence ("All authorizations terminate on August 31 of each year.") comes from 2.23 (pg 50 - final sentence)
- Pg 30 opening paragraph was originally 4th paragraph of section 2.25 (pg 53)
- Second paragraph combines final sentences of section 2.25 (pg 53) and 2.23 (pg 51)

- Paragraph labeled "Extramural Utterances" (formerly section 2.26 pg 53) was DELETED as redundant with Academic Freedom section under the TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES AND RELATED INFO below.
- Pg 25 - Use of Property and Equipment (formerly section 2.31.M pg 78) has a note that another paragraph was deleted as being redundant, but I cannot trace the paragraph that was removed!
- Pg 25/26 - Professional standards (formerly section 2.19) comes from pg 48 Professional Ethics (formerly section 2.20 pg 49) - note that section 2.26 was originally moved to here and then later deleted as described above.
- Pg 27 - Sexual Harassment (section 2.21 pg 49) is added here under the sub-heading of Principles of Ethical Conduct (as described in note)
- Pg 27-29 - Political Activity - formerly section 2.24 (pg 51-53)
- Pg 29 - NOTE: Paragraph 6.5 (pg 87) was DELETED as redundant
- Pg 29 - External Relations (formerly sections 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.6 pgs 86-87)

#### EVALUATION AND PROMOTION OF FACULTY (New Heading!!)

- Pg 39 - Annual review combines opening paragraph of section 2.5 (pg 26) with one sentence from section 2.14 (pg 36). The rest of section 2.14 was redistributed (see below).
- Pg 31 - Evaluation of Teaching (formerly section 2.5.C pg 27)
- Pg 31 - Midpoint Review of Faculty (New title) comes from section 2.14 (pg 37)
- Pg 32 - NOTE: Final paragraph of section 2.14 (pg 37) was DELETED as redundant with section on Tenure below)
- Pg 32 - Post Tenure review (pg 37 - 42) (formerly section 2.15 beginning on pg 38-43) is complete
- Pg 37 - Tenure & Promotion combines sections 2.6 (pg 27) and 2.7 (beginning pg 27)  
Note: bulleted listing of five areas removed,
- Pg 37 - Note: Reference *See Major Faculty Responsibilities, above, p. 16* inserted
- Pg 37 Note: Headings "Promotion and Tenure" and "Promotion" REMOVED
- Pg 37 - Note: reference *under Definition of Faculty Status, beginning on page 18* inserted
- Pg. 39 Note: Headings changed: Procedures for Promotion and Tenure Decisions - changed to Promotion and Tenure Deadlines
- Pg. 39 Note: Inserted following under heading Promotion, Tenure and Retention Committees "*See description of University Promotion, Tenure, and Retention Committee on p. 9 of the Faculty Handbook*"
- Pg 41 - Note: section 2.7.C. 2.a and b (pg 30) were removed as redundant with previous insertion.
- Pg 42 - Note: Heading "Appealing Promotion and Tenure Decisions" changed to *Procedure for Appeal of Promotion and Tenure Decisions*
- Pg 42 - Note: University Grievance Committee changed to University Grievance *Pool*
- Pg 42 - Note: Second paragraph reference (pg 47) to section 2.7.C.1 changed to *above*
- Note: Section 2.8 University Promotion, Tenure & Retention Committee (pg 33-34) was DELETED as redundant - see above reference to committee structure

#### FACULTY WORKLOAD

- Quote from system policy (pg 60) was removed

- Pg. 43 - Opening of Section 2.29.B.2 (pg 60) was changed (second paragraph) to "*Tenured faculty*" (pg 48)
- Pg 43 - Note: The section on Release time for Research may be considered redundant as it is covered later under Study Leave & Faculty Development Leave
- Pg 43 - Under Baseline Expectations, bullet point D was changed to a normal paragraph
- Pg 44 - Under *General Considerations* (pg 49) the bullet point a (formerly 2.29.B.4.a pg 61) was deleted as redundant text.
- Pg 45 Summer Teaching (formerly 2.29.F. pg 70) moved here under Faculty Workload.  
NOTE: The committee recommends re-examination of the footnote

## GRADUATE FACULTY

- Pg 45 - All references to Office of Graduate Studies or OGS changed to *Dean of Graduate Studies and Research*
- Pg 45 - 46: Categories of Membership Section re-organized so that Associate / Masters Membership comes ahead of Full / Doctoral Membership
- Pg 45- bullet points regarding eligibility of Associate members was changed to remove the references to doctoral theses and committees.
- Pg 46 - Opening line of eligibility standards for Full Membership is changed to say *must meet all requirements for Associate membership, and in addition.....* NOTE: This allowed the committee to DELETE the following: 7.1.A.1 1 / 4 / 5 (pg 87)
- Pg 45 - Change to wording (formerly on pg 88) to compress bullets and remove redundancies
- Pg 46: regarding eligibility for External Membership (Other Provisions) letter of recommendation is changed to letter of *verification*. (formerly pg 90)  
Section 7.1.B (pg 91) opening two paragraphs were DELETED as redundant with foregoing
- Paragraph regarding length of terms (formerly second last paragraph on pg 91) was DELETED as redundant - information is contained in the eligibility bullets.

## GRIEVANCES

- Originally section 2.30 (pg 70)
- Pg 50 - NOTE: reference to "See section 5.7" (pg 71) changed to "*See Student Violations of Academic Integrity under STUDENT AFFAIRS below*"
- Pg 50 - Final paragraph of 2.30.A.1 (pg 71) changed from "three (3) academic work weeks (15 days)" to *three academic work weeks (15 working) days*" (pg 55)
- Ph 52 - title of *Executive Director of Student Life* is changed to *Director of Student Affairs* and title of *Vice Presidents of Student Affairs* is changed to *Dean of Student Success*
- Pg 53 - Under sub-heading "Faculty-Faculty" bullet point 4 the wording is changed from "with the University Grievance Committee, which will act as dictated by the TAMIU Faculty Handbooks, paragraph 2.31 Section A.4 (cited above)" to "*with a University Grievance Committee, which must be formed from the University Grievance Pool (see under University Committees above).*"
- Note: The paragraph regarding filing an appeal was DELETED from both sections Faculty-Faculty and Faculty-Administrator, since no mechanism for such currently exists at TAMIU. (Hindsight thought - we might want to leave this in!)

- Pg 54 - Wording of opening sentence of "Faculty-Administrator" CHANGED to be consistent with opening of "Faculty-Faculty" section.

#### HUMAN RESOURCES INFORMATION

- Pg 55 - word policy replaced with procedure (1st paragraph)
- Pg 55 - Wording of paragraph "Military Leave" changed to remove word "you" and change it to "an employee" etc.
- Pg 55 - Civil Duty CHANGED to Civic Duty
- Pg 56 - Under "Family and Medical Leave" word "your" changed to "*the employee's*" etc.
- Pg 56 - Final paragraph of section under vacation was originally in 2.27.B (pg 58)
- Pg 56 - Sub-section "Other Human Resources Information" is completely NEW replacing the four paragraphs under 2.32 Fringe Benefits and 2.33 Compensation Policies (pg 81)

#### NEW FACULTY INFORMATION

- Pg 57 - New heading: "Alcohol and Drug Abuse" : This paragraph takes the verbiage from section 2.31.J (formerly pg 78) which referred to "alcohol and / or illicit drugs". Committee felt that the paragraph on Drug Free Workplace (formerly section 2.31.I pg 78) was redundant as covered by this paragraph
- Pg 57 - Bulletin Boards - formerly section 4.4 pg 84
- Pg 57 - Communicable Diseases - formerly section 2.31.K pg 78
- Pg 57 - Emergency Closing - formerly section 4.1 pg 84
- Pg 57 - Keys - formerly section 4.2 pg 84
- Pg 57 - Leave of Absence - originally the second paragraph of 2.27.B (pg 58)
- Pg 57 - Mail and Email - formerly section 4.3 pg 84
- Pg 58 - Purchase Orders/Requisitions - formerly section 4.6 pg 85
- Pg 58 Telephones - formerly section 4.5 pg 84
- Pg 58 - University Awards - formerly section 2.28 beginning on pg 58

#### NON-REAPPOINTMENT, DISMISSAL, AND SEPARATION OF FACULTY

- Pg 59 - New Heading!! Combines section 2.16 and 2.17 (beginning on pg 43)
- Pg 61, bullet point 9 inserted words "see previous section"
- Pg 62 - Reference to a paragraph E 1 and E 2 were removed and replaced with "Discharge for Cause, below".
- The final paragraph in section "Non-reappointment" is considered by the committee to be worthy of reconsideration in the future.

#### RESEARCH INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

- Paragraph regarding Scholarly Activity (formerly section 2.29.D pg 69) was DELETED as duplicative of other handbook sections
- Paragraph regarding Research Policy (formerly section 2.31.A pg 76) was DELETED as duplicative of other handbook sections
- Pg 64 - Copyright - formerly copyright Policy section 2.31.B pg 76
- Pg 64 - Hazardous Waste - formerly section 2.31.D pg 77
- Pg 65 - Human Subjects - formerly Human Subjects Policy section 2.31.C pg 77
- Pg 65 - Inventions, Patents, and Creations - originally did not include word "Patents": New wording reflects reference to system policy; formerly said *The University policy*

*concerning inventions, creation, patents, etc will be the same as the policy concerning copyrights."* (which only alluded to system policy)

- Pg 65 - Scientific Misconduct and Animal Research - formerly two sections (2.31.F and 2.31.G) pg 77 contained the same sentence, thus CONDENSED into one section
- Pg 65 - Study Leave & Faculty Development Leave - formerly section 2.27 (beginning on pg 54). Throughout, the word policy is replaced with *procedure* and Vice President for Academic Affairs is replaced with *Provost*. Sections 2.27.A.2.d.6 and 2.27.A.2.e.3 (pg 56) were DELETED.

#### STUDENT AFFAIRS

- Pg - 68 - Student Handbook: This paragraph includes new wording as follows: "*The Student Conduct Code, Student Discipline Code, and students rights and responsibilities are defined in the Student Handbook.*" - This combines former sections 5.1 / 5.2 / 5.4 / 5.4 (pg 85)
- Pg 69 - Changed title from Office of Student Development to Office of Student Affairs
- Pg 69 - Under Student Violations of Academic Integrity, changed title from Executive Director of Student Life to Director of Student Affairs.

#### TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES AND RELATED INFORMATION

- Pg 69 - New title - combines info from Section 3 (pg 82)  
Section 3.2 Classroom Policies (pg 82) was DELETED as duplicative of information below
- Pg 69 - Academic Freedom is listed here (formerly Section 2.1 pg 15)
- Pg 70 - Under Teaching Faculty references to specific sections are removed and replaced with "*in this handbook*" etc
- Pg 71 - Ditto for Library Faculty
- Pg 71 - Academic Services and Support - formerly section 3.5 (pg 83) - committee believes this should be re-examined in the future
- Pg 71 - Program Evaluation - formerly section 3.4 Program Evaluation Policies (pg 83)
- Pg 71 - Section 3.3 Registrar's Policies - title removed. Section 3.3.A was DELETED as redundant when combined with Student Advising which was covered formerly at 2.29.E (pg 69)
- Pg 72 - Student Records - formerly Section 3.3.B (pg 83)
- Pg 72 - Posting Grades - formerly section 3.3.C (pg 83) - committee recommends re-examination of this section in the future.
- Pg 72 - Office Hours - formerly section 2.29.F (pg 69)

**APPENDIX B**  
**Faculty Constitution**  
**Texas A&M International University**

**FACULTY CONSTITUTION**

Originally Approved on 19 April 1995

***PREAMBLE:***

The purpose of this constitution is to implement the principle that the Texas A&M International University is a collegium (i.e. association of professionals) in which the responsibility for the educational objectives lies with the faculty. This constitution provides the rules and principles of governance for the Faculty upon its acceptance by the membership of the faculty, except where limitations are imposed upon it by the laws of the United States of American, the state of Texas and the Administrative Policy and Reporting Manual of the Texas A&M System (p. 3-19, May 20, 1991, or the latest edition).

**ARTICLE I. Organization of the Faculty**

**Section 1. Membership**

As used herein the term “Faculty” or “The Faculty” or any indication of “membership” in the Faculty is inclusive Faculty.

- a. The Faculty consists of the President, the Provost, Deans, all full professors, associate professors, assistant professors, instructors, and librarians and administrators holding faculty status.
- b. Voting Members of the Faculty shall be those members of the faculty with tenure or with full-time tenure track appointments.
- c. Associate Members of the Faculty shall be those members of the faculty with part-time and/or non-tenure track appointments. An associate member shall have all membership privileges except those of voting and the right to serve in the Faculty Senate; however, an associate faculty member with a full-time appointment may vote as of the beginning of the second consecutive year of full-time service. This faculty member, however, may not vote on issues pertaining to Promotion and Tenure, University-wide issues, or serve on the Faculty Senate. Associate faculty members with full-time appointments should also consult the Faculty Handbook for other limitations on their voting rights.
- d. Emeritus Members of the Faculty shall be those members of the faculty with emeritus status; they shall have the same privileges as associate members.

## **ARTICLE II. Authority of the Faculty**

### **Section 1. Authority of the Faculty** (subject to Article II Section 3, below).

The faculty shall have authority over matters pertaining to educational policy. By authority is meant the responsibility for developing rules, establishing and acting upon procedures, and recommending policies relating to all matters of educational concern for the welfare of the University. The following are indicative:

- a. Standards for admission, selection and retention of students.
- b. Requirements for granting degrees and compliance with the certification requirements in teacher education programs.
- c. Curricular requirements and the structure of the University with reference to academic matters.
- d. Instructional standards and standards for the evaluation of faculty.
- e. Promotion and facilitation of academic and instructional research.
- f. Procedure for faculty participation in the selection and retention of chairpersons of Departments/Schools and the Deans.
- g. Standards for public information programs dealing with educational matters.
- h. Standards for academic freedom and the protection of faculty interests.
- i. Standards for students' affairs, conduct and discipline.
- j. Appointment, promotion, tenure and dismissal of faculty members.
- k. Standards for faculty affairs, conduct, and discipline.

### **Section 2. Faculty Resolving Authority**

The faculty may express, by formal resolution and/or written petition, their opinion on any other matter pertaining to the policies and administration of the University. The following matters are indicative:

- a. Selection, retention, or removal of the President and principal academic officers, as well as the creation or abolition of such offices.
- b. Expenditures of funds allocated to instructional and academic or instructionally-related research.

- c. Major issues affecting current or projected budget decisions.
- d. Programs impacting welfare of the Faculty such as salaries, insurance, leaves of absence, University reorganization and accreditation.

### **Section 3. Responsibility of the Faculty Senate**

- a. The Faculty Senate is empowered to act on behalf of the Faculty, subject to:
  - i. The limitations of this constitution (see Article IV, Section 1), and
  - ii. Administrative Policy and Reporting Manual of the Texas A&M System (p. 3-19, May 20, 1991, or latest edition.
- b. In the event of a conflict between the Faculty and the Faculty Senate, the will of the Faculty shall prevail.

## **ARTICLE III. Conducting Faculty Business**

### **Section 1. Meetings of Faculty**

The President of Texas A&M International University may call a meeting of the Faculty at any time to report on any item that the President deems appropriate. Likewise the Faculty has the right to assemble at any time for the purpose of conducting Faculty business. The meeting may be in the nature of a forum, which the Faculty is encouraged to attend and participate. The meeting also may be in the nature of a hearing which the Faculty is encouraged to attend and, if appropriate, to testify.

### **Section 2. Special Meetings**

Special meetings of the Faculty shall be called as follows:

- (a) Upon request of the Faculty Senate, a special meeting of the Faculty shall be called by the Secretary of the Faculty Senate.
- (b) A special meeting of the Faculty shall be called upon receipt by the Faculty Senate of a petition signed by ten (10) or more voting members of the Faculty.

### **Section 3. Notice of Meetings**

The Secretary of the Faculty Senate shall notify the Faculty in writing at least two weeks prior to the meeting date. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate shall prepare minutes of all actions taken by the Faculty, and file a copy with the President of Texas A&M International University. Another copy of those minutes shall be filed with the President of the Faculty Senate. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate shall distribute the minutes within two weeks after the end of the Faculty meeting.

#### **Section 4. Approval Process for the Minutes of a Faculty Meeting**

To obtain approval, or not, of the minutes of a Faculty meeting, a blank approval form shall be attached to, and distributed with the minutes to all voting Faculty within two weeks after the faculty meeting. The following options shall be on the approval instrument:

- (a) Minutes approved as they are.
- (b) Minutes approved with the following changes:
- (c) Minutes not approved until the following changes are incorporated:
- (d) Minutes are not approved.

The faculty shall return the completed approval instrument to the Secretary of the Faculty Senate within one week after receipt of the minutes by the Faculty.

The vote of a quorum of the Faculty, returning the completed approval instrument, shall determine whether the minutes are approved or not. In case of a tie vote, the President of the Faculty Senate shall cast the deciding vote.

#### **Section 5. Faculty Voting Mechanism**

The mechanics of Faculty voting shall be as follows

- (a) A simple majority of voting members of the Faculty shall constitute a quorum.
- (b) A Faculty voting committee, consisting of Faculty Senators, and chaired by the Secretary of the Faculty Senate, shall prepare and mail secret ballots to the voting Faculty. These ballots are to be returned to the Faculty Senate Voting Committee within one week after receipt of the ballot.
- (c) Results of the Faculty vote shall be determined by the Faculty Senate Voting Committee, and reported by the Faculty Senate Secretary to the President of the Faculty Senate, who in turn will report the results to the Faculty.

#### **Section 6. Assistance of the Faculty Senate Secretary**

In all Faculty business matters in which the Faculty Senate Secretary acts as liaison between the Faculty Senate and the Faculty, the Secretary may request the assistance of any and/or all members of the Faculty Senate as the Secretary deems appropriate.

## ARTICLE IV. Faculty Senate

### Section 1. Function of the Faculty Senate

a. Legislative Functions.

The Faculty Senate may consider all matters appropriate for faculty action under Article III, Section 1. The Faculty Senate may act or refer such matters with recommendations to the Faculty.

b. Administrative Functions.

The Faculty Senate shall:

1. adopt Faculty Senate bylaws to the Faculty constitution.
2. prepare its own agenda.
3. initiate proposals for its own and Faculty consideration.
4. elect committees whenever necessary for the discharge of its functions.
5. fill vacancies for unexpired terms which occur in any elected faculty office or in any elected committee.
6. continuously study the effects of past and current legislative actions.

c. Consultative Functions.

The Faculty Senate shall be available to act in an advisory or consultative capacity with members of the administration on all matters of university policy.

### Section 2. Eligibility for Senate Membership

a. All members other than student members must be voting members of the Faculty.

b. Members-at-large. Four tenured or tenure-track members to be elected by the vote of the Faculty members.

c. Departments/Schools, within Colleges, Members. One full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty member from department/school within a College to be elected by the voting membership of that department/school within a College. The Library will be considered as a department/school and will be represented by one full-time faculty member.

d. Student Members. One undergraduate student and one graduate student to be elected by their respective constituents. The student members shall be non-voting members.

e. Recall of Senators. If a majority of full-time faculty in a department or division petition in writing to the Faculty Senate President to hold a special election on

whether or not to recall its representative in the Faculty Senate, then the President will call for a special election within one week of receipt of the petition. The Secretary of the Senate will announce the special election and conduct it following the procedures used in other Senate elections. Only those department or division faculty eligible to vote in Faculty Senate elections (see Article 1) may vote to retain or recall their Faculty Senator. A majority of those voting will determine the results of the election.

f. Dismissal of Senators: Faculty Senators who miss more than two regularly scheduled monthly meetings of the Senate during the year will be dismissed from the Senate. Senators who have legitimate reasons for missing more than two such meetings may petition the Senate to exempt them from this rule. The President of the Senate will notify the department or division of the dismissal and call for a special election of a new Senator if the dismissal occurs more than two months before the regular spring elections.

### **Section 3. Senate Officers**

#### a. Designation and Responsibilities.

1. President. The President calls meetings and presides at meetings. The officer represents the Senate to the public and the administration. The President's right of discussion is limited. The chair must be temporarily relinquished for the period of the discussion of that point in order for the President to participate in the discussion. The President has the right to vote on all issues. In the event of a tie, the issue fails for lack of a majority.
2. Vice-President. This officer fulfills the President's responsibilities in the President's absence, and serves as chair of the Academic Affairs Oversight Committee of the Senate.
3. Secretary. The Secretary prepares the minutes of Senate proceedings and debates; distributes minutes among the faculty; and corresponds with others as required by Senate decisions.
4. Parliamentarian and Elections Officer. The Parliamentarian will advise the President on parliamentary procedures and will supervise all elections, polls, and evaluations sponsored by the Faculty Senate.

b. Term of Office. Senate officers serve for one year and may be re-elected.

c. Method of Election. Senate officers are elected by majority vote of the Senate. A special session of the new Senate will be convened in late April or May for the purpose of electing officers.

#### **Section 4. Election Procedures for Senate Representatives**

- a. During the first full month of the Spring Semester, the Secretary of the Senate will notify all voting members of the Faculty that nominations for Senate memberships are open for the appropriate categories (see Section 2).
- b. Voting members of the Faculty who wish to run for office will inform the Senate Secretary within two weeks of the announcement that nominations are open. Each member desiring to run will also let the Secretary know the membership category, which he/she is seeking to fill.
- c. A ballot or ballots will be prepared by the Senate and distributed to the voting faculty as appropriate. That is, each faculty member should receive a ballot for only those offices for which he/she is eligible to vote.
- d. A Senate committee will be assigned the task of receiving and tabulating the votes. The election results will then be affirmed by the Senate and announced.
- e. In order to insure the secrecy of the ballot, all faculty voting will be held in the Deans' offices. Each Dean's secretary will be provided with the list of faculty who are eligible to participate in voting. A faculty member will be able to sign his/her name and cast his/her ballot.

#### **Section 5. Ex-Officio Member**

The President or the President's appointed representative shall be the non-voting ex-officio member.

#### **Section 6. Special Elections**

A special election May be called by the Senate President to fill vacancies in Senate membership when the Senate is notified that a vacancy exists.

#### **Section 7. Term of Office of Elected Representatives**

- a. The term of office for all elected representatives other than student members is three years.
- b. Student members shall serve for one year terms.
- c. Senate representatives may be re-elected; the only constraints on terms will be imposed by the will of the representative's constituents.
- d. In the year of the first election, five of the members shall serve for one year; five of the members shall serve for two years, and five of the members shall serve for three years. This determination shall be made by lot as the first item of business at the first meeting and shall be presided over by the University President or his

appointed representative.

### **Section 8. Meetings**

- a. Regular meetings will be held once per month.
- b. Special meetings may be called by the President of the Senate at the discretion of the President of the Senate or when requested by any three voting members of the Senate.

### **Section 9. Quorum**

A simple majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.

### **Section 10. Voting Rules**

A majority of those voting members present passes a motion. The voting method will be voice vote and/or show of hands unless a secret ballot is requested by a member and approved by majority vote.

### **Section 11. Outsider Attendance**

- a. Senate meetings are open to all members of the University community.
- b. By majority vote, the Senate may go into closed session to be only by its voting members.

### **Section 12. Distribution of Minutes**

The Secretary shall distribute the minutes to the Faculty within two weeks of a regular meeting. Minutes of special meetings may be distributed along with those of the next regular meeting.

### **Section 13. Agenda Provisions**

- a. Items may be placed on the agenda by any Senate member, or as requested by other faculty if adopted by majority vote.
- b. Items approved by a majority vote of the Assembly must be placed on the Senate agenda, by at least the next meeting of the Senate.

## **ARTICLE V. Procedures**

### **Section 1. Amendments**

Amendments to the Faculty Constitution must be approved using the same procedure as that used to approve changes to the Faculty Handbook. The Faculty Senate must approve the changes, distribute the proposed changes to all faculty members, present the changes for discussion at a general meeting of the faculty, and hold a general faculty election to approve or reject the changes.

## **APPENDIX C Faculty Senate Members**

### **Faculty Senate: 1994-1995**

#### **Senate Officers:**

Dr. Clifford Dorne, At-Large Representative, President  
Dr. Charlotte Torres, School of Nursing, Vice-president  
Dr. Stephen Lunce, At-Large Representative, Secretary  
Dr. Henry Smith, Accounting & Information Systems, Parliamentarian

#### **Senators:**

Dr. Richard Johnson, At-Large Representative  
Dr. Nasser Momayezi, Criminal Justice, History, and Political Science  
Dr. Jack Hazlerig, English, Fine Arts & Foreign Language  
Dr. Todd Russell, Psychology & Sociology  
Dr. Barry Carr, Economics & Finance  
Dr. Michael Landeck, Management & Marketing  
Dr. Cathy Sakta, Curriculum & Instruction  
Dr. Roberto Perez, Professional Programs  
Dr. Ralph Hausman, Special Populations  
Dr. Henry Crowson, Natural Science  
Mr. Gary Woods, Library  
Mr. Sam Touchet, Student, ex-officio

### **Faculty Senate: 1995-1996**

#### **Senate Officers:**

Dr. Stephen Lunce, At-Large Representative, President  
Dr. Charlotte Torres, School of Nursing, Vice-President  
Dr. Jeffrey Cass, English, Fine Arts & Foreign Language, Secretary  
Dr. Henry Smith, Accounting & Information Systems, Parliamentarian

#### **Senators:**

Dr. Kurt Jesswein, At-Large Representative  
Dr. Richard Johnson, At-Large Representative  
Dr. Linda Medearis, At-Large Representative  
Dr. Nasser Momayezi, Criminal Justice, History & Political Science  
Dr. Todd Russell, Psychology & Sociology  
Dr. Barry Carr, Economics & Finance  
Dr. Michael Landeck, Management & Marketing  
Dr. Cathy Sakta, Curriculum & Instruction  
Dr. Roberto Perez, Professional Programs  
Dr. Ralph Hausman, Special Populations  
Dr. Henry Crowson, Natural Science  
Ms. Verla Peterson, Library  
Mr. Michael Long, Student, ex-officio

## **Faculty Senate: 1996-1997**

### **Senate Officers:**

Dr. Stephen Lunce, At-Large Representative, President  
Dr. Nasser Momayezi, Criminal Justice, History & Political Science, Vice-President  
Dr. Jeffrey Cass, English, Fine Arts & Foreign Language, Secretary  
Dr. Henry Smith, Accounting & Information Systems, Parliamentarian

### **Senators:**

Dr. Cecilia Garza, At-Large Representative  
Dr. Kurt Jesswein, At-Large Representative  
Dr. Linda Medearis, At-Large Representative  
Dr. Todd Russell, Psychology & Sociology  
Dr. Stephanie Smith, Economics & Finance  
Dr. James Giermanski, Management & Marketing  
Dr. Cathy Sakta, Curriculum & Instruction  
Dr. Roberto Perez, Professional Programs  
Dr. Ralph Hausman, Special Populations  
Dr. Henry Crowson, Natural Science  
Dr. Susan Baker, School of Nursing  
Ms. Verla Peterson, Library  
Mr. Michael Long, Student, ex-officio

## **Faculty Senate: 1997-1998**

### **Senate Officers:**

Dr. Henry Smith, Accounting & Information Systems, President  
Dr. Nasser Momayezi, Criminal Justice, History, & Political Science, Vice-president  
Dr. Cecilia Garza, At-Large Representative, Secretary  
Ms. Verla Peterson, Library, Parliamentarian

### **Senators:**

Dr. Jeffrey Cass, English, Fine Arts & Foreign Language  
Dr. Kurt Jesswein, At-Large Representative  
Dr. Linda Medearis, At-Large Representative  
Dr. Todd Russell, Psychology & Sociology  
Dr. Stephanie Smith, Economics & Finance  
Dr. James Giermanski, Management & Marketing  
Dr. Cathy Sakta, Curriculum & Instruction  
Dr. Ramon Alaniz, Professional Programs  
Dr. Brigido Lopez, Special Populations  
Dr. Sanjay Rai, Natural Science  
Dr. Susan Baker, School of Nursing  
Mr. Arturo Sanchez, Student, ex-officio

## **Faculty Senate: 1998-1999**

### **Senate Officers:**

Dr. Jeffrey D. Cass, President, English, Fine Arts & Foreign Languages  
Dr. Cecilia Garza, Vice-President and At-Large Representative, Psychology & Sociology  
Dr. Faridoun Farrokh, Secretary, At-Large Representative  
Dr. Stephanie Smith, Parliamentarian, Economics and Finance

### **Senators:**

Dr. Michael Yoder, At-Large Representative  
Dr. Ray Keck, At-Large Representative, Language, Literature and Arts  
Dr. Todd Russell, Psychology and Sociology  
Dr. Nasser Momayezi, Social Sciences  
Dr. Jacqueline L. Power, Accounting and Information Systems  
Dr. James Giermanski, Management and Marketing  
Dr. Bambi L. Bailey, Curriculum and Instruction  
Dr. Ramon Alaniz, Professional Programs  
Dr. David Herrington, Special Populations  
Mr. John Maxstadt, Library  
Dr. Sanjay Rai, Natural Sciences  
Dr. Susan Baker, School of Nursing

## **Faculty Senate: 1999-2000**

### **Senate Officers:**

Dr. Ramon Alaniz, President, Special Populations  
Dr. Michael Landeck, Vice-President, Management and Marketing  
Dr. Carol Waters, Secretary, At-Large Representative, Social Sciences  
Mr. John Maxstadt, Parliamentarian, Library

### **Senators:**

Dr. Stephanie Smith, At-Large Representative, Economics and Finance  
Dr. Michael Yoder, At-Large Representative, Social Sciences  
Dr. Jeffrey Cass, Language, Literature and Arts  
Dr. Jeffrey Brown, Psychology and Sociology  
Dr. Beau Duncan, Social Sciences  
Dr. Ray Keck, At-Large Representative, Language, Literature and Arts\*  
Dr. Jacqueline Power, Accounting and Information Systems  
Dr. Antonio Rodriguez, Economics and Finance  
Dr. Bambi L. Bailey, Curriculum and Instruction  
Dr. Humberto Gonzalez, Professional Programs  
Dr. Terry Shepherd, Special Populations  
Dr. Susan Baker, School of Nursing

• Dr. Frances Rhodes, At-Large Representative, Language, Literature and Arts, replaced Dr. Keck in Spring 2000 when Dr. Keck became Provost.

## **Faculty Senate: 2000-2001**

### **Senate Officers:**

Dr. Jeffrey D. Cass, President, Language, Literature and Arts  
Dr. Frances Rhodes, Vice-President, Language, Literature and Arts  
Dr. Bambi Bailey, Secretary, Curriculum and Instruction  
Dr. Firooz Khosraviyani, Parliamentarian, Natural Sciences

### **Senators:**

Dr. Michael Yoder, At-Large Representative  
Dr. Kimberly Folse, Psychology and Sociology  
Dr. Mohamed A. Ben-Ruwin, Social Sciences  
Dr. Jacqueline Power, Accounting and Information Systems  
Dr. Antonio Rodriguez, At-Large Representative, Economics and Finance  
Dr. Michael Patrick, Economics and Finance  
Dr. Michael Landeck, Management and Marketing  
Dr. Humberto Gonzalez, Professional Programs  
Dr. Terry L. Shepherd, Special Populations  
Ms. Renee J. LaPerriere de Gutierrez, Library  
Dr. Doris J. Rosenow, School of Nursing  
Dr. Carol Waters, At-Large Representative, Social Sciences

## **Faculty Senate: 2001-2002**

### **Senate Officers:**

Dr. Michael Landeck, President, Management and Marketing  
Dr. Kimberly A. Folse, Vice-President, Psychology and Sociology  
Dr. Cecilia Garza, Secretary, At-Large Representative, Psychology and Sociology  
Dr. Michael S. Yoder, Parliamentarian, At-Large Representative, Social Sciences

### **Senators:**

Dr. Mohammed A. Ben-Ruwin, Social Sciences  
Dr. Cathy L. Guerra, Curriculum and Instruction  
Dr. Humberto Gonzalez, Professional Programs  
Dr. Robert Haynes, Language, Literature and Arts  
Dr. Firooz Khosraviyani, Natural Sciences  
Ms. Renee J. LaPerriere de Gutierrez, Library  
Dr. Stephen E. Lunce, Accounting and Information Systems  
Dr. Van V. Miller, Economics and Finance  
Dr. Frances Rhodes, At-Large Representative, Language and Literature  
Dr. Doris J. Rosenow, School of Nursing  
Dr. Terry L. Shepherd, Special Populations  
Dr. Carol Waters, At-Large Representative, Social Sciences  
Dr. Richard Wright, Fine and Performing Arts  
Mr. Joseph Holland, Student, ex-officio

## **Faculty Senate: 2002-2003**

### **Senate Officers:**

Dr. Kimberly Folse, President, Psychology & Sociology  
Dr. Steve Lunce, Vice-President, Accounting & Information Systems  
Dr. Frances Rhodes, Secretary, At-Large  
Dr. Michael Yoder, Parliamentarian, At-Large

### **Senators:**

Dr. Mohamed A. Ben-Ruwin, Social Sciences  
Dr. Sean M. Chadwell, At-Large  
Dr. Humberto Gonzalez, Professional Programs  
Dr. Cathy Guerra-Sakta, Curriculum & Instruction  
Dr. Robert Haynes, Languages & Literature  
Dr. Pedro Hurtado, Management & Marketing  
Dr. Hamid R. Kusha, At-Large  
Ms. Renee LaPerriere de Gutierrez, Killam Library  
Dr. Van V. Miller, Economics & Finance  
Dr. Fernando Quintana, Natural Sciences  
Dr. Doris Rosenow, Canseco School of Nursing  
Dr. Terry Shepherd, Special Populations  
Dr. Richard Wright, Fine and Performing Arts

## **Faculty Senate: 2003-2004**

### **Senate Officers:**

Dr. Frances G. Rhodes, President, At-Large  
Dr. Mohamed Ben-Ruwin, Vice-President, Social Science  
Mr. John Maxstadt, Secretary, Killam Library  
Dr. Sean Chadwell, Parliamentarian, At-Large

### **Senators:**

Dr. Willie N. Cargill, Accounting, Economics and Finance  
Dr. Cathy Guerra, Curriculum and Instruction  
Dr. Robert Haynes, Language and Literature  
Dr. Roberto Heredia, Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work  
Dr. Juan Homero Hinojosa, Mathematical and Physical Science  
Dr. Hamid R. Kusha, Behavioral, Applied Sciences and Criminal Justice  
Dr. Michael Landeck, Management, Marketing, and International Business  
Dr. C. Neal McReynolds, Biology and Chemistry  
Dr. William Newman, Management Information Systems and Decision Science  
Dr. Doris Rosenow, Canseco School of Nursing  
Dr. Claudio Salinas, Professional Programs  
Dr. Terry L. Shepherd, Special Populations  
Dr. Richard Wright, Fine and Performing Arts  
Dr. Michael Yoder, At-Large

## **Faculty Senate: 2004-2005**

### **Senate Officers:**

Dr. Mohamed A. Ben-Ruwin, President, Social Science  
Dr. Sean Chadwell, Vice-President, At-Large  
Dr. Terry L. Shepherd, Secretary, Special Populations  
Mr. John Maxstadt, Parliamentarian, Killam Library

### **Senators:**

Dr. Willie N. Cargill, Accounting, Economics and Finance  
Dr. Friedrich C. Gechter, Fine and Performing Arts  
Dr. Roberto Heredia, Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work  
Dr. Juan Homero Hinojosa, Mathematical and Physical Science  
Dr. Sushma Krishnamurthy, At-Large  
Dr. Hamid R. Kusha, Behavioral, Applied Sciences and Criminal Justice  
Dr. Michael Landeck, Management, Marketing, and International Business  
Dr. C. Neal McReynolds, Biology and Chemistry  
Dr. Thomas R. Mitchell, Language and Literature  
Dr. William Newman, Management Information Systems and Decision Science  
Dr. Lem L. Railsback, Curriculum and Instruction  
Dr. Doris Rosenow, Canseco School of Nursing  
Dr. Claudio Salinas, Professional Programs

## **Faculty Senate: 2005-2006**

### **Senate Officers:**

Dr. Terry L. Shepherd, President, Special Populations  
Mr. John Maxstadt, Vice-President, Killam Library  
Dr. Frances Rhodes, Secretary, At-Large  
Dr. Thomas R. Mitchell, Parliamentarian, Language and Literature

### **Senators:**

Dr. Mohamed A. Ben-Ruwin, Social Sciences  
Dr. Deborah Blackwell, At-Large  
Dr. Randel D. Brown, At-Large  
Dr. Willie N. Cargill, Accounting, Economics and Finance  
Dr. Friedrich C. Gechter, Fine and Performing Arts  
Dr. Roberto Heredia, Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work  
Dr. Juan Homero Hinojosa, Mathematical and Physical Science  
Dr. Sushma Krishnamurthy, At-Large  
Dr. Michael Landeck, Management, Marketing, and International Business  
Dr. C. Neal McReynolds, Biology and Chemistry  
Dr. Lem L. Railsback, Curriculum and Instruction  
Dr. Doris Rosenow, Canseco School of Nursing  
Dr. Claudio Salinas, Professional Programs  
Dr. Rolando Sanchez, Management Information Systems and Decision Science

## **Faculty Senate: 2006-2007**

### **Senate Officers:**

Dr. Thomas R. Mitchell, President, Language and Literature  
Mr. John Maxstadt, Vice President, Killam Library  
Dr. Frances Rhodes, Secretary, At-Large  
Dr. Deborah Blackwell, Parliamentarian, At-Large

### **Senators:**

Dr. Randel Brown (At-Large)  
Ms. Vivian Garcia (Canseco School of Nursing)  
Dr. Friedrich Gechter (Fine and Performing Arts)  
Dr. Juan Homero Hinojosa (Mathematical and Physical Sciences)  
Dr. Barbara Hong (Professional Programs)  
Dr. Jaclyn Jeffrey (Social Sciences)  
Dr. Sushma Krishnamurthy (At-Large)  
Dr. Sukho Lee (Teacher Preparation):  
Dr. Michael Patrick (International Banking and Finance Studies)  
Dr. Lem Railsback (Curriculum & Instruction)  
Dr. Rolando Pena-Sanchez (International Business & Tech. Studies)  
Dr. Christy Teranishi (Behavioral, Applied Sciences & C.J.)  
Dr. Ken Tobin (Biology and Chemistry)

## **Faculty Senate 2007-2008**

### **Senate Officers:**

Dr. Thomas R. Mitchell, President, Language and Literature  
Dr. Deborah Blackwell, Vice President, At-Large  
Dr. Barbara Hong, Secretary, Professional Programs  
Dr. Ken Tobin, Parliamentarian and Elections Officer, Biology and Chemistry

### **Senators:**

Dr. Randel Brown, At-Large  
Ms. Vivian Garcia, Canseco School of Nursing  
Dr. Robert Haynes, At-Large  
Dr. Juan Homero Hinojosa, Mathematical and Physical Sciences  
Dr. Jaclyn Jeffrey, Social Sciences  
Dr. Sukho Lee, Teacher Preparation  
Ms. Linda McCreight, Killam Library  
Dr. Lem Railsback, Curriculum & Instruction  
Dr. Frances Rhodes, At-Large  
Dr. Rolando Pena-Sanchez, International Business & Tech. Studies  
Dr. Christy Teranishi, Behavioral, Applied Sciences & C.J.  
Mr. Brendan Townsend, Fine and Performing Arts  
International Banking and Finance Studies (Vacancy to be Filled in Fall 2007)

## **Faculty Senate 2008-2009**

### **Senate Officers:**

Dr. Robert Haynes, President, At-Large  
Dr. Juan Homero Hinojosa, Vice President, Mathematical and Physical Sciences  
Ms. Vivian Garcia, Secretary, Canseco School of Nursing  
Dr. Frances Rhodes, Parliamentarian and Elections Officer, At-Large

### **Senators:**

Dr. Deborah L. Blackwell, Social Sciences  
Dr. Randel Brown, At-Large  
Dr. Pedro Hurtado, International Business and Technology Studies  
Dr. Sukho Lee, Teacher Preparation  
Dr. Kevin Lindberg, At-Large  
Ms. Linda J. McCreight, Killam Library  
Dr. Thomas Mitchell, Language and Literature  
Dr. Rolando Pena-Sanchez, International Business and Technology Studies  
Dr. Lem Londos Railsback, Curriculum and Instruction  
Dr. Gilberto Salinas, Behavioral Sciences  
Dr. Kenneth Tobin, Biology and Chemistry  
Mr. Brendan Townsend, Fine and Performing Arts

## **Faculty Senate, 2009-2010**

### **Senate Officers:**

Dr. Juan Homero Hinojosa, President, replaced as President by Dr. Bill Riggs in Spring Semester  
Dr. Pedro Hurtado, Vice President, replaced as Vice President by Mr. Brendan Townsend in Spring Semester  
Dr. Bill Riggs, Secretary, replaced as Secretary by Dr. Marvin Bennett in Spring Semester (President in Spring Sem)  
Dr. Frances Rhodes, Parliamentarian and Elections Officer, At-Large

### **Senators:**

Dr. Marvin Bennett, Biology and Chemistry (Secretary in Spring Semester)  
Dr. Lynda Brown, Language and Literature  
Dr. George Clarke, International Banking and Finance Studies (Spring Semester only)  
Ms. Vivian Garcia, Nursing and Health Sciences  
Dr. William Gruben, International Banking and Finance Studies, replaced by Dr. George Clarke in Spring Semester  
Dr. San Juanita Hachar, Teacher Preparation (replaced by Dr. Miroslava Vargas in Spring Semester)  
Dr. Phu Hoang, Professional Programs  
Dr. Arturo Limon, Curriculum and Instruction  
Mr. John Maxstadt, Killam Library  
Dr. James Norris, Social Sciences  
Dr. Leonel Prieto, International Business and Technology Studies (Spring Semester only)  
Dr. Alfredo Ramirez, At-Large  
Dr. Gilberto Salinas, Behavioral Sciences  
Dr. Chen-Han Sung, Engineering, Mathematics and Physics  
Mr. Brendan Townsend, Fine and Performing Arts (Vice President in Spring Semester)  
Dr. Miroslava Vargas, Teacher Preparation (Spring Semester only)

## **Faculty Senate, 2010-2011**

### **Senate Officers:**

Dr. Bill Riggs, President, At-Large  
Mr. Brendan Townsend, Vice President, Fine and Performing Arts  
Dr. Marvin Bennett, Secretary, Biology and Chemistry  
Dr. Frances Rhodes, Parliamentarian and Elections Officer, At-Large

### **Senators:**

Dr. Lynda Brown, Language and Literature  
Dr. George Clarke, International Banking and Finance Studies  
Ms. Vivian Garcia, Nursing and Health Sciences  
Dr. Phu Hoang, Professional Programs  
Dr. John Kilburn, At-Large  
Dr. Arturo Limon, Curriculum and Instruction  
Mr. John Maxstadt, Killam Library  
Dr. Monica Munoz, Behavioral Sciences  
Dr. James Norris, Social Sciences  
Dr. Leonel Prieto, International Business and Technology Studies  
Dr. Alfredo Ramirez, At-Large  
Dr. Chen-Han Sung, Engineering, Mathematics, and Physics  
Dr. Miroslava Vargas, Teacher Preparation

## **APPENDIX D:**

### **An Ideal Model for Faculty Workload Equivalent Units**

NOTE: This is a recommended ideal situation. As of the adoption of the TAMIU *Faculty Handbook*, it is not nor does it represent itself as the Official Policy of the University.

#### **FACULTY WORKLOAD MODELS**

”Although each institution may establish standards for teaching loads to meet the instructional obligations of the institution and its students, to operate efficiently within the range of resources available to the institution, and to comply with the faculty workload guidelines and standard reports issued by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the following minimum teaching workload standards will apply.” (TAMUS Policy 12.03 Section 3).

1. “A minimum teaching load for undergraduate courses shall be nine semester credit hours of normal classroom teaching; a minimum teaching load for graduate courses shall be six semester credit hours of normal classroom teaching. Participation in the teaching of undergraduate students by senior faculty is strongly encouraged.” (TAMUS Policy 12.03 Section 3.1).
2. “Adjustments to these amounts of normal classroom teaching may be made to account for large class sizes; duplicate sections taught; laboratory, seminar, lecture, clinical, or field-type courses; availability of support services; situations where both graduate and undergraduate work are involved; courses which involve individualized instruction; and overload from previous long semesters.” (TAMUS Policy 12.03 Section 3.2).
3. “The President of each university of the system will prepare, in consultation with the faculty, a faculty workload policy for that institution. The policy shall establish the faculty workload standards, provide guidelines for adjustments of workloads reflecting different kinds of instruction, and provide a schedule for awarding equivalent teaching load credit for the assignment of other academic duties.” (TAMUS Policy 12.03 Section 4.1).
4. On occasion, for the benefit of students, the faculty member’s Department, College or the University, assignments other than classroom/laboratory teaching may replace normal teaching assignments. These replacement assignments are commonly called “releases” or “release time,” referring to a “release from teaching duty.” Not every faculty member will receive, or be entitled to receive release time. The granting of release time is subject to individual negotiations between the faculty member and the Provost and/or the faculty member’s Dean and/or Department Chair. It is not the policy of TAMIU to grant release time to any faculty based upon any equivalencies or equivalence model other than those negotiated on an individual basis. Historically, release time has been granted to some faculty for certain recognizable and definite assignments (i.e. funded research, less-than-full-time administrative appointments); some of these equivalent assignments may be found in this Appendix, “Model for Faculty Workload Equivalency Units.”

The Faculty Senate is aware of all the foregoing policies; it is also aware that no formal equivalency models existed prior to September 1994. Therefore, the Senate moved to investigate workload models from other universities throughout the U.S. The research found that TAMU's 12 SCH load was not unique, but that in all other cases substitutable equivalent were defined. Faculty Senate Resolution 95-6, adopted October 1995, sought to define, as specified in TAMUS policy, a set of equivalent for teaching assignments. Faculty Senate Resolution 95-7, adopted February 1996, sought to define an idealized model that might become a "target" for implementation at some undefined time in the future when the University's financial situation would support said implementation. SR 95-7 thus becomes a goal in the strategy of building an outstanding University. The models were distributed to the Faculty at large, who ratified these suggestions.

**TABLE 1**

Faculty Appointment Codes as Funded from the Faculty Salaries Element of Cost\*

Appointment Code	Explanation
1	Direct instructional activities, which include interaction with students, related to instruction, preparation for such instruction, and evaluation of student performance. The various types of instruction include: lecture, laboratory, practicum, seminar, independent study and research.
2	Administrative assignments directly related to the teaching function such as: chairs of teaching departments and coordinators of special program or multi-section courses.
3	Other professional assignments directly related to the teaching function, and which are funded from faculty salaries.

\* Data contained herein were developed from the Texas A&M Policy Manual on Faculty Academic Workload Rules and Regulations dated November 23, 1987.

CHART FOR FACULTY WORKLOAD REPORTS

APPOINTMENT Code 01 – Direct Institutional Activities

Workload	No. of Hours	X	Enrollment Factor (See Table 2)	X	Weight Factor	X	Equivalent Teaching Load Credit
Undergraduate: Regularly scheduled Organized courses	Semester Hours	X	*	X	1	X	E.T.L.C.
Undergraduate Laboratory courses	Contact Hours	X	*	X	0.667	X	E.T.L.C.

Graduate: Regularly scheduled Organized courses	Semester Hours	X	*	X	1.5	X	E.T.L.C.
Graduate:	Contact	X	*	X	1	X	E.T.L.C.

**TABLE 2**

Enrollment Factors

Class Size	59 or less	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	100 or more
Factor	1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5

Appointment Code 01 – Direct Instructional Activities  
(continued)

Graduate Research Supervision

No. of Students Supervised	1	2	3	4	5	6	>6	Equivalent Teaching Load Credit
Member, Master's Thesis Committee	0.25	0.5	0.75	1	1	1	1	E.T.L.C.
Chair, Master's Thesis Committee	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3	E.T.L.C.
Member, Ph.D Dissertation Committee	0.5	1	1	1	2	2	2	E.T.L.C.
Chair, Ph.D. Dissertation Committee	1	2	3	4	5	6		E.T.L.C.

Appointment Code 01 – Direct Instructional Activities (continued)

Teaching Program Development

Activity	Equivalent Teaching Load Credit
New course preparation, to include development of teaching methods and classroom or laboratory material	$0 < \text{E.T.L.C.} \leq 3$ hours
Curriculum revision or development	E.T.L.C. = 3 hours
New faculty instructional development, in conjunction with, and not in addition to teaching load credit for basic and/or applied research	0, E.T.L.C. $\leq 3$ hours each semester for new tenure track faculty during their first calendar year at TAMIU

Appointment Code 02 – Administrative Assignment

Coordination and Teaching Program Administration	F = Number of Faculty	Equivalent Teaching Load Credit
Department Administrator*	$F < 15$	6 hours
	$15 \leq F \leq 30$	9 hours
	$F > 30$	12 hours
Multi-Section Course Coordinator	S = No. of Sections	E.T.L.C.
	$6 \leq S \leq 11$	1 hour
	$12 \leq S \leq 24$	2 hours
	$S > 24$	3 hours

\* Each department administrator must teach at least one course per semester.

Appointment Code 03 – Other Professional Assignments

<b>Class Related Contact</b>	S = Number of Students	Equivalent Teaching Load Credit
Department	$0 < S \leq 19$	1 hour
Graduate Student	$20 \leq S \leq 40$	2 hours
Advisor	$S > 40$	3 hours
Department	$0 < S \leq 40$	1 hour
Undergraduate Student	$41 \leq S \leq 60$	2 hours
Advisor	$S > 60$	3 hours
Interdepartmental	$0 < S \leq 40$	1 hour
Academic Program	$41 \leq S \leq 60$	2 hours
Advisor	$S > 60$	3 hours
<b>Professional Development</b>		
Faculty approved for academic study programs such as Fulbright Scholar, sabbatical, etc.	12 hours	
Faculty engaged in professional development activities to include mentoring new faculty members.	$0 < ETLC \leq 4.5$ hours	
<b>Research</b>		
Faculty engaged in basic or applied research to include scholarship and creative work.	$0 < ETLC \leq 6.0$ hours	
<b>Committee Assignments</b>		
Chair, major university or college Committee	$0 < ETLC < 3.0$ hours	
Other assignments directly Related to teaching function.	As jointly agreed upon between TAMIU Provost and TAMIU Faculty Senate	

# **APPENDIX E**

## **TAMIU HONOR CODE**

Approved April 2, 2010

### **INTRODUCTION**

It is the policy of Texas A&M International University that all faculty, administrators, staff, and students conduct themselves in a manner that does not compromise the values, integrity, reputation, and public trust of this University. In particular, the Honor Code at TAMIU is set forth in the following pages in order to give all employees and students general notice of prohibited academic conduct. It is the responsibility of the faculty, staff, administration, and students of TAMIU to become familiar with the information presented in the TAMIU Honor Code and to observe all regulations and procedures relating to the Code. In no case will the Honor Code be waived or an exception be granted because any party pleads ignorance of or contends that he or she was not informed of the regulations and procedures.

### **THE TAMIU HONOR COUNCIL**

#### ***Mission Statement***

It is the mission of the TAMIU Honor Council to serve as a centralized system established to respond fairly to academic violations of the TAMIU Honor Code.

#### ***Essential Functions of the Honor Council***

The Honor Council serves to provide faculty and students with a means by which they may report academic dishonesty, to provide students with a means of appealing charges of academic dishonesty, and to provide the Provost with recommendations regarding general academic sanctions or remedial efforts.

The Honor Council shall have the authority to create processes and operating procedures to implement the Honor System and to enforce the rules described in the following sections. Through the Office of Student Affairs, this Council shall serve as an initial hearing body for cases involving academic integrity outside the scope of a course offered at TAMIU, and as an appellate body for students charged with violating the Honor Code during a course offered at TAMIU. The Honor Council will also be the central body responsible for maintaining records and for coordinating communication, prevention, training, remediation, and adjudication efforts for the Honor System. All proposed revisions to Honor Code will be submitted to Faculty Senate for review and disposition.

#### ***Membership of the Honor Council***

The Honor Council reports to the Provost.

The Honor Council will consist of 9 full-time members (4 full-time faculty members and 5 University full-time students). Only 5 full-time members (2 students and 3 faculty members) will be hearing members. The other 4 members will serve as alternate(s).

At the first meeting of each year, the Honor Council will elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair. A faculty member will chair the honor council with the Associate Director of Judicial Affairs serving as co-chair absent voting privileges, and the vice-chair shall be a student.

Voting members include:

- a) 4 full-time faculty members (3 elected by the Faculty through the Faculty Senate election process, 1 appointed by the Provost)
- b) 5 full-time students (4 appointed by the VP of Student Success and 1 appointed by the Provost)
- c) Members must be elected and appointed by September 1 of each academic year and will serve two (2) academic terms.
- d) If faculty or student resigns or cannot complete term, then new member will be elected to finish initial term.
- e) The Honor Council will hold general meetings at least twice (2 times) a semester.
- f) A member may not vote when a case is considered a conflict of interest or may not be fair and impartial due to the nature of the case.

The Honor Council may consult with the Texas A&M University System's legal representative through the Office of the Provost as needed. A legal representative from the A&M System will serve on the council in situations where there are obvious legal issues and concerns.

#### ***Responsibilities of the Honor Council***

Members of the Honor Council are expected to attend all general meetings of the Honor Council and to fulfill the following duties:

- a) **Serve as an educator** – inform students, faculty, staff, and administrators about the TAMU Honor System and its mission and policies; promote academic integrity on campus.
- b) **Serve as a hearing panel member** – hear all information and render decisions on whether a student is responsible for violation. If the student is found responsible for the violation, the Honor Council will reaffirm the faculty member's findings and issue a fair and educational sanction.
- c) **Serve as a case investigator** – investigate and gather information with reporter(s), witness(es), and alleged violator(s) as coordinated with the Office of Student Affairs.

#### ***The Role of the Chair and Vice-Chair***

The duties of the Chair will be to call regular meetings, conduct meetings, serve as the official liaison with the Office of Student Affairs, and provide leadership to the Council.

- a) Chair will present all cases to the Honor Council;
- b) Upon receiving notice from the student requesting a hearing by the Honor Council, the chair shall call a hearing within five (5) university business days;
- c) Should the Chair be unable to meet his/her obligations, the Vice-Chair will perform the duties of the Chair.
- d) In the absences of the Chair and Vice-Chair, the Chair will designate a Chair Pro-temp.

#### ***The Role of the Office of Student Affairs***

In coordination with the Honor Council, the Office of Student Affairs will confer with the chair of the Honor Council to assess current Academic cases involving students and will serve as the facilitator and investigator of information. The Office of Student Affairs will be responsible for the following:

- a) Will gather information based on submission of the Sanction Letter, and supporting documents submitted by the faculty member.
- b) Will administer a Judicial Hold on the student file while the case is adjudicated and sanctions are imposed.
- c) Will serve the role of record keeper for all Honor Council meetings.
- d) Will notify the student of the outcome of the Honor Council meeting.

If the student fails to respond to the letter, the student waives his/her right to a hearing by the Honor Council, and the Office of Student Affairs will retain the case for record. Sanctions imposed are final; there are no appeals. Student appeals to original sanction(s) must be submitted in writing within five (5) University business days to the Office of Student Affairs.

## **FACULTY REPORTING OF HONOR CODE VIOLATIONS**

### ***Responsibilities of Faculty***

Faculty (including adjuncts), administrators, and staff share in the responsibility and authority to challenge and make known acts that violate the TAMIU Honor Code.

Faculty are expected to take proactive steps to promote academic integrity including, but not limited to:

- a) Adding language to their syllabi that describes prohibited academic behavior and the consequences of such activity;
- b) Having an open discussion about academic integrity with students in their courses early in the semester;
- c) Enforcing prohibitions against academic dishonesty as required by the TAMIU Faculty Handbook; and
- d) Enforcing specified grade penalties for cheating or plagiarism, as outlined in their syllabi or as required by their department, college, or the TAMIU Faculty Handbook.

Upon finding a violation of the Honor Code, a faculty member has the responsibility to:

***Assess the situation and impose an academic sanction on the student;***

***Send a sanction letter to the student's TAMIU e-mail account, within five (5) University business days of the discovery of the alleged violation and arrange for a conference with the student, if at all possible;***

***Copy the Provost, chair, and dean of the department, the Office of the Registrar, the Dean of the Office of Graduate Studies and Research (if the student is in graduate school), and the Office of Student Affairs on the sanctioning letter (e-mail); and***

***Submit copies of course-work, and the source of academic misconduct, to the Office of Student Affairs within five (5) University business days of the discovery of the alleged violation.***

**All breaches of the Honor Code and violations of academic integrity must be reported to the Office of Student Affairs within five (5) University business days of the discovery of the alleged violation.**

### ***Responsibility of Academic Administrators***

Academic administrators are expected to provide support to the faculty and the students in enforcing the Honor Code. Specifically, they should encourage faculty to be proactive in informing students about the Honor Code and in teaching students appropriate ways to conduct and acknowledge research. Academic Administrators should also provide strong support to faculty who are appropriately and fairly enforcing the Honor Code.

## STUDENT REPORTING OF HONOR CODE VIOLATIONS

### *Student Reporting Options*

Students have two options when reporting an alleged violation. They may report an alleged violation either to the Honor Council through the Office of Student Affairs or the faculty of the course in which the alleged violation occurred. Initiating formal procedures is a necessary and obligatory remedy when other methods are inappropriate or have failed (e.g., drawing attention to a suspected violation, peer pressure, etc.).

If a student is alleged to have violated the Honor Code but the class, department, and faculty cannot be identified, charges may be brought by anyone who has knowledge of the violation.

False and malicious reporting of an incident shall be considered a violation of the Honor Code, and should be adjudicated by the Honor Council and Office of Student Affairs.

### *Student Reporting Formats*

There are three student reporting formats for the Honor Code violations: (1) general reporting, (2) confidential reporting, and (3) anonymous reporting. Each reporting format will initiate some action by the Honor Council and can potentially lead to the initiation of a case. All reports must be made in writing.

- a) **General Reporting** - General reporting constitutes a submission of a report in which the reporting party is willing to fully identify him/herself to all involved in the case. This is the preferred reporting format and will ensure that all facts are obtainable.
- b) **Confidential Reporting** - Confidential reporting constitutes a submission of reports in which the reporting parties are willing to provide their names to faculty and/or the Honor Council, but wish to have their names remain confidential through the proceedings of the case. Confidential reporting allows faculty and/or the Honor Council to contact the reporting party to gather further information when necessary.
- c) **Anonymous Reporting** - Anonymous reporting constitutes a submission of a report in which the reporting party desires to remain anonymous. This report will be considered a tip and handled as such. The reporting party will not be identifiable and cannot be contacted for further information on the case. An anonymous tip is *not* sufficient ground to initiate a charge; however, the tip can initiate an investigation.

## SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE HONOR CODE

Instances of academic misconduct represent behavior that is of an especially serious nature. Sanctions assigned to instances of academic misconduct should convey the message that this type of behavior can serve as a destructive force within the academic community. However, a wide range of sanctions can be employed in order to strike an appropriate balance between sending a message of accountability and enhancing a violator's moral and cognitive development. While this list is not designed to be exhaustive, it demonstrates the wide range of sanctions that can be utilized to respond to findings of responsibility for academic misconduct.

### *Grade Sanctions*

Faculty alone are responsible for assigning grade penalties in their courses for violations of the Honor Code.

- a) The following are possible sanctions for academic dishonesty within a single course. These are non-binding recommendations. Faculty retains the right to assign grade penalties as deemed appropriate for their course.

1. **1000 or 2000 level course** with a 1<sup>st</sup> violation, a grade penalty of an “F” or “0” on the assignment or exam, if faculty deems the violation a result of a misunderstanding of the requirements of proper documentation.
  2. **1000 or 2000 level course** with a 1<sup>st</sup> violation, a grade penalty of an “F” in the course, if faculty deems the violation a result of a deliberate attempt to deceive and not a result of misunderstanding of proper documentation.
  3. **1000 or 2000 level course** with a 2<sup>nd</sup> violation, grade penalty of an “F” in the course;
  4. **3000 or 4000 or graduate level course** with a 1<sup>st</sup> violation, grade penalty of an “F” in the course.
- b) If the faculty member determines that assigning a grade of “F” to the course is the appropriate penalty and this action is reported to the Office of Student Affairs **prior** to the deadline for dropping courses in the stated semester, the student forfeits his/her right to drop the course in question.

### ***General Sanctions***

A student may face general sanctions in addition to any grade penalty imposed by a faculty member. The Honor Council may make a request to the Provost that one of the following actions outlined below be taken. The Honor Council request must be made within ten (10) University business days of receiving the faculty member’s report. The Provost will notify the student within ten (10) University business days of receiving the request of the Honor Council.

- a) For a student in a 3000 or 4000 level course with a 2<sup>nd</sup> violation or a 2<sup>nd</sup> offense in the same semester, the grade penalty of an “F” in the course and the student will be suspended one long semester (fall or spring).
- b) For a graduate student, the grade penalty of an “F” in the course and suspension (refer to the Graduate Handbook).
- c) Recommendation to the Provost for expulsion of the student from the specific program of study or from the University.
- d) Recommendation to the Provost for suspension of the student from the specific program of study or from the University.
- e) Probation for Academic Dishonesty with a statement of the consequences for additional infractions and a description of the conditions which must be met to end probationary status.
- f) Required completion of an appropriate training or remediation program, whether or not probationary status is imposed.
- g) Other sanctions as deemed necessary (see Student Handbook).

A student who is on “**Honor Violation Probation**” is subject to the following restrictions:

- h) Ineligibility to hold an office in any student organization recognized by the University or to hold any elected or appointed position within the University.
- i) Ineligibility to compete in intercollegiate athletic activity.
- j) Ineligibility to represent the University in any capacity, including representing the University at any official function.
- k) Ineligibility to receive a University-administered scholarship or fellowship when the “Honor Violation Probation” is in place for longer than one semester.

Additional restrictions or conditions also may be imposed, depending on the timing, nature and severity of the misconduct. Examples are inability to pre-register, to receive an official transcript, or to participate in commencement exercises.

## APPEAL PROCESS

A student who is found responsible for an Honor Code violation, assessed a sanction, and has yet to appeal, has five (5) University business days from the date of notification of the sanction to file an appeal of the findings. The appeal must be stated in writing and addressed to the chair of the Honor Council in care of the Office of Student Affairs. The chair will determine if the appeal merits a hearing.

### *Appeals of Faculty Findings*

Faculty alone are responsible for assigning grade penalties in their courses for violations of the Honor Code. A student's appeal of a faculty member's charge of academic dishonesty must be based on one of the following reasons:

- a) **Insufficient or misinterpreted evidence** that led to the initial finding of the violation of the Honor Code.
- b) **Substantial new evidence** not available at the time of the original faculty decision. In this case, the Honor Council will consider new information that is sufficient to alter a decision or other relevant facts not known to the person appealing at the time of the original hearing.

The appeal will be heard by the Honor Council. If the Honor Council rules that a violation did not occur, then the Honor Council will notify the student, the faculty member, the chair of the department, the dean and the Provost of its findings.

Should such an appeal be successful, the faculty member may assess the Honor Council's findings and recommendations. If the faculty member declines the recommendation of the Honor Council and refuses to change the grade, the student may appeal to the chair of the department to initiate the Grade Appeal Process.

### *Appeals of Imposed Sanctions based on Honor Council Recommendations*

In the event that the Honor Council upholds the original decision, a request for appeal may be made in writing to the Provost. The request must be submitted within ten (10) University business days after notification of the Honor Council's decision.

There are four bases of appeal:

- a) **Substantial new evidence** not available at the time of the original Honor Council hearing. The Honor Council will consider new information that is sufficient to alter a decision or other relevant facts not known to the person appealing at the time of the original hearing.
- b) **Procedural irregularities:** The Honor Council will determine whether the original hearing was conducted fairly in light of the charges and evidence presented, and in conformity with prescribed procedures giving the accused student a reasonable opportunity to prepare and present rebuttal of allegations.
- c) **The violation is not commensurate with the sanction:** The Honor Council will determine whether the sanction(s) imposed were appropriate for the violation of the Honor Code which the student was found to have committed.
- d) **The finding of responsibility is inconsistent with the facts presented in the hearing:** The Honor Council will determine whether the decision reached regarding the accused student was based on a preponderance of evidence, that is, whether the facts in the case were sufficient to establish that a violation of the Honor Code occurred.

After receiving the written request for an appeal, the Provost and/or his/her designee may:

- 1) **Deny** the request for an appeal and the Honor Council decision will be final.

- 2) **Accept** the appeal and ask the Honor Council to reconvene and hear the case again with the new information.

#### ***Appeal of Sanctions other than Separation from the University***

If the Provost and/or his/her designee finds that there is adequate basis for an appeal:

- a) The Chair of the Honor Council will call a special hearing to review the resubmission of appeal.
- b) The Appeals Panel shall consist of at least 3 members who did not serve on the original case hearing panel which made the original recommendation.
- c) The Appeals Panel will hear the appeal and make a recommendation to the Provost within 10 University business days of the student's notification of appeal.
- d) The Provost's decisions are final.

#### ***Appeal of Separation from the University***

A student who has been assessed by the Provost on a recommendation by the Honor Council of a sanction of expulsion, dismissal, or suspension from the University has five (5) University business days upon receiving notification of separation from the University to appeal sanction.

- a) The appeal must be made in writing to the Provost.
- b) The decision of the Provost is final.

### **CASE INFORMATION AND CONFIDENTIALITY PROCEDURES**

Members of the Honor Council may provide each other, the faculty, the staff, and the students involved in a particular case, or outside parties connected to the situation, with information as is necessary to protect the health, safety, and privacy of the student or other persons. They may also provide the same constituencies with information to generate a course of action in accordance with applicable legal and professional standards of confidentiality. These standards include the release of information pursuant to the Texas Open Records Act and Access to Student Records Pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and Privacy Act of 1974.

#### ***Records Retention***

- a) All case files are held by the Office of Student Affairs.
  - 1) If a student wants to review his/her file, a written notice is required.
  - 2) Student may review file only in the presence of a member of the Office of Student Affairs.
- b) For the benefit of the Honor Council, a set of records of all prior meetings will be kept by the Office of Student Affairs.
- c) Student records will be retained as required by the A&M System Records Retention Schedule.

The Division of Student Success and Office of Student Affairs uphold the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act in all matters.

Faculty Senate Reviewed: November 2009  
Honor Council Revised & Approved: January 12, 2010  
Faculty Senate Reviewed & Revised: February 19, 2010  
College Deans Reviewed: February 23, 2010  
Honor Council Reviewed: February 25, 2010  
Faculty Senate Vice President Reviewed & Revised: March 9, 2010  
Deans, Faculty Senate, Honor Council, Student Affairs Reviewed and Revised: March 10, 2010  
Approved by Faculty Senate: April 2, 2010