

**NUMBER:** 1412

**TITLE:** Promotion in Rank

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**SCHEDULED REVIEW DATE:** September 2028

I. Board of Visitors Policy

- A. All promotions in rank are based on evaluation of the faculty member's performance.
1. A tenure-track faculty member's performance in teaching, research, and service (as appropriate) is evaluated over the total time in the previous rank as compared to the criteria established by the Board of Visitors for the rank being considered and any other criteria established by the department or college.
  2. A non-tenure track research faculty member's performance in research, service (as appropriate) and teaching (as appropriate) is evaluated over the total time in the previous rank as compared to the criteria established by the Board of Visitors for the rank being considered and any other criteria established by the center.
- B. Promotion to the rank of associate professor must occur at the time of the tenure award, and the policy on tenure applies.
- C. Promotion to the rank of full professor is normally considered no earlier than during the sixth year of a faculty member's service as associate professor at Old Dominion University. Exceptions are made only under the following circumstances:
1. A faculty member who has held the rank of associate professor at another institution and was initially appointed to Old Dominion University at the rank of associate professor may be considered for promotion at the time of the award of tenure.
  2. A faculty member of extraordinary merit may be considered for promotion to the rank of full professor before the sixth year as associate professor at Old Dominion University.
- D. The president, upon the recommendation of the Faculty Senate, shall establish procedures for consideration of promotion to the rank of full professor (as well as for the designation as eminent scholar). Such procedures shall require consideration and recommendation by faculty members at the department and college level, the chair,





5. External reviewers will be asked to evaluate all submitted material mailed to them. Candidates for promotion are responsible for the preparation of the research portfolio and curriculum vitae to be sent to external reviewers. In the case of the arts, reviewers may be asked to consider works of art or performances. External reviewers will be asked to evaluate: a) the quality of the scholarship or creative work under review; and b) the scholarly reputation (regional, national, international) of the candidate.
  6. All candidates for promotion to full professor will be required to have their scholarship evaluated by no fewer than four external reviewers. If fewer than four reviews are received, the chair will choose additional reviewers alternately from the lists of the department promotion and tenure committee and of the candidate.
  7. The University and college administration will assist departments where reasonable expenses are necessary to obtain appropriate external reviews.
- C. A candidate for promotion in rank is initially considered by the faculty members in the department who hold the rank being considered or above.<sup>1</sup> Only faculty holding the rank of full professor are eligible to deliberate, review, or otherwise participate and vote on candidates for promotion to full professor.
1. In the case of large departments, the faculty members in the rank being considered or above may select a committee from their ranks to consider and make recommendations concerning promotion. In that case, it is the responsibility of the committee to elicit opinions from all faculty members holding the rank being considered or above.
  2. In departments where fewer than three members hold appointments in the rank being considered or above, the dean, in consultation with the chair (or designee; see section II.B.1.), will appoint enough additional faculty in the rank or above from other disciplines to form a committee of at least three.
  3. Candidates for promotion should provide a statement of potential external and/or internal reviewers with whom there is a conflict of interest, e.g., co-authors, co-investigators, etc.
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6. The college committees shall consist of one tenured faculty member from each department in the college. All members of the college promotion and tenure committees shall be elected directly by the faculties they represent for a one-year term renewable twice for a total of three years. This member shall be chosen by majority vote of all full-time, tenure-track teaching and research faculty members of the department, present and voting, by secret ballot before April 15 of each year for the ensuing year. Every reasonable effort should be made to ensure that there are at least three full professors on the college committee. If the elected representative of a department will not be able to attend college committee meetings for a significant time span, the department may elect a temporary replacement for that time span. No person shall serve on a college promotion and tenure committee for more than three years consecutively but is eligible for reelection after an absence of at least one year. Only faculty holding the rank of full professor are eligible to join the deliberations and the vote on candidates for promotion to full professor. If the home department of a candidate for promotion to full professor has no full professor representing it on the college committee, a member of the departmental promotion committee for that candidate (convened as described in section C.1. and C.2. above) shall be elected to serve as its representative only during the duration of the deliberations on that specific candidate. In any case, the representative from a promotion candidate's department will participate in deliberations in the candidate's case but will not cast a vote.
7. The University Promotion and Tenure Committee shall consist of one tenured full professor from each of the major degree-granting academic colleges. This member shall be elected by his/her college's promotion and tenure committee(s) by September 15. The University Promotion and Tenure Committee shall elect one of its members as chair.<sup>2</sup> No person shall serve on the University Promotion and Tenure Committee for more than three years consecutively but is eligible for reelection after an absence of at least one year. The representative from a promotion candidate's college will participate in deliberations in the candidate's case but will not cast a vote.
8. Any committee member who participates in the promotion process votes at most only once on any particular case.
9. In order to ensure transparency, fairness, and equity in the internal review process, a faculty member or administrator who participates in the promotion process must disclose any interest.



chair forward all documents to the promotion committee of the college, which examines them and makes a recommendation concerning promotion to the dean following the stipulations of II.E. above. The dean examines all documents, including the recommendation of the college committee, and makes a determination concerning promotion. If the dean's determination is negative and is in accordance with the recommendations of the departmental committee, the chair, and the college committee, then the faculty member is not promoted for the coming year. If the dean's determination is negative and is not in accordance with all previous recommendations, the faculty member may request a further review by the provost and vice president for academic affairs. The decision of the provost and vice president for academic affairs is final in such cases.

- G. The dean, considering all previous recommendations and all credentials, then makes a recommendation concerning promotion, which is forwarded, with reasons, to the provost and vice president for academic affairs.
- H. The University Promotion and Tenure Committee, consisting of one tenured full professor from each of the major degree-granting academic colleges, examines the facts and all previous recommendations and documentation, and makes a recommendation (with reasons, including minority reasons, if any) concerning promotion which is forwarded to the provost and vice president for academic affairs. All eligible committee members shall vote yes or no through a secret ballot after participating (either in person or remotely) in the deliberations of the committee. Proxy votes or votes submitted by non-secure means (e.g., email or communication accessible to a third party) are not permitted. Members who are eligible to vote on a specific candidate's promotion application are defined in section II.C.6. In instances of a non-unanimous vote of all eligible voting members, the minority opinion must be included in the committee recommendation and the minority must be given the option to write the minority opinion.
- I. On the basis of all the evaluations and recommendations presented, and after consultation with staff, the provost and vice president for academic affairs makes a decision concerning promotion for the coming year. If the recommendations of the committees and administrators that have previously considered the case have not been in agreement with one another, or if the provost and vice president for academic affairs disagrees with the recommendations that have been in agreement with one another, the provost and vice president for academic affairs shall consult with the chair, the dean, and the University Promotion and Tenure Committee before reaching a final decision. The decision of the provost and vice president for academic affairs will consist of one of the following:
  - 1. promotion
  - 2. deferral
- J. If the decision of the provost and vice president for academic affairs is for promotion, the faculty member will receive the higher rank in the subsequent academic year. The decision of the provost and vice president for academic affairs will be reported to the president.

- K. The faculty member may request that the president review a negative decision by the provost and vice president for academic affairs. The decision of the president is final.
- L. All promotions are reported by the president to the Board of Visitors.
- M. Copies of the recommendations by all committees, chairs, deans and the provost and vice president for academic affairs shall be provided to the faculty member being considered for promotion. The faculty member will be provided opportunity to correct any factual misinformation in such recommendations by placing a letter in his



