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# FACULTY HANDBOOK

Last Revised: August 3, 2017

## Foreword

The purpose of publishing the *Faculty Handbook* is to provide ready access to information concerning the orderly operation of the University. This electronic publication found on the Office of Academic Affairs Web Page provides answers to questions frequently asked about operating procedures and policies, but does not purport to include all information. The reader is encouraged to address to members of the administration or Faculty Senate any questions for which the handbook does not provide answers.

As policies, procedures, and operating guidelines that affect the *Faculty Handbook* change, they will be posted to the web site. Such changes will be incorporated once a year following the Board of Trustee's approval.

It is hoped that each faculty member will find the *Faculty Handbook* useful. You are encouraged and invited to make comments and suggestions to the provost and executive vice chancellor.

## Preamble

As provided in section 502D (1) of The Code of The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, the Chancellor is authorized and required to "define the scope of authority of faculties, councils, committees, and officers of the institution," subject to policies established by the Board of Governors, the Board of Trustees, and the President. The Chancellor has designated the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor to make authoritative interpretations of all policy and procedure statements of Appalachian State University, including those set forth in this *Faculty Handbook*. In interpreting these documents, the provost and executive vice chancellor will consult with appropriate personnel familiar with the documents and the practices at Appalachian State University. Objections to these interpretations can be appealed to the chancellor. Such objections will not suspend requirements for faculty members or administrators to comply with time limits related to personnel action unless those time limits are extended in writing by the chancellor.

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The [Table of Contents](#) entries are also clickable hyperlinks as well as any blue underlined text (like the one in this sentence). You may be asked to confirm links that access the internet.

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## **Mission Statement**

Established in 1899 as Watauga Academy, Appalachian State University has evolved into a preeminent university located in a unique, rural mountain environment. As a member of the University of North Carolina, Appalachian's fundamental mission is to discover, create, transmit, and apply knowledge to address the needs of individuals and society. This mission is achieved by providing undergraduate students a rigorous liberal education that emphasizes transferable skills and preparation for professional careers; offering graduate students distinctive, relevant programs; maintaining a faculty whose members serve as excellent teachers and scholarly mentors for their students and who produce high levels of scholarship and creative activities. Appalachian recognizes that the success of the University depends upon the achievement and cooperation of a diverse community of students, faculty, and staff and strives to implement policies and allocate resources accordingly. We accept our responsibility to be actively involved in addressing the educational, economic, cultural, and societal needs of the changing region, state, nation, and world. As a publicly funded institution, Appalachian is committed to accomplishing its initiatives through efficient and effective resource utilization.

## **Equal Opportunity Policy**

Appalachian State University is committed to providing equal opportunity in education and employment to all applicants, students, and employees. The University does not discriminate in access to its educational programs and activities, or with respect to hiring or the terms and conditions of employment, on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, political affiliation, age, disability, veteran status, genetic information or sexual orientation. The University actively promotes diversity among students and employees.

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## I. Faculty Constitution

### Preamble

The faculty of Appalachian State University acknowledges the principle of faculty self-government and also recognizes its responsibility for helping the University administration direct the internal affairs of this institution. This constitution establishes the procedures whereby that responsibility shall be discharged.

The faculty of Appalachian State University accepts the fact that the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina and the Board of Trustees of Appalachian State University are charged with the responsibility of establishing policy with respect to the operation of the institution. Further, the faculty recognizes the authority of the chancellor of Appalachian State University as the executive officer of The Board of Trustees. No part of this constitution shall be interpreted as being in conflict with the rules and regulations set forth by the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, the Board of Trustees of Appalachian State University, or the laws of The State of North Carolina.

### ARTICLE I. Composition of the Faculty

The faculty shall consist of those persons employed by Appalachian State University who hold the rank of instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, professor, and lecturer; and also those persons appointed as emeriti faculty and adjunct faculty.

### ARTICLE II. Meeting and Voting

**Section 1.** The faculty shall meet at least once each term during the regular academic year.

**Section 2.** All members of the faculty, excluding part-time faculty teaching less than six (6) hours per semester, emeriti faculty, and adjunct faculty, have the right to hold faculty offices and to vote in faculty meetings and faculty elections and in departmental and college committees on which they serve except as noted in Article II, Section 3.

**Section 3.** Those eligible to serve on and participate in election of members to departmental personnel committees are full time faculty in the ranks of instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, and professor.

**Section 4.** When the interests of the University may be served, other members of the University community may be invited to attend meetings of the faculty and its committees.

### ARTICLE III. Officers of the Faculty

**Section 1.** The officers of the faculty shall be the chair, vice chair, recorder, and parliamentarian.

**Section 2.** The provost and executive vice chancellor, as chair of the faculty, shall preside at the faculty meetings.

**Section 3.** The chair of the Faculty Senate shall be the vice chair of the faculty and shall assist the chair of the faculty in the performance of the duties of the chair of the faculty, including such duties as presiding at the faculty meetings in the absence of the chair of the faculty.

**Section 4.** The secretary of the Faculty Senate is responsible for the accuracy of the motions, resolutions, voting results and major discussion points during the Faculty Senate meetings. All Faculty Senate meetings are recorded electronically and transcribed by the office assistant. The secretary is responsible for reviewing the accuracy of the transcribed minutes prior to being submitted to the Faculty Senate for approval. The Faculty Senate minutes are posted on the Faculty Senate web site and distributed to all members of the faculty, administration, and the Board of Trustees. The Faculty Senate minutes are also submitted to the University Archives to assure preservation and long-term access.

**Section 5.** The parliamentarian, designated by the chair of the faculty, shall adjudicate any questions as to proper parliamentary procedure.

## **ARTICLE IV. The Faculty Senate**

**Section 1.** To provide an opportunity for direct participation in the process of decision-making affecting the life of Appalachian State University, there shall be a Faculty Senate.

**Section 2.** The purpose of the Faculty Senate shall be to participate in the formation, implementation, and review of University policy and to provide means for the faculty to act effectively on matters with which it is concerned.

**Section 3.** The Faculty Senate shall consist of one member from each academic department, school, the Library, and five at large representatives. Any unit listed above may choose not to fill its senate seat, in which case the seat will remain empty for that academic year. Members of the senate will be chosen as follows:

By February 1, each academic department, school and the library will elect, per established department/unit procedures, one faculty member for any open senate seat in their respective department/unit (Please refer to Article IV [Section 6c](#) regarding vacant positions). If a vacancy has occurred during a senator's three-year term a department/unit may choose not to be represented by not electing a representative. This choice applies for the entire academic year following the election.

The five at large seats will be filled by election of faculty from across the University. Representation to the Appalachian State University Faculty Senate requires that a faculty member hold one of the following ranks: lecturer, instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, and professor. Excluded are emeriti faculty and adjunct faculty. In addition, a faculty member must, according to *Faculty Handbook* Section [6.2.3.3](#), be eligible to serve for the entire academic year. In the fall semester of each academic year (but prior to November 1) the director of institutional research, assessment and planning will determine the faculty eligible to represent and vote in each department and forward that information to the faculty elections officer. The faculty elections officer shall communicate each allocation to the deans of the various colleges and their respective elections chairs by December 1.

**Section 4.** All members of the faculty (as defined in Article II, [Section 2](#)) are eligible for election to the senate. No senator may serve more than two full terms consecutively.

**Section 5.** The normally designated term of office for Faculty Senate members is three years.

Terms of members will be staggered so that one-third of the senate is elected each year. The at large seats will be elected accordingly with two openings each year for two years and the fifth vacancy elected in the third year.

**Section 6.** Procedures for electing the members of the senate:

- a. The procedure for electing senators from each college shall be:
  - (1) By November 1, the vice chair of the Faculty Senate, who is the senate elections officer, shall contact the department or unit head who will, according to department/unit guidelines, put the senate elections officer in touch with the department/unit EOA;
  - (2) The senate elections officer shall request that the EOA of each department/unit provide a mechanism for the election of its Faculty Senate representative;
  - (3) Prior to February 1, the faculty members of each department, school and the library shall vote to elect the senate representative for their department/unit. All voting shall be by secret ballot. It shall be the responsibility of the department/unit EOA to set the date, time, and place of voting; prepare the ballots; supervise the election; provide for the tabulation of votes; notify all nominees of the election results; and report the results of the election to the senate elections officer. The mechanism for the election of the department/unit senate representative shall be on file in the Faculty Senate office;
  - (4) The senate elections officer shall announce the results of each election to the general faculty.
- b. The procedure for electing members at large shall be as follows:
  - (1) Membership at large in the senate shall be determined by the faculty on the basis of an annual election to be held during the spring term prior to March 1. All voting shall be by secret ballot;
  - (2) The senate elections officer shall set the deadline for the submission of nominations for members at large. Space for write-in votes will be provided on the ballots;
  - (3) It shall be the responsibility of the senate elections officer to set the date, time, and place of voting; prepare the ballots; arrange for absentee balloting; supervise the election; provide for the tabulation of the votes; and notify all nominees of the election results prior to announcing those results to the general faculty;
- c. The chair of the senate shall nominate persons to fill vacancies created by unexpired terms. The senate shall either elect or reject nominations made by the chair. Persons so elected shall serve until the next regular election, at which time the faculty will elect a person to complete the unexpired term;
- d. All senators elected in a given year shall take office at the special meeting of the senate in April called at the adjournment of the regular April meeting of the senate.

**Section 7.** The functions of the Faculty Senate shall be to:

- a. serve as the instrument through which the faculty considers and acts on University matters;



- b. report at the regular meeting of the faculty all action taken on behalf of the faculty between meetings;
- c. prepare the agenda for each meeting of the faculty. There shall be an agenda committee composed of senate members. The chair of the faculty shall be an ex-officio member of the committee;
- d. make nominations for membership of standing and special University committees;
- e. act as an advisory committee to the chancellor on behalf of the faculty;
- f. consider such other matters relating to faculty responsibility as the faculty may direct;
- g. The Faculty Senate shall have the sole power of and the responsibility for bringing charges against and trying senators or faculty members of University committees. Disruptive behavior or failure to perform official duties shall be cause for removal from office upon indictment and conviction by a two-thirds majority vote of the total Faculty Senate.

**Section 8.** The officers of the Faculty Senate shall consist of a chair, a vice chair, a secretary, and a parliamentarian. These officers, with the exception of the parliamentarian, shall be elected from the total membership of the senate at the special senate meeting in April called at the adjournment of the regular April meeting of the senate. The chair of the faculty shall be an ex-officio member of the senate and shall serve as liaison officer between the senate and the chancellor of the University. It shall be the responsibility of the chair of the Faculty Senate to appoint a parliamentarian. It shall be the responsibility of the vice chair to serve as the faculty elections officer. It shall be the responsibility of the secretary to prepare detailed records of the deliberations of the Senate. It shall be the responsibility of the University archivist to preserve copies of all Faculty Senate minutes and the minutes of the general faculty meetings.

**Section 9.** The senate shall meet as follows:

- a. A regular meeting of the full senate shall be held monthly during the academic term. Summer meetings will be scheduled as needed.
- b. Faculty members should communicate their professional concerns to their respective senators prior to the monthly meetings of the senate.
- c. A special meeting of the senate may be called at a designated time by the chair, by a petition signed by one-third of the total membership of the senate, or by a petition signed by twenty-five percent of the total membership of the faculty.
- d. The senate shall receive written suggestions for agenda items from any member of the faculty, the administration, student organizations, or the Board of Trustees.
- e. All operating procedures governing the transaction of senate business shall be set forth in the [\*Faculty Senate Guidebook and Manual of Order\*](#), which shall serve as the by-laws of the Faculty Senate.

## **ARTICLE V. Graduate Faculty**

**Section 1.** To promote excellence in graduate education, to inform the faculty of current concerns, and to provide opportunities for exchange of ideas, there shall be a Graduate Faculty.

**Section 2.** The purpose of the Graduate Faculty shall be to pursue critical thinking, academic inquiry and integrity, and to expand cultural horizons beyond that available through the undergraduate program.

**Section 3.** The Graduate Faculty shall be comprised of all Appalachian State University faculty designated under the rules of the Graduate Council as graduate faculty. The Graduate Faculty is represented by the dean of graduate studies and research, who is the administrative officer, and the Graduate Council.

**Section 4.** The officers of the Graduate Faculty shall consist of a chair, a vice chair/chair-elect, and a secretary.

- a. It shall be the responsibility of the chair to preside at all meetings of the Graduate Faculty and at meetings of the Nominating Committee. It shall be the responsibility of the chair to serve on the Graduate Council as an ex-officio voting member and to serve as Graduate Faculty Marshal at commencement.
- b. It shall be the responsibility of the vice chair to preside in the absence of the chair. In case of the chair's resignation, it shall be the responsibility of the vice chair to assume all duties of the chair. In such circumstances, the graduate dean may appoint a vice chair to serve only for the remainder of the academic year. It shall be the responsibility of the vice chair to serve on the Zigli Research Award Committee.
- c. It shall be the responsibility of the secretary to record and distribute the minutes of the Graduate Faculty meetings. It shall be the responsibility of the secretary to serve on the editorial board of Research News.

**Section 5.** The officers of the Graduate Faculty shall be elected by voice vote each year at the spring meeting of the Graduate Faculty and shall serve for a one-year term of office.

**Section 6.** To be eligible for election to office, nominees must hold an appointment on the Graduate Faculty that enables them to complete the term of office. Nominations shall be made by a Nominating Committee composed of the current officers with the dean of graduate studies and research serving as an ex-officio member.

**Section 7.** The Graduate Faculty shall normally meet twice an academic year, in the fall and spring semesters, and on other occasions deemed desirable by the graduate faculty or the officers of the graduate faculty.

**Section 8.** The chair shall appoint, in consultation with the dean of Graduate Studies and Research, committees as necessary to the effective functioning of the graduate faculty.

## **ARTICLE VI. University and Faculty Committees**

**Section 1.** For the purpose of this constitution, University committees are herein defined as being those bodies of persons, other than the Faculty Due Process Committee and the Faculty Grievance Hearing Committee (FGHC), who are selected to make recommendations for action concerning University matters. Members of University committees are appointed by the chancellor or the duly appointed representative of the chancellor in accordance with procedures determined by the Faculty Senate.

**Section 2.** Standing committees of the University shall be established, modified, and/or abolished, as the Senate deems necessary. The constituent personnel, duties, and responsibilities of these committees shall be determined by the Faculty Senate. (See [Chapter VII](#) for a list of committees.)

**Section 3.** The Faculty Due Process Committee and the Faculty Grievance Hearing Committee shall be composed of faculty members who are elected by the faculty. The election procedures, the constituent personnel, and the duties and responsibilities of these committees are set forth in sections 607 and 603(2) of [The Code of The University of North Carolina](#) and in the [Faculty Senate Guidebook and Manual of Order](#).

## **ARTICLE VII. Amendments**

**Section 1.** Amendments to this constitution shall be presented by the Faculty Senate. After senate deliberations, it shall be the responsibility of the chair of the Faculty Senate to circulate written copies of each proposed amendment, together with its recommendation as to action, to all members of the faculty. Notification of the proposed amendment and the senate recommendation shall be made not later than six days prior to the faculty meeting at which the proposed amendment is to be acted upon.

**Section 2.** Amendments shall be approved by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the faculty present.

**Section 3.** Amendments shall become effective immediately unless otherwise specified within the amendment.

## **ARTICLE VIII. Rules of Procedure**

Robert's Rules of Order, as revised, shall be the governing rules of meetings of the faculty, the Faculty Senate, the Graduate Faculty, and University Committees, unless otherwise stated. A parliamentarian shall be present at all meetings of the general faculty and the Faculty Senate.

### **BYLAWS FOR ARTICLE II. Meeting and Voting**

- a. The provost and executive vice chancellor shall call at least two general faculty meetings during the year, one of which shall be in the fall and another in the spring.
- b. Written notice of the meetings, with agenda and the text of any proposals then in the hands of the Faculty Senate chair upon which the faculty will be asked to take action attached, shall be sent to each member of the faculty by the Faculty Senate chair at least six days prior to the meeting. In emergency situations, the period of notice may be shorter.
- c. The agenda for faculty meetings shall be prepared by the Agenda Committee of the Faculty Senate.
- d. For the conducting of faculty business, a quorum shall consist of not less than one hundred faculty members. This quorum must include representatives from each of the degree-granting colleges, schools and the library. A majority of those present at the faculty meeting shall carry the vote, except for amendments to the constitution.

## **BYLAWS FOR ARTICLE IV. The Faculty Senate**

- a. At large nominees for the Faculty Senate will be elected by plurality voting. Faculty will be allowed to vote for the number of at large seats that are vacant that year. In the event of a tied vote, a special election shall be held to determine which of the nominees shall be elected. In this special election, the slate of nominees will be restricted to the tied nominees in the first election.
- b. In a run-off election those nominees receiving the largest pluralities will be elected except that whenever a tie vote occurs with reference to the last position(s) to be filled, the Faculty Senate will by majority vote of its total membership determine the winner.
- c. If a run-off election is required, the candidates for the position(s) to be filled in that election will be announced promptly after the initial election. A run-off election must be held within one calendar week of the initial election. The senate elections officer will furnish the faculty with the election results, including the number of votes received by each nominee, within three days of the final election.
- d. Any faculty member may contest an election with the Faculty Senate by notifying the person responsible within forty-eight hours of the notification of results. All appeals must be heard before the proper body of the senate. The disposition of all appeals must be reported to the senate and published in the senate minutes. No election will be considered final until all contested positions in that specific election have been acted upon and resolved.

## II. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY

### 2.1 The University of North Carolina

The University of North Carolina is composed of all the public institutions of higher education in North Carolina that confer degrees at the baccalaureate level or higher. The University was authorized by the State Constitution in 1776, and it was chartered in 1789 by the General Assembly.

The University of North Carolina opened its doors to students at Chapel Hill in 1795. Thereafter, beginning in the latter part of the nineteenth century, the General Assembly of North Carolina established and supported fifteen other public senior institutions in keeping with Article IX, Section B, of the Constitution of North Carolina which provides that the “General Assembly shall maintain a public system of higher education, comprising The University of North Carolina and such other institutions of higher education as the General Assembly may deem wise.”

Since 1972, all 16 of those institutions have been constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina. They are:

- Appalachian State University
- East Carolina University
- Elizabeth City State University
- Fayetteville State University
- North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
- North Carolina Central University
- North Carolina State University at Raleigh
- The University of North Carolina at Asheville
- The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- The University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- The University of North Carolina at Pembroke
- The University of North Carolina at Wilmington
- The University of North Carolina School of the Arts
- Western Carolina University
- Winston-Salem State University

In addition to these constituent institutions, the General Assembly has established and designated the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics as an affiliated school of the University of North Carolina.

Each constituent institution of the University has its own faculty and student body. The chief administrative officer of each institution is the chancellor, and the chancellors are responsible to the president.

Each constituent institution also has a Board of Trustees composed of thirteen members: eight elected by the Board of Governors, four appointed by the governor, and the elected president of the student body ex-officio. (The School of the Arts has two additional ex-officio trustees.) The

principal powers of these institutional boards are exercised under a delegation of authority from the Board of Governors.

## 2.2 The Board of Governors

The UNC-Board of Governors is the policy-making body legally charged with “the general determination, control, supervision, management, and governance of all affairs of the constituent institutions.” It elects the president, who administers the University. The 32 voting members of the Board of Governors are elected by the General Assembly for four-year terms. Special members are non-voting members with varying terms. Such members are former chairs of the board, former governors, and the president of the UNC Association of Student Governments, or that student’s designee.

## 2.3 The Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of Appalachian State University promotes the sound development of the institution within the functions prescribed for it, helping it to serve the state in a way that will complement the activities of the other institutions, and aiding it to perform at a high level of excellence in every area of endeavor. The board serves as advisor to the Board of Governors on matters pertaining to Appalachian State University and also serves as advisor to the chancellor concerning the management and development of Appalachian State University. The powers and duties of the Board of Trustees are primarily defined and delegated by the Board of Governors.

## 2.4 The Chancellor

The chancellor is the administrative and executive head of Appalachian State University and exercises complete executive authority therein, subject to the direction of the president. The chancellor is responsible for carrying out policies of the Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees. As of June 30 of each year, the chancellor prepares for the Board of Governors and for the Board of Trustees a detailed report on the operation of the institution for the preceding year. It is also the chancellor’s specific duty and responsibility to:

- (a) attend all meetings of the Board of Trustees and be responsible for keeping the Board of Trustees fully informed on the operation of Appalachian State University and its needs;
- (b) keep the president, and through the president, the Board of Governors, fully informed concerning the operations and needs of the institution. Upon request, the chancellor is available to confer with the president or with the Board of Governors concerning matters that pertain to Appalachian State University;
- (c) make recommendations for the appointment of personnel within Appalachian State University and for the development of educational programs, subject to policies prescribed by the Board of Governors and by the Board of Trustees;
- (d) provide leadership in supporting equality of opportunity and in supporting the protections available to members of the University community under all applicable federal laws.

**2.4.1 The Chancellor’s Cabinet** is an administrative advisory council appointed by the chancellor. The members of the cabinet are:

The Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor (see [2.5](#))

The Vice Chancellor of Business Affairs (see [2.4.1.1](#))  
The Vice Chancellor for Student Development (see [2.4.1.2](#))  
The Vice Chancellor for University Advancement (see [2.4.1.3](#))  
Chief of Staff for the Office of the Chancellor (see [2.4.1.4](#))  
General Counsel (see [2.4.1.5](#))  
Director of Athletics (see [2.4.1.6](#))  
Director of Human Resource Services (see [2.4.1.7](#))  
Director of External Affairs and Community Relations (see [2.4.1.8](#))  
Associate Vice Chancellor for University Communications (see [2.4.1.9](#))  
Executive Assistant to the Chancellor (see [2.4.1.10](#))

#### **2.4.1.1 The Vice Chancellor of Business Affairs**

The vice chancellor of business affairs is the chief business officer of the University. The mission of Business Affairs is to provide the most effective and efficient accounting and budgeting of the University's financial resources, while also providing exemplary services that maintain the support necessary for the infrastructure, safety, and physical operation of the campus. Departments operating under the umbrella of Business Affairs are: Budget Office, Business Systems, Centrex Office, Controller's Office, Food Services, Holmes Convocation Center, Materials Management, New River Light and Power, New York Loft, Parking and Traffic, Physical Plant, Planning, Design and Construction, Safety and Workers Compensation Office, Student Accounts, Sustainability Office, University Bookstore, University Police, and the University Post Office.

#### **2.4.1.2 The Vice Chancellor for Student Development**

The vice chancellor for student development reports to the chancellor and is an officer of the University. It is the responsibility of this person to provide leadership and supervision for all student development functions of the University. Specifically, the vice chancellor is responsible for supervision of all personnel within the division of Student Development, oversight of institutional resources allocated to enhance student development functions and to provide leadership and direction that enhance the quality of student life on campus. As a member of the chancellor's administrative team, the vice chancellor works with the other vice chancellors to provide advice and staff support to the chancellor and the Board of Trustees. The vice chancellor represents the University to external constituencies on matters related to student welfare concerns and student life issues.

#### **2.4.1.3 The Vice Chancellor for University Advancement**

The vice chancellor for university advancement is responsible to the chancellor for overseeing the design, development, and implementation of a comprehensive program for the purpose of increasing financial resources. The vice chancellor systemizes and administers all campus fund-raising policies and procedures; coordinates and approves gift proposals prior to their submissions; and facilitates the participation of donors, volunteers, staff, faculty, parents, and students in the fund-raising process.

#### **2.4.1.4 The Chief of Staff for the Office of the Chancellor**

The chief of staff for the office of the chancellor is senior advisor to the chancellor and responsible for overseeing the implementation of university-wide initiatives. The chief of staff facilitates communications to and from the Office of the Chancellor; oversees the operations, personnel and

budget of the Office of the Chancellor; serves on various internal and external committees and boards; directs the University's efforts with respect to economic development and engagement; and works closely with faculty, staff and the administrative management team to ensure efficient operation of the University and advancement of its strategic plan.

#### **2.4.1.5 General Counsel**

The mission of the Appalachian State University Office of General Counsel is to provide legal services for the University, in pursuit of the following objectives: (1) assisting in achievement of University goals within the framework of state and federal laws, and policies and plans adopted by the Board of Governors, president, Board of Trustees and chancellor; (2) compliance with applicable local, state, federal and international laws in all activities undertaken by the University; and (3) education and training of University officers and employees to prevent or appropriately resolve disputes affecting the University's operations. For more information see the [Office of General Counsel](#) website.

**2.4.1.6 The Director of Athletics** is responsible for the overall administration and management of the Athletics Department and is directly responsible to the chancellor.

**2.4.1.7 The Director of Human Resource Services** oversees all aspects of Human Resource Services at Appalachian, including staff recruitment, wage, salary and benefits administration, employee relations, training and development programs, personnel policies and human resources information systems.

**2.4.1.8 The Director of External Affairs and Community Relations** is responsible for fostering and maintaining relationships with local, county, state, and federal elected officials. Duties include representing the University as liaison to the N.C. General Assembly, the UNC General Administration Legislative Affairs Office, the U.S. Congress and federal agencies, the Watauga County Commissioners, and Boone's Town Council. The director also represents the chancellor at various conferences, meetings and other forums, provides consultation and support to federally sponsored programs, and seeks external funding for University priorities.

**2.4.1.9 The Associate Vice Chancellor for University Communications** oversees communications that promote the University and its many constituents.

**2.4.1.10 The Executive Assistant to the Chancellor** is responsible for carrying out the policies and initiatives of the chancellor.

## **2.5 The Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor**

The provost and executive vice chancellor is responsible directly to the chancellor. He or she manages the academic enterprise of the University, represents the chancellor when called upon, and performs other duties as assigned by the chancellor. In the absence of the chancellor, the provost and executive vice chancellor acts as chief executive officer of the University.

The duties and responsibilities of the provost and executive vice chancellor include but are not restricted to the following. Working with the provost and executive vice chancellor in the discharge of these duties and responsibilities are the vice provosts for academic affairs:



- (a) providing leadership in initiating and encouraging continuing studies and research among the faculty, designed to improve the curriculum and the quality of instruction. In this capacity the provost and executive vice chancellor and the vice provosts work with the deans of the colleges and schools, the chairs of the various departments, the associate vice chancellor for enrollment services, and the dean of graduate studies in planning, developing, and directing the curriculum;
- (b) assisting the deans of the colleges and schools in determining the needs for instructional personnel. On the recommendation of a departmental personnel committee and/or departmental promotion and tenure committee, the departmental chair and the dean, and subject to the approval of the chancellor, the provost and executive vice chancellor appoints the members of the faculty. Upon recommendation of staff selection committees and appropriate deans or directors, the provost and executive vice chancellor appoints administrative staff positions in the area of academic affairs, subject to the approval of the chancellor;
- (c) preparing a recommended biennial budget for the instructional and related programs. In the preparation of this budget, the provost and executive vice chancellor receives from the deans of the colleges and schools a detailed description of the needs of each college and school. The provost and executive vice chancellor and the deans discuss these needs and decide upon the items to be included in the budgets. The vice chancellor for business affairs consolidates the requests and submits them to the chancellor, who in turn submits the final budget requests to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina. After appropriations are made and the budget is certified and approved at the University level, the provost and executive vice chancellor informs by memorandum each of the deans of the allocations made to their respective areas. As emergency needs arise, the provost and executive vice chancellor and the vice chancellor for business affairs confer to determine how the needed materials and equipment may be purchased within the finances of the University. The provost and executive vice chancellor also prepares annual budgets for all units reporting to academic affairs and makes special allocations to such units as may be appropriate;
- (d) coordinating and supervising the publication of such documents as the University bulletins and companion bulletins, the *Faculty Handbook*, the *AP&P Manual*, and the schedules of classes and examinations.
- (e) participating in discussions concerning needed new buildings, the development of plans for new buildings, and the purchase of instructional equipment for them. The provost and executive vice chancellor, in cooperation with the Office of Business Affairs, coordinates utilization of all instructional and related space on the campus and recommends to the vice chancellor for business affairs needed changes in physical arrangements of instructional and related space.
- (f) cooperating with the Faculty Senate in developing agenda for meetings of the faculty. The provost and executive vice chancellor serves as chair of the faculty and advises with the faculty and the Faculty Senate on matters of an academic nature;
- (g) assembling information and preparing reports relating to academic affairs for agencies to which the institution is responsible;
- (h) appointing such special committees of faculty, staff and/or students as are deemed necessary for effective and efficient participation of these groups in academic and related matters; and

- (i) providing leadership in supporting equality of opportunity and in supporting the protections available to members of the University community under all applicable federal laws.

The following report to the provost and executive vice chancellor:

**2.5.1 The Vice Provost for Resource Management** oversees Budget Management and Position Management.

**2.5.2 The Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education (VPUE)** is responsible for working with the Appalachian community on University-wide undergraduate initiatives. The VPUE oversees: General Education, First Year Seminar Program, Writing Across the Curriculum, University Writing Center, Service Learning, University Forum Series, Advising and Orientation, Learning Assistance Program, Testing Services, University Documentary Film Services, Student Research, Summer Reading Program.

**2.5.3 The Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs (VPFA)** works closely with Faculty Senate, provost and executive vice chancellor, deans, associate vice chancellors and department chairs to develop policy and best practices for faculty evaluation, academic development initiatives, and faculty support services. The VPFA oversees: The *Faculty Handbook*, Learning Technology Services, and the William C. Hubbard Programs for Faculty Excellence.

**2.5.4 The Vice Provost for Research (VPR)** is responsible for facilitating and expanding university-wide faculty and student-based research/creative activities and providing leadership and vision for strategic growth of research. The VPR works collaboratively with the deans to secure grants and contracts and to integrate efforts by University and college-level advancement to communicate and raise private funds for research. The VPR oversees the work of campus-wide research entities, the Office of Sponsored Programs, the Office of Research Protections and the Office of Grants, Resources and Services and chairs the University Research Council. The VPR works closely with Business Affairs to foster a strong relationship with the Office of Special Funds Accounting.

**2.5.5 Colleges and Schools:**

Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences  
Dean of the Walker College of Business  
Dean of the Reich College of Education  
Dean of the College of Fine and Applied Arts  
Dean of the College of Health Sciences  
Dean of the Hayes School of Music  
Dean of the Cratis D. Williams School of Graduate Studies  
Honors College  
University College

**2.5.6 Other units reporting to the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor**

Director of the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Compliance  
Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Services (Enrollment Management, Office of Admissions, Office of the Registrar, and College Awareness Program)  
Associate Vice Chancellor of International Education and Development

Chief Information Officer and Information Technology Services  
Institutional Research, Assessment, and Planning  
Dean of Libraries, Carol G. Belk Library and Information Commons  
Division of Educational Outreach and Summer Programs  
Faculty Senate

## 2.6 The Dean of a College/School

The dean of a college/school is responsible directly to the provost and executive vice chancellor. The major responsibility of the dean of a college/school is the development and maintenance of programs of excellence in the college/school. The dean or his/her designee is an ex officio member of the Undergraduate Academic Policies and Procedures Committee and the Graduate Academic Policies and Procedures Committee. The dean has general administrative oversight of all matters affecting the strength of the college/school, and the dean's administrative actions are consistent with general University administrative relationships with all official bodies and personnel of the institution. It is the duty and responsibility of the dean of an undergraduate degree granting college/school to:

- (a) coordinate the planning of proposals affecting the organizational structure of the college/school, such as development of new departments; and participate in the nomination of qualified departmental chairs when vacancies occur or when new departments are authorized;
- (b) coordinate a vigorous recruitment program that will insure maximum effort to appoint and retain the best qualified personnel. Receive recommendations from the departmental personnel committee, the departmental promotion and tenure committee, and the departmental chairs concerning appointments, promotions, salary adjustments, notices of non-reappointment, tenure, and dismissals;
- (c) provide encouragement and leadership for professional growth through the development and implementation of plans and programs for individual research and/or artistic endeavor, attendance at and participation in professional organizations, leaves of absence for study and research, and departmental appraisal of growth in professional competence and scholarship;
- (d) engage departmental chairs and the council of the college/school in frequent appraisals of objectives, procedures, strengths, weaknesses, and results of curricular programs as a basis for improvement, including coordinating the planning of new programs leading to new majors, concentrations, and degree programs and receiving from departmental chairs requests for such curriculum changes for action by the council of the college/school and the appropriate University committee(s);
- (e) receive from departmental chairs budget requests necessary for the continued maintenance and operation of the department (travel, instructional supplies and equipment, work/study funds, and temporary wage monies). These requests will be used as a basis for final recommendation by the dean to the provost and executive vice chancellor. Once appropriations have been made by the provost and executive vice chancellor to each college/school, the dean will make final judgment, after consulting with departmental chairs, concerning the distribution of funds among the departments of the college/school;
- (f) transmit instructions to departmental chairs concerning advisement, preregistration, and registration; receive from departmental chairs schedules of course offerings; and assist the

registrar in making plans for registration. Coordinate plans for effective academic advisement of all students within the college/school;

- (g) coordinate departmental screening procedures and standards which will insure graduates of appropriate quality; consult with departmental chairs concerning all matters having to do with graduation requirements established by the University; and check student records to determine eligibility of undergraduates for graduation and certification;
- (h) coordinate the assignment of classroom space and facilities among departments and plan for capital improvements. Hold periodic inspection of all college/school facilities with the departmental chair as a basis for reporting the quality of maintenance to the vice chancellor for business affairs;
- (i) preside at meetings involving the faculty of the college/school and appoint ad hoc committees to study special problems affecting the college/school. Prepare periodic reports and keep the provost and executive vice chancellor fully informed of the state of affairs within the college/school and carry out any duties assigned by the provost and executive vice chancellor;
- (j) receive from departmental chairs requests from faculty members to be absent from duty; and
- (k) provide leadership in supporting equality of opportunity and in supporting the protections available to members of the University community under all applicable laws;

## **2.7 The Dean of the Cratis D. Williams School of Graduate Studies**

The dean of the Cratis D. Williams School of Graduate Studies (Graduate School) reports directly to the provost and executive vice chancellor and is a full voting member of the university Deans Council. The dean (a) is the administrative officer of the Graduate School, and (b), in consultation with the respective college deans, has general supervisory responsibilities over all graduate programs at the University. The dean evaluates candidates and makes appointments to the Graduate Faculty, and the dean or the dean's delegate interviews candidates for graduate faculty positions.

The dean, with support from the Graduate School staff and the associate dean for graduate studies, will:

- (a) have responsibility for the financial management of the Graduate School;
- (b) promote and seek academic excellence for all graduate studies. In doing so, the dean administers the program of graduate education developed by the department and/or program faculty with the advice and consultation of the Graduate Academic Policies and Procedures Committee. This includes oversight of graduate program review, analysis of curricula, and monitoring national trends in graduate education;
- (c) be responsible for activities associated directly with graduate students, beginning with recruitment and ending with graduation, which include, receipt of applications for graduate study, evaluation of transcripts and results of standardized examinations, approval of applicants for admission following recommendation by departmental and/or program faculty, and evaluation of programs-of-study and thesis/dissertation committee assignments;
- (d) offer student orientation sessions, and personal and professional development opportunities for graduate students such as graduate teaching assistant workshops, showcase opportunities

for graduate student research, and workshops on various topics such as responsible conduct of research/ethics, preparation of theses, etc.;

- (e) administer financial support for graduate students including assistantships, out-of-state/in-state tuition scholarships, thesis/dissertation research grants, and various scholarships and fellowships;
- (f) in conjunction with the Office of Equity, Diversity and Compliance, investigate matters involving ethical concerns as they relate to graduate students;
- (g) assume final responsibility for any publications and the website of the Graduate School including the Graduate Bulletin;
- (h) be a major advocate for research/scholarly activity at Appalachian State University;
- (i) foster graduate faculty development;
- (j) seek and support diversity across the Graduate School;
- (k) represent the Graduate School internally and externally, ensure positive external relations, and lead Graduate School development efforts;
- (l) lead strategic planning for the Graduate School;
- (m) establish and maintain a collegial environment with clear communications that promotes shared governance.

## **2.8 The Departmental Chair**

Departments are integrally related to their colleges and to the total University and at the same time are separate units with viable and justifiable functions all their own. A given department must, therefore, be well organized to function properly within the full life of the academic community and within its own special commitment.

Each department must provide the setting in which competent persons are able to realize their professional capabilities and make their most creative contributions to their students, colleagues, and society. Members of the department should experience freedom, have the power to articulate goals, and accept accountability to themselves, to others, and to the scholarly discipline in which they work.

The department has an appointed chair with the general responsibility for guiding the department toward selected goals. It is the specific responsibility of the chair to:

- (a) participate in the development of University policies and be responsible for their communication and implementation at the department level;
- (b) communicate the needs of the department (personnel, space, fiscal) to the appropriate administrative units;
- (c) serve as an advocate for the department and represent the department in the University, the community, to appropriate external agencies, and at meetings of learned and professional societies;
- (d) prepare an annual report to the chancellor in consultation with the faculty of the department;
- (e) provide leadership in the recruitment and appointment of faculty members;

- (f) arrange effective and equitable distribution of faculty responsibilities, including:
  - (i) teaching duties and committee assignments within the department;
  - (ii) evaluate and counsel with all departmental faculty members concerning the performance of their duties;
- (g) encourage and support good teaching, scholarly activity, and professional development within the department;
- (h) initiate, in consultation with the appropriate faculty committee recommendations for appointment, reappointment, promotion, tenure, and dismissal in accordance with the University and college policy;
- (i) endeavor to maintain faculty morale by reducing, resolving, or preventing conflicts;
- (j) make salary recommendations in accordance with University and college guidelines;
- (k) organize and coordinate the departmental faculty and staff in developing, implementing and evaluating short and long-range departmental goals, objectives, standards, and programs;
- (l) work with the faculty to develop standards, curricula, and procedures, which provide adequate preparation of graduates for professional or further academic endeavor;
- (m) provide for appropriate advisement of students majoring in the department;
- (n) provide leadership in supporting equality of opportunity and the protections available to members of the University community under all applicable laws;
- (o) manage the departmental resources, including the budget, in accordance with college and University guidelines;
- (p) participate in planning capital improvements and maintenance of physical facilities;
- (q) endeavor to secure and maintain adequate supplies, materials, and equipment for the department; and
- (r) supervise the departmental support staff.

## **2.9 The Departmental Assistant Chair**

If a department has an assistant chair, that person will receive an initial term of up to three years in accordance with the departmental assistant chair policy. Subsequent terms may be approved in accordance with the departmental assistant chair policy. Review of the assistant chair will follow the departmental assistant chair policy.

Every department with an assistant chair must develop a departmental assistant chair policy, approved by the department, specifying how this position will be filled, evaluated for effectiveness, reviewed, renewed, and dismissed (see Article II, [Section 2](#) of the Faculty Constitution).

It is the general responsibility of the assistant chair to work with the department chair to guide the department toward its goals.

It is the specific responsibility of the assistant chair to:

- (a) represent the departmental chair in the chair's absence;

- (b) serve as the departmental representative on University Committees as needed. Provide faculty with another level of administrative communication;
- (c) communicate with the departmental chair concerning departmental business and the assistant chair's responsibilities;
- (d) The departmental chair, as determined by the departmental assistant chair policy, may assign other duties.

## **2.10 The Departmental Graduate Program Director**

If a department has a graduate program director, that person will receive an initial term of two or more years in accordance with the departmental graduate program director policy. Subsequent terms may be approved in accordance with the departmental graduate program director policy. Review of the graduate program director will follow the departmental graduate program director policy.

Every department with a graduate program director must develop a departmental graduate program director policy, approved by the department, specifying how this position will be filled, evaluated for effectiveness, reviewed, renewed, and dismissed (see Article II, Section 2 of the Faculty Constitution).

It is the general responsibility of the graduate program director to work with the departmental chair, graduate faculty, and the graduate school to guide the department toward its goals.

The graduate program director is the main liaison with the graduate school and is responsible for ensuring that key tasks are completed in a timely manner. It is the general responsibility of the graduate program director to work with the departmental chair and graduate faculty to guide the department toward its goals.

## **2.11 The Departmental Undergraduate Program Director**

If a department has an undergraduate program director, that person will receive an initial term of two or more years in accordance with the departmental undergraduate program director policy. Subsequent terms may be approved in accordance with the departmental undergraduate program director policy. Review of the undergraduate program director will follow the departmental undergraduate program director policy.

Every department with an undergraduate program director must develop a departmental undergraduate program director policy, approved by the department, specifying how this position will be filled, evaluated for effectiveness, reviewed, renewed, and dismissed (see Article II, [Section 2](#) of the Faculty Constitution).

It is the general responsibility of the undergraduate program director to work with the departmental chair and faculty to guide the department toward its goals.

## **III. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities**

### **3.1 Equality of Opportunity**

Appalachian State University is committed to providing equal opportunity in education and employment to all applicants, students, and employees. The University does not discriminate in access to its educational programs and activities, or with respect to hiring or the terms and conditions of employment, on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, political affiliation, age, disability, veteran status, genetic information or sexual orientation. The University actively promotes diversity among students and employees.

### **3.2 Freedom and Responsibility in the University Community**

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

**3.2.2** Appalachian State University shall protect faculty and students in their exercise of the freedom to teach, to learn, and otherwise to seek and speak the truth.

**3.2.3** Faculty and students of this institution shall share in the responsibility for maintaining an environment in which academic freedom flourishes and in which the rights of each member of the academic community are respected.

### **3.3 Academic Freedom and Responsibility of Faculty**

**3.3.1** It is the policy of Appalachian State University to support and encourage within the law full freedom of inquiry, discourse, teaching, research, and publication for all members of the academic staff of this institution. Members of the faculty are expected to recognize that accuracy, forthrightness, integrity, and dignity befit their association with this institution and their position as men and women of learning. They should not represent themselves, without authorization, as speaking for Appalachian State University.

**3.3.2** Appalachian State University will not penalize or discipline members of the faculty because of the exercise of academic freedom in the lawful pursuit of their respective areas of scholarly and professional interest and responsibility. All members of the faculty, whether tenured, untenured, or non-tenure track, have the protection of academic freedom.

### **3.4 Primacy of Academic Governance over Academic Curriculum and Instruction**

Since the basic mission of the University is the instruction of students, the procedures for curriculum modification are most important and should be clear. This statement is being issued in order to clarify this important area.



The basic and most important unit in determining curricula is the academic department. Departments recommend their own departmental courses and programs after careful consideration by the faculty of that department. All departments should develop and implement plans for involving students in academic governance at the departmental level.

**3.4.1** Any proposal for changes in a department's courses or programs must first be acted upon by the department before being submitted to the college advisory council. Any proposal for changes (excluding course changes within existing programs) in a college's or school's programs or structures must first be acted upon by the faculty of the college or school concerned before being presented to the Undergraduate Academic Policies and Procedures Committee and/or the Graduate Academic Policies and Procedures Committee. After a proposal for curricular or structural change has been acted upon by a college or school and after the dean of that college or school has submitted the proposal to all other necessary groups, the dean will then present the proposal to the Undergraduate Academic Policies and Procedures Committee and/or the Graduate Academic Policies and Procedures Committee.

**3.4.2** Recommendations for changes in general academic policies or academic programs must be submitted to the Undergraduate Academic Policies and Procedures Committee and/or the Graduate Academic Policies and Procedures Committee by any of the following:

- a. Department, program, college or school
- b. Faculty Senate
- c. Student Government Association
- d. Graduate Student Association Senate
- e. Council of Deans
- f. Council of Chairs

A faculty member, student, or ad hoc faculty or student group will channel proposals through the appropriate body above (a., b., or c.).

**3.4.3** The Undergraduate Academic Policies and Procedures Committee and the Graduate Academic Policies and Procedures Committee are, in most circumstances, the final recommending bodies to the provost and executive vice chancellor and the chancellor. The faculty members and the students on these committees serve as the representatives for the faculty and students, respectively. As such, these groups should make their respective views known through their appointed representatives and should make arrangements for their respective representatives to be held accountable to them.

**3.4.4** If a proposal for changes in a department's courses or programs is not approved by that department, then the group initiating the proposal may appeal (within 90 days after rejection) first to the advisory council of the college to which that department belongs. If the proposal is also rejected by the college or school, then the group may appeal (as above) to the Undergraduate Academic Policies and Procedures Committee and/or the Graduate Academic Policies and Procedures Committee.

When a departmental proposal is not recommended at the college advisory council level, the department may appeal to the Undergraduate Academic Policies and Procedures Committee and/or the Graduate Academic Policies and Procedures Committee.

## **3.5 Professional Ethics**

**3.5.1** Faculty members, guided by a deep conviction of the worth and dignity of the transmission and advancement of knowledge, recognize the special responsibilities placed upon them. Their primary responsibility is to seek and to state the truth as they see it. To this end, they are expected to devote their energies in the development and improvement of their scholarly competencies. They are expected to accept this obligation of exercising responsible and critical self-discipline and judgment within the boundaries of the law in using, extending, and transmitting knowledge. They are expected to practice intellectual honesty. Although they may follow subsidiary interests, these interests must never seriously hamper or compromise either their own freedom of inquiry or that of their colleagues and students.

**3.5.2** As teachers, faculty members encourage the free pursuit of learning in all students, holding before them the best scholarly standards of their discipline. They are expected to demonstrate respect for the student and to adhere to their proper roles as intellectual guides and counselors. They make every reasonable effort to foster honest academic conduct and to attain a conscientious and fair evaluation of students. They respect the confidential and ethical nature of the relationship between professor and student. They are expected to avoid scrupulously any exploitation of students for their personal advantage and should apprise themselves of state and federal regulations governing such matters as sexual harassment and religious proselytizing. They acknowledge significant assistance from their students and protect their academic freedom.

**3.5.3** As colleagues, faculty members have obligations that derive from common membership in the community of scholars. They respect and defend within the boundaries of the law the free inquiry of their associates. In the exchange of criticism and ideas, they show due respect for the opinions of others. They avoid conflicts of interest, acknowledge their academic debts, and strive for objectivity in their professional judgment of colleagues. They are expected to accept their share of faculty responsibility for the governance of the institution.

## **3.6 Integrity in Scholarship and Scientific Research**

### **3.6.1 Introduction**

Integrity in research is the basis for the academic search for knowledge. Persons involved in academic research must guard the truth and protect the public trust that research in an academic environment has long held. Activities that interfere with an honest search for the truth cannot be tolerated in a university setting. All effort must be made to maintain an open and honest search for truth through continual commitment by faculty, staff, and students to scrupulous honesty and integrity in research.

It is clear that scientific and scholarly misconduct cannot be prevented completely by a university policy or federal law; it can only be avoided through each individual's firm commitment to academic ideals and honesty. The importance of such honesty in one's research work should be impressed upon all members of the university community by those responsible for conducting or directing research and scholarship projects. Only in this way can the university community effectively guard the truth and maintain traditions of intellectual honesty.

### **3.6.2 Policy Statement**

In the belief that honesty and integrity are essential to the search for knowledge, it is the policy of Appalachian State University that all persons involved in research and scholarship must guard the truth, uphold the highest standards in their research and scholarship, and protect the public trust that the academic environment has long held. Whenever any Appalachian faculty member, graduate student, or other research employee is accused of serious misconduct in scientific or scholarly research, the University will conduct an inquiry, make a determination concerning the truth or falsity of the allegations, and take appropriate disciplinary action. The process of inquiry will be expeditious and protect the rights of all those concerned, including the complainant and the accused.

### **3.6.3 Definition of Research Misconduct**

Since the search for knowledge is impeded and subverted by the misrepresentation of facts, openness and honesty are commonly accepted norms within the scientific and scholarly community for proposing, conducting, or reporting research. "Research misconduct" means plagiarism, falsification, fabrication of data, or other forms of deliberate misrepresentation. It does not include honest error or honest differences in interpretations or judgments of data.

### **3.6.4 Initiation of Inquiry**

Allegations of research misconduct involving faculty members, graduate students, or staff should be directed to the Vice Provost for Research. The vice provost will confidentially counsel any individual who comes forward with an allegation of research misconduct since some concerns or allegations may not fall within the scope of policies and procedures developed to address research misconduct. If the vice provost determines that the concern is properly addressed through policies and procedures designed to deal with misconduct in research, these procedures should be discussed with the individual questioning the integrity of a research project. If the individual chooses not to make a formal allegation, but the vice provost believes there is sufficient cause to warrant the inquiry, the matter should be pursued without a complainant and the vice provost should so inform the provost and executive vice chancellor.

When the subject of the inquiry is a graduate student, the case will be reviewed by the Vice Provost for Research, and the policies and procedures prescribed in the Appalachian State University Code of Academic Integrity for students will apply in the resolution of pending charges. Should the subject of the inquiry be faculty or other staff members, the vice provost in consultation with the provost and executive vice chancellor will determine whether an inquiry is warranted.

### **3.6.5 Inquiry**

During the inquiry, confidentiality will be maintained to protect the rights of all parties involved. Respondent(s) may be accompanied by an observer of their choosing on three working days' written notice to the committee. If the respondent(s) chooses an observer(s), the committee may be accompanied by an observer of its choosing. Unless otherwise agreed, observers may not take part in the discussion between the respondent(s) and the committee. Observers may not be present as attorney for either party. Because confidential personnel file information may be discussed at the inquiry, the respondent(s) and any observers must sign an Observer Waiver. This document includes the respondent(s) authorization of the observer(s) to hear such confidential information, and commits the observer(s) to maintain the confidentiality of such information unless the respondent subsequently authorizes disclosure. It may be desirable to keep the identity of the complainant confidential during the inquiry phase. The Vice Provost for Research will assume

responsibility for disseminating information relevant to the inquiry to the appropriate individuals. Normally, this will be in writing with copies filed in the Office of the Provost.

At the interview, on three working days' written notice to the committee, the respondent(s) may be accompanied by an observer of their choosing. If the respondent chooses an observer, the committee may be accompanied by an observer of its choosing. Unless otherwise agreed, observers may not take part in the discussion between the respondent(s) and the committee. Observers may not be present as attorney for either party. Because confidential personnel file information may be discussed at the interview, the respondent and any observers must sign an Observer Waiver. This document includes the respondent's authorization of the observer(s) to hear such confidential information, and commits the observer(s) to maintain the confidentiality of such information unless the respondent subsequently authorizes disclosure.

Completion of the inquiry is marked by the determination of whether or not an investigation is warranted. The inquiry committee will provide the Vice Provost for Research a written report that summarizes the process and states the conclusion of the inquiry. This report will be delivered within sixty (60) calendar days from the inquiry committee's receipt of an allegation. The respondent will be informed whether or not there will be further investigation and, if there is a complainant, he or she will also be informed.

Allegations found to require investigation will be forwarded promptly to the investigative body; if federal funding is involved, the agency sponsoring the research will be notified at this point.

If an allegation is found to be unsupported but has been submitted in good faith, no further formal action, other than informing all involved parties, will be taken. The proceedings of an inquiry, including the identity of the respondent, will be held in strict confidence to protect the parties involved. Documentation of each inquiry shall be maintained by the Vice Provost for Research for a period of three (3) years from the date of the report. To the extent required by federal law, copies shall be provided to authorized personnel of federal agencies sponsoring research upon request. If confidentiality is breached, the institution will take steps to minimize the damage to reputations that may result from inaccurate reports. Allegations that have not been brought in good faith will lead to disciplinary action. The institution will seek to protect the complainant against retaliation; individuals engaging in acts of retaliation or breaching confidentiality will be disciplined.

### **3.6.6 Investigation**

An investigation will be initiated within 30 calendar days after an inquiry concludes that such is warranted. The purpose is to further explore the allegations and determine whether misconduct has been committed and, if so, the degree of its seriousness. In the course of an investigation, additional information may emerge that justifies broadening the scope of the investigation beyond the initial allegations. The respondent will be informed when significant new directions of investigation are undertaken. The investigation will focus on accusations of research misconduct as defined previously and examine the factual materials of each case.

### **3.6.7 Structure**

To carry out the investigation, the Vice Provost for Research will form an investigative committee by expanding the inquiry committee to include two additional tenured faculty and at least one representative from outside the University. In selecting the members of the committee, conflicts of interest must again be examined scrupulously and any relationship with parties to the matter must

be fully disclosed. Those inquiring into the allegations will be selected in full awareness of the closeness of their professional or personal affiliation with the complainant or the respondent. It is also important that the committee have appropriate expertise to assure a sound knowledge base from which to work.

### **3.6.8 Process**

Upon receipt of inquiry findings that an investigation is warranted, the Vice Provost for Research will initiate an investigation promptly (ordinarily, within 30 days) and the complainant and respondent will be notified of the investigation. In accordance with federal regulations, all agencies sponsoring a research project in which misconduct is suspected will be notified immediately upon the decision to undertake an investigation. All involved parties will be interviewed and are obligated to cooperate with the proceedings in providing information relating to the case. All necessary information will be provided to the respondent in a timely manner to facilitate the preparation of a response.

If the nature of the allegations is such that there may be need to protect the health and safety of research subjects, or the interests of students and colleagues, or to protect federal funds and ensure that the purposes of federal financial assistance are being carried out, the Vice Provost for Research may take interim administrative action to restrict or suspend the activities of the respondent, but care should be taken to safeguard the rights of the respondent.

Investigations normally will be completed within sixty (60) days of initiation. If factors such as the volume and nature of the research to be reviewed and the degree of cooperation being offered by the subject of the investigation prevent completion within sixty (60) days, an interim report describing the investigation up to that point and its expected outcome, and requesting an extension, will be filed with the Vice Provost for Research at the end of sixty (60) days. Any reasonable indication of possible criminal violations shall be reported to the Office of Research Integrity, Public Health Service, or other appropriate federal agency, within 24 hours after receipt of such information by the Vice Provost for Research. Such information also shall be forwarded through appropriate channels to the chancellor. In addition, the vice provost shall promptly inform the Office of Research Integrity or other appropriate federal agency of any facts discovered during the course of the investigation that may affect then current or potential federal funding for the individual(s) under investigation or that such agency needs to know to ensure appropriate use of federal funds or otherwise protect the public interest.

### **3.6.9 Findings**

A report which thoroughly documents the investigative process and the findings of the investigative committee will be submitted in writing to the Vice Provost for Research. The respondent will receive the full report of the investigation, as will the dean of the respondent's college. When there is more than one respondent, each shall receive all those parts of the findings that are pertinent to his or her role. Respondents may comment in writing on the report and their comments will be made part of the record. The vice provost shall forward a copy of the report to all federal agencies initially informed of the investigation. Documentation of each investigation shall be maintained by the vice provost in a confidential and secure file for a period of at least three (3) years from the date the investigative committee's report is delivered to the Public Health Service or other appropriate federal agencies.

Investigations into allegations of research misconduct may result in various outcomes, including (1) a finding of clear, serious, and substantial research misconduct; (2) a finding of research misconduct of a minor or questionable nature; (3) a finding that no culpable conduct was committed, but serious scientific errors were made; (4) a finding that no research misconduct or serious scientific error was committed. If a finding of serious scientific misconduct is made, all agencies funding that research will be informed to the extent required by federal law. Examples of severe research misconduct include fabrication of data, plagiarism, including the publication of research or scholarship produced by another person, and falsification of vita items in order to advance one's research.

If an investigation has been launched on the basis of a complaint, and no research misconduct is found, no disciplinary measures will be taken against the complainant and every effort will be made to prevent retaliatory action against the complainant if the allegations, however incorrect, are found to have been made in good faith. If the allegations are found to have been maliciously motivated, disciplinary actions will be taken against those responsible.

### **3.6.10 Disposition**

The nature and severity of the disciplinary action by the University will vary with the findings of the investigative committee. At this point, the Vice Provost for Research will inform the chancellor, provost and executive vice chancellor, and dean of the respondent's college of the investigative committee's findings. Disciplinary action shall be taken in accordance with appropriate respective policies and procedures applicable to each respondent's classification. Should the respondent(s) be found guilty of research misconduct of a clear, serious, and substantial nature, he/she/they may be considered unfit to continue as employees or students of Appalachian State University.

Respondents found guilty of research misconduct of a less clear, serious, or substantial nature may receive sanctions ranging from letters of reprimand to probation, permanent removal from the research project involved and/or other sanctions deemed appropriate under the circumstances. Findings of scientific misconduct may also warrant the removal of a faculty respondent from graduate advisory committees or other research supervisory roles.

### **3.6.11 Appeal**

Respondents may appeal disciplinary actions in accordance with respective policies and procedures applicable to each respondent's classification.

### **3.6.12 Publication**

Copies of this policy shall be transmitted to all faculty and academic administrators or otherwise published at least annually.

## **3.7 Academic Tenure**

Academic tenure refers to the conditions and guarantees that apply to a faculty member's employment. More specifically, it refers to the protection of a faculty member against discharge from employment except for reasons of (i) incompetence, (ii) neglect of duty, or (iii) misconduct of such a nature as to indicate that the individual is unfit to continue as a member of the faculty, as specified in Code Section 603 and in accordance with the procedures provided in [section 4.10](#), or against termination of employment except as provided for in [section 4.9](#). (The overall policy for academic tenure in the UNC system is found in the UNC Code 602.)

**3.7.1** The purposes intended to be served by providing the protection of academic tenure to faculty members are to secure their academic freedom and to help the institution attract and retain faculty members of high quality. While academic tenure may be withheld on any grounds other than those specifically stated to be impermissible in [section 3.7.3](#), its conferral requires the assessment that the candidate has met the criteria for the rank of associate professor as specified in [3.8.6.2](#). Promotion or appointment to the rank of professor confers permanent tenure ([3.8.6.6](#) and [3.8.7.3](#)) and requires the assessment that the candidate has met the criteria for the rank of professor ([3.8.7.2](#)).

**3.7.2** The Faculty Handbook criteria for the conferral of tenure shall be the basis for each academic department's criteria for conferral of tenure, and both Faculty Handbook and departmental criteria shall be considered in all tenure decisions. Departmental criteria may be more rigorous than Faculty Handbook criteria.

The conferral of tenure requires:

- (a) an assessment of the faculty member's demonstrated professional competence;
- (b) potential for future contributions;
- (c) commitment to effective teaching, research, and public service; and
- (d) the needs and resources of the institution.

**3.7.3** A decision not to grant tenure may not be based upon (1) the faculty member's exercise of rights guaranteed by either the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or Article I of the North Carolina Constitution, (2) unlawful discrimination based upon the faculty member's race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, political affiliation, age, disability, veteran status, genetic information or sexual orientation; or (3) personal malice. For purposes of this section, the term "personal malice" means dislike, animosity, ill will, or hatred based on personal characteristics, traits or circumstances of an individual that are not relevant to valid University decision making. See UNC Policy [101.3.1 II.B](#). (4.6.1)

**3.7.4** Academic tenure, as herein described, pertains exclusively to the employment of faculty members by appointment to specified faculty ranks. Appalachian State University requires the doctorate or other appropriate earned terminal degree for consideration of the conferral of permanent tenure on any faculty member, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

## **3.8 Tenure-Eligible Academic Ranks**

**3.8.1** The University shall require the doctorate or other appropriate earned terminal degree for all full-time faculty appointments above the rank of instructor, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Appointments may be for fixed terms of employment, automatically terminable when they expire ("fixed-term appointment"); or they may be for probationary terms ("probationary-term appointment"); or they may be continuous ("appointment with permanent tenure") until retirement, death, resignation, or dismissal pursuant to The Code of The University of North Carolina.

**3.8.2** No reviewing person or committee substitutes its judgment for the judgment of the departmental chair, a search committee, and/or the departmental personnel committee or the departmental promotion and tenure committee on matters relating to the professional qualifications of the individual involved [i.e., the individual's ability to fulfill adequately the

professional requirements of the position. However, in accordance with The Code of The University of North Carolina, section 602(4), those charged with making decisions on initial appointment, reappointment, promotion and permanent tenure shall examine and evaluate “demonstrated professional competence” (i.e., the faculty member’s actual performance), the faculty member’s potential for future contribution, and institutional needs and resources.]

**3.8.3** The faculty ranks to which appointments may be made, the minimal criteria that a candidate must meet in order to be eligible for consideration for the various ranks, and the incidents of academic tenure applicable to each rank are set forth in sections [3.8.4](#) through [3.8.7](#). The Faculty Handbook criteria for ranks shall be the basis for each academic department’s criteria, and both Faculty Handbook and departmental criteria shall be considered in all appointment, reappointment, promotion, and tenure decisions. Departmental criteria may be more rigorous than Faculty Handbook criteria.

### **3.8.4 Instructor**

**3.8.4.1** See [The University of North Carolina Policy Manual, section 400.3.1.1](#) concerning required discussions relating to the primacy of teaching.

**3.8.4.2** Minimal criteria for consideration of appointment to the rank of instructor are:

- (a) a master’s degree from an accredited institution in an appropriate field or special competencies in lieu of the master’s degree; and
- (b) evidence of potential in teaching; and
- (c) evidence of potential in at least one of the following:
  - (i) research or other germane creative activity; or
  - (ii) professional service to the University and/or to the public.

**3.8.4.3** The rank of instructor is appropriate for one who is appointed to the faculty but lacks, when appointed, one or more qualifications expected by the department or college/school for appointment to professorial rank. When all of those qualifications are met, the instructor may be promoted to assistant professor, offered a terminal appointment of one academic year, or be offered a special faculty appointment. (See [section 3.13](#))

**3.8.4.4** An initial appointment to the rank of instructor is for a probationary term of one academic year. The instructor may be reappointed successively for six terms of one academic year, a total of seven such terms. At least ninety (90) calendar days before the first term of appointment ends, the instructor shall receive written notice whether, when the current term expires, the instructor will be reappointed at rank for another term, promoted to the rank of assistant professor, appointed to a special faculty appointment as provided in section 3.13, or not be reappointed. An instructor appointed to a second one-year term shall receive a similar notice not less than 180 calendar days before that term ends. During the last 180 calendar days of the second consecutive year of employment, the institution may notify the instructor that employment will be terminated at the end of the third year of employment. Before the end of the third consecutive term, an instructor who has not been notified that employment will be ended in that year as provided in the preceding sentence shall receive a written notice whether, when the current term expires, the instructor will be reappointed at rank, promoted to the rank of assistant professor for a four-year term, appointed to a special faculty appointment as provided in section 3.13, of at least a one-year duration, or offered a terminal appointment of one academic year at the end of the current term. Decisions shall



be made with respect to these same options before the end of the fourth, fifth, and sixth consecutive term. No reappointment to the rank of instructor may be made after seven consecutive years of employment at that rank (but see also [section 3.13](#), “Special Faculty Appointments”). The failure to give the required notice of a decision not to reappoint at any point herein required has the same effect as a decision at that time to offer a terminal appointment of one academic year at the same rank. The decisions herein required shall be made as provided in [section 4.4](#).

**3.8.4.5** Nothing in these regulations shall be construed to preclude a faculty member from seeking and being recommended for promotion at any time.

### **3.8.5 Assistant Professor**

**3.8.5.1** See [The University of North Carolina Policy Manual, section 400.3.1.1](#), concerning required discussions relating to the primacy of teaching.

**3.8.5.2** Minimal criteria for consideration of appointment/promotion to the rank of assistant professor are:

- (a) the appropriate earned terminal degree from an accredited institution, unless there are exceptional circumstances;
- (b) demonstrated ability in teaching;
- (c) evidence of ability for research or other germane creative activity;
- (d) willingness to participate in institutional affairs and professional service to the University and/or to the public.

**3.8.5.3** An initial appointment to the rank of assistant professor is normally for a probationary term of four academic years. Before the end of the third year of the four-year probationary term, the assistant professor shall receive written notice whether, when the current term expires, she or he will be reappointed at that rank for a second probationary term of three years or not be reappointed.

**3.8.5.4** Before the end of the second year of the three-year term as assistant professor, the assistant professor shall receive written notice whether she or he will be reappointed with permanent tenure at the higher rank or not be reappointed.

**3.8.5.5** If a faculty member begins employment between January 1 and May 15, the partial academic or calendar year shall not count as part of the probationary period.

**3.8.5.6** The departmental chair and an assistant professor candidate must negotiate any credit for service elsewhere to be granted toward tenure and promotion at the time of the offer. The candidate may submit to her or his departmental chair a written request (with appropriate supporting documentation) that up to, but no more than, three years served elsewhere in a tenured or tenurable position (or in an equivalent position) may be counted toward tenure and promotion at Appalachian State University. Following review of materials and consultation with the departmental promotion and tenure committee, the chair will make a recommendation to the dean, and the dean will make a recommendation to the provost and executive vice chancellor. The final decision, which shall rest with the provost and executive vice chancellor, shall be made on the basis of the verified documentation provided and shall be irrevocable. Any service credited toward tenure and promotion must be specified in the letter of offer at the time of hire and included in the provisions of the initial contract.

**3.8.5.7** If one year of service elsewhere is counted, the initial contract will be for a probationary term of three years. Before the end of the second year of the first three-year term, the assistant professor shall receive written notice whether, when the current term expires, she or he will be reappointed at the same rank for a second probationary term of three years or not be reappointed. Before the end of the second year of the second three-year term as assistant professor, the assistant professor shall receive written notice whether she or he will be reappointed with permanent tenure at the higher rank or not be reappointed.

**3.8.5.8** If two years of service elsewhere are counted, the initial contract will be for a probationary term of three years. Before the end of the second year of the three-year term, the assistant professor shall receive written notice whether, when the current term expires, she or he will be reappointed at the same rank for a second probationary term of two years or not be reappointed. Before the end of the first year of the two-year term as assistant professor, the assistant professor shall receive written notice whether she or he will be reappointed with permanent tenure at the higher rank or not be reappointed.

**3.8.5.9** If three years of service elsewhere are counted, the initial contract will be for a probationary term of four years. Before the end of the third year of the four-year term, the assistant professor shall receive written notice whether she or he will be reappointed with permanent tenure at the higher rank or not be reappointed.

**3.8.5.10** The probationary service with respect to permanent tenure of a faculty member who has been granted a leave or course-load reduction under the terms of [section 6.2.1.1 \(g\)](#) shall be calculated in accordance with the provisions of that section. The calculation of probationary service in such circumstances shall be automatic, and no request for such calculation need be made by the faculty member.

**3.8.5.11** A faculty member may submit to her or his departmental chair a written request for a determination that extraordinary circumstances warrant not counting a specific academic year as part of the faculty member's probationary period with respect to permanent tenure. Any such request should be submitted as soon as practicable, but in no event later than ninety (90) calendar days following the close of the academic year in which the circumstances occurred. The departmental chair shall submit the request to the departmental promotion and tenure committee for review and recommendation; and, upon receipt of the departmental promotion and tenure committee's recommendation, the departmental chair shall forward that recommendation along with the departmental chair's recommendation to the dean. The dean shall in turn forward her or his recommendation to the provost and executive vice chancellor, who shall make a determination whether extraordinary circumstances warrant not counting the specified academic year as part of the faculty member's probationary period with respect to permanent tenure.

**3.8.5.12** The total time not counted toward a faculty member's probationary period with respect to permanent tenure (see sections [3.8.5.11](#), [3.8.5.13](#), and [6.2](#)) may not exceed two academic years.

**3.8.5.13** An Assistant Professor who has demonstrated exceptional performance by exceeding departmental criteria during their probationary period may request review for promotion to Associate Professor with tenure one year earlier than the mandatory year (see [3.8.5.14](#)). An Assistant Professor must request review for promotion and tenure at the same time. If the Assistant Professor is granted promotion to Associate Professor and tenure, the action shall become

effective at the beginning of the next fiscal year. If the Assistant Professor is unsuccessful in his/her review, he/she may request review in the following, mandatory year.

**3.8.5.14** An Assistant Professor must be considered for tenure during his or her sixth year if he or she has not been granted tenure earlier ([3.8.5.13](#)) Under no circumstances should the length of the probationary period exceed seven years of full-time service except when the probationary period has been extended according the provisions of [3.8.5.10](#), [3.8.5.11](#), and/or [6.2](#).

**3.8.5.15** The failure to give the required notice of a decision not to reappoint at any point herein required has the same effect as a decision at that time to offer a terminal appointment for one academic year at the same rank. The decisions herein required shall be made as provided in [section 4.4](#).

### **3.8.6 Associate Professor**

**3.8.6.1** See [The University of North Carolina Policy Manual, section 400.3.1.1](#), concerning required discussions relating to the primacy of teaching.

**3.8.6.2** Minimal criteria for consideration of appointment/promotion to the rank of associate professor are:

- (a) the appropriate earned terminal degree from an accredited institution, and at least five (5) years of appropriate experience, unless there are exceptional circumstances;
- (b) recognized skill in teaching;
- (c) recognized accomplishment in research or other germane creative activity;
- (d) recognized accomplishment in professional service to the University and/or to the public; and
- (e) demonstrated willingness to participate in institutional affairs.

**3.8.6.3** An initial appointment to the rank of associate professor may be with tenure or for a probationary term of up to five academic years. The length of this initial appointment takes into account credit toward tenure and promotion for service elsewhere.

**3.8.6.4** If a faculty member begins employment between January 1 and May 15, the partial academic or calendar year shall not count as part of the probationary period.

**3.8.6.5** If an associate professor candidate is not appointed with tenure, the departmental chair and the candidate must negotiate any credit for service elsewhere to be granted toward tenure at the time of the offer. The candidate may submit to her or his departmental chair a written request (with appropriate supporting documentation) that up to, but no more than, three years served elsewhere in a tenured or tenurable position (or in an equivalent) may be counted toward tenure and promotion at Appalachian State University. Following review of materials and consultation with the departmental promotion and tenure committee, the chair will make a recommendation to the dean, and the dean will make a recommendation to the provost and executive vice chancellor. The final decision, which shall rest with the provost and executive vice chancellor, shall be made on the basis of the verified documentation provided and shall be irrevocable. Any service credited toward tenure and promotion must be specified in the letter of offer at the time of hire and included in the provisions of the initial contract.

**3.8.6.6** The probationary service with respect to permanent tenure of a faculty member who has been granted a leave or course-load reduction under the terms of [section 6.2.1.1 \(g\)](#) shall be calculated in accordance with the provisions of that section. The calculation of probationary

service in such circumstances shall be automatic, and no request for such calculation need be made by the faculty member.

**3.8.6.7** A faculty member may submit to her or his departmental chair a written request for a determination that extraordinary circumstances warrant not counting a specific academic year as part of the faculty member's probationary period with respect to permanent tenure. Any such request should be submitted as soon as practicable, but in no event later than ninety (90) calendar days following the close of the academic year in which the circumstances occurred. The departmental chair shall submit the request to the departmental promotion and tenure committee for review and recommendation; and, upon receipt of the departmental promotion and tenure committee's recommendation, the departmental chair shall forward that recommendation along with the departmental chair's recommendation to the dean. The dean shall in turn forward her or his recommendation to the provost and executive vice chancellor, who shall make a determination whether extraordinary circumstances warrant not counting the specified academic year as part of the faculty member's probationary period with respect to permanent tenure.

**3.8.6.8** The total time not counted toward a faculty member's probationary period with respect to permanent tenure ([3.8.6.5](#), [3.8.6.6](#), and [6.2](#)) may not exceed two academic years.

**3.8.6.9** Associate Professors, not appointed with tenure, shall be reviewed for tenure no later than the fourth year of appointment except when the probationary period has been extended according to the provisions of [3.8.6.6](#), [3.8.6.7](#) and [6.2](#).

**3.8.6.10** Before the end of the probationary term, the associate professor shall receive written notice whether she or he will be recommended for permanent tenure at the same or higher rank when the current term expires or not be reappointed, consistent with the schedule of "Notice of Reappointment or Non-reappointment" specified in section 604A (1) of The Code of The University of North Carolina:

- (a) During the first year of service at the institution, the faculty member shall be given not less than ninety (90) calendar days' notice before the employment contract expires;
- (b) During the second year of continuous service at the institution, the faculty member shall be given not less than 180 calendar days' notice before the employment contract expires; and
- (c) After two or more years of continuous service at the institution, the faculty member shall be given not less than twelve (12) months' notice before the employment contract expires.

**3.8.6.11** The failure to give the required notice of a decision not to reappoint at any point herein required has the same effect as a decision at that time to offer a terminal appointment for one academic year at the same rank. The decisions herein required shall be made as provided in [section 4.4](#).

**3.8.6.12** A promotion at any time from the rank of associate professor to the rank of professor confers permanent tenure from the effective date of the promotion. Since this promotion confers permanent tenure, it must be approved by the chancellor and the Board of Trustees.

### **3.8.7 Professor**

**3.8.7.1** See [The University of North Carolina Policy Manual, section 400.3.1.1](#), concerning required discussions relating to the primacy of teaching.

**3.8.7.2** Minimal criteria for consideration of appointment/promotion to the rank of professor are:

- (a) the appropriate earned terminal degree from an accredited institution, and at least ten (10) completed years of appropriate experience unless there is exceptional performance;
- (b) recognized skill in teaching;
- (c) evidence of at least one of the following:
  - (i) outstanding accomplishment in research or other germane creative activity with ongoing, recognized accomplishment in professional service to the University and/or public; or
  - (ii) outstanding accomplishment in professional service to the University and/or to the public with ongoing, recognized accomplishment in research or other germane creative activity; and
- (d) demonstrated ability and participation in institutional affairs.

**3.8.7.3** An initial appointment to the rank of professor shall be made with permanent tenure.

## **3.9 Faculty Status of Librarians**

Librarians who meet the criteria for classification as professional librarians are entitled to faculty status with appropriate rank designation. A professional librarian has at least a master's degree in library science or related fields and is filling a position in which specialized training and experience are required. Librarians have faculty status, hold appropriate rank, may attain tenure, and are employed and evaluated according to the appropriate criteria and procedures followed in the appointment and evaluation of other faculty members.

## **3.10 Joint Appointments**

**3.10.1** A faculty member may hold only one probationary or permanent tenure appointment at a professorial rank at a time. This appointment may be held in a single department or, by joint appointment, in more than one department. Joint appointments may be made in which the appointee holds a probationary or permanent professorial rank in one department and a fixed-term rank in another department, or different fixed-term ranks in different departments. A joint appointment to the faculty of more than one department may be made in accordance with the provisions of this subsection. When an initial joint appointment is to be made, the regular procedures prescribed herein for initial appointment to the rank proposed shall be followed simultaneously by the departments involved in making a joint recommendation for appointment. The joint recommendation shall designate one of the departments as the unit of base appointment, and shall set forth as special terms and conditions for inclusion in the appointing document the basis of initial funding of the appointment. If one of the joint appointments is made at a probationary or permanent professorial rank, the department in which that appointment has been made shall be the base department. If the joint appointment is approved, thereafter the base department is responsible for processing personnel actions that affect the appointee.

**3.10.2** An appointment to a single department may be converted into a joint appointment. The departmental chairs concerned shall jointly recommend through the regular channels for review of initial appointments that the existing appointment be converted into a joint appointment. Their recommendation shall include the same elements required in recommending an initial joint appointment. If the recommendation is approved, the joint appointee retains the single rank with the same incidents of academic tenure already possessed. Thereafter, all personnel actions affecting the joint appointee's academic tenure shall be processed as provided for in an initial joint appointment.

### **3.11 Retirement Policy**

**3.11.1** Faculty may retire in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 135 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

**3.11.2** When tenured members of the faculty retire, they relinquish all tenure rights; any subsequent employment will be subject to post-retirement policies and procedures.

**3.11.3** For information regarding The University of North Carolina Phased Retirement Program, see the Appalachian State University Human Resource Services web site:

<http://hrs.appstate.edu/faculty-staff/benefits/retirement-programs/phased-retirement>

### **3.12 Emeritus Status**

Emeritus faculty status may be awarded to honor a faculty member who is retired or resigns due to a long-term disability and has had a distinguished professional career and has made significant contributions to Appalachian State University. Successful candidates for consideration to the emeritus rank will have:

- (1) permanent tenure and at least ten years of full-time employment at Appalachian State University prior to retirement/long-term disability resignation. The emeritus rank is that held at retirement/long-term disability resignation; and
- (2) a consistent record of quality performance as demonstrated by one or more of the following:
  - (a) a substantive record of scholarly achievement commensurate with national and international standards within the specific discipline;
  - (b) a recognized record of outstanding teaching and educational contributions; and
  - (c) evidence of significant service to the University and to the respective discipline.

#### **3.12.1 Emeritus Status Procedure**

The candidate initiates application for emeritus status no later than September 15 in the year of consideration. A letter will be submitted to the departmental promotion and tenure committee with supporting documentation including a comprehensive curriculum vitae and record of the faculty member's achievement and contribution to the University and the appropriate discipline. The committee will review the application and make approval, or non-approval, as provided for other personnel decisions to the department chair.

The department chair will forward his/her recommendation, with the supporting materials, to the appropriate dean. The dean will forward his/her recommendation, with the supporting materials, to the provost and executive vice chancellor by December 15. The provost and executive vice chancellor, after his/her review will forward his/her recommendation as well as the recommendations of the other reviewing individuals/bodies to the chancellor by February 15. Upon approval of the chancellor, the provost and executive vice chancellor will submit the candidate's documentation to the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees for consideration at the spring semester meeting. Candidates whose emeritus rank has been approved by the Board of Trustees are notified promptly. The chancellor will confer the rank during the August annual meeting of the University. A letter of commendation and an emeritus faculty



medallion shall accompany the emeritus faculty designation from the chancellor upon official notice of the faculty member's full retirement/long-term disability resignation from the University, i.e., at the end of any phased retirement service period or upon immediate, full retirement, or upon documentation of resignation due to long-term disability.

### **3.13 Special Faculty Appointments**

**3.13.1** See [The University of North Carolina Policy Manual, Section 400.3.1.1](#), concerning required discussions relating to the primacy of teaching.

**3.13.2** Faculty members who are appointed as visiting faculty members, adjunct faculty, lecturers, artists-in-residence, writers-in-residence, practitioners-in-residence, executives-in-residence, clinical faculty, research faculty, postdoctoral fellows, or other special categories are regarded as "special faculty members" for purposes of the University Code. Such appointments are non-tenure-track appointments. Prior to appointment or reappointment, the credentials of candidates for Special Faculty appointments will be reviewed by the departmental personnel committee (see [Section 4.1.3.1](#)). Among special faculty, only Lecturers or Senior Lecturers have unit or university voting rights as specified in Article II of the Faculty Constitution.

**3.13.3** Special faculty members may be paid or unpaid. Such an appointment characterized by any of the foregoing title designations is appropriate for one who is qualified for teaching, research, academic administration, or public service but for whom neither the professorial ranks nor the instructor rank is appropriate because of the limited duration of the mission for which the appointment is made, or because of concern for continued availability of special funding for the position, or for other valid institutional reasons.

#### **3.13.4 Lecturers**

**3.13.4.1** Lecturers must possess at least a master's degree from an accredited institution with 18 graduate credits in their field of teaching. The lecturer rank will be used for non-tenure-track faculty with a workload of at least nine hours or the equivalent per semester and a contract for an academic year or longer. Such appointments are eligible for benefits as allowed by the State of North Carolina. Lecturers may receive consideration to advance in rank based on a combination of length of service and meritorious service. However, advancement in rank is not required for reappointment. Appointments of special faculty members shall be recommended by search committees or DPCs as determined by the departmental faculty. Recommendations for promotions for special faculty members shall be the responsibility of DPCs. The rank of lecturer carries with it the requirement of teaching and institutional service.

**3.13.4.2** The rank of lecturer is appropriate for an initial appointment. There is no limit on the number of times that a lecturer may be appointed. Minimal criteria for consideration of appointment to the rank of lecturer are:

- (a) A master's degree from an accredited institution with 18 graduate credits in their field of teaching;
- (b) Evidence of potential in teaching; and
- (c) Evidence of potential in institutional service.

**3.13.4.3** Upon promotion from lecturer to senior lecturer, faculty members retain their status as faculty members under [Article I of the Faculty Constitution](#). Minimal criteria for consideration of appointment to the rank of senior lecturer are:

- (a) A master's degree from an accredited institution with 18 graduate credits in their field of teaching; and experience teaching a minimum of 40 courses (or the equivalent thereof) at Appalachian post matriculation for the master's degree;
- (b) Demonstrated ability in teaching; and
- (c) Demonstrated ability in institutional service to the university.

### **3.13.5 Clinical Faculty**

During the term of their employment, special faculty members are entitled to seek recourse under Section 607 of the University Code and [section 4.11.3](#) of this *Faculty Handbook* (relating to faculty grievances).

**3.13.5.1** The primary responsibilities of clinical faculty are clinical education and service. Clinical faculty must be qualified as defined by professional/discipline standards, have practical experience appropriate for the responsibilities assigned, and must maintain appropriate professional credentials. Clinical faculty have the opportunity to advance in rank based on a combination of length of service and meritorious service. However, advancement in rank is not required for reappointment. Such appointments are eligible for benefits as allowed by the State of North Carolina. Appointments of special faculty members shall be recommended by search committees or DPCs as determined by the departmental faculty. Recommendations for promotions for special faculty members shall be the responsibility of DPCs.

**3.13.5.2** Minimal criteria for consideration of appointment to the rank of clinical instructor are:

- (a) A master's degree from an accredited institution in an appropriate field and appropriate licensures and certifications; and
- (b) Demonstrated ability in clinical/professional practice; and
- (c) Demonstrated ability to perform teaching duties associated with the position; and
- (d) Demonstrated willingness to assist the unit in meeting its needs for clinical/professional services.

**3.13.5.3** Minimal criteria for consideration of appointment/promotion to the rank of clinical assistant professor are:

- (a) The appropriate earned terminal degree in the field of practice from an accredited institution, unless there are exceptional circumstances, and appropriate licensures and certifications;
- (b) Demonstrated ability in clinical/professional practice; and
- (c) Demonstrated ability to perform teaching duties associated with the position;
- (d) Demonstrated willingness to contribute to research, publications, and presentations associated with the position;
- (e) Demonstrated willingness to assist the unit in meeting its needs for clinical/professional services.

**3.13.5.4** Minimal criteria for consideration of appointment/promotion to the rank of clinical associate professor are:



- (a) The appropriate earned terminal degree in the field of practice from an accredited institution, unless there are exceptional circumstances; and appropriate licensures and certifications; and at least seven years of appropriate professional experience; and
- (b) Recognized skill in clinical/professional practice; and
- (c) Recognized skill in teaching associated with the position; and
- (d) Recognized accomplishment in research, publications, and presentations associated with the position; and
- (e) Recognized accomplishment in assisting the unit in meeting its needs for clinical/professional services.

**3.13.5.5** Minimal criteria for consideration of appointment/promotion to the rank of clinical professor are:

- (a) The appropriate earned terminal degree in the field of practice from an accredited institution, unless there are exceptional circumstances; and appropriate licensures and certifications; and at least twelve years of appropriate professional experience; and
- (b) Outstanding skill and accomplishments in clinical/professional practice; and
- (c) Evidence of at least one of the following:
  - (i) recognized skill in teaching associated with the position and exceptional accomplishment in research, publications, and presentations associated with the position; or
  - (ii) exceptional accomplishment in teaching associated with the position and recognized accomplishment in research, publications, and presentations associated with the position; and
- (d) Recognized accomplishment in assisting the unit in meeting its needs for clinical/professional services.

### **3.13.6 Research Faculty**

Special faculty members, whether paid or unpaid, are not covered by Section 604 of the University Code (relating to appointment, non-reappointment, and requirements of notice and review for tenure track faculty), and that section does not accord them rights to additional review of a decision by a constituent institution not to grant a new appointment at the end of a specified fixed term.

**3.13.6.1** The primary responsibility of research faculty is research, but they may be involved in teaching and service. Research faculty have the opportunity to advance in rank based on a combination of length of service and meritorious performance. However, advancement in rank is not required for reappointment. Such appointments are eligible for benefits as allowed by the State of North Carolina. Appointments of special faculty members shall be recommended by search committees or DPCs as determined by the departmental faculty. Recommendations for promotions for special faculty members shall be the responsibility of DPCs.

**3.13.6.2** Minimal criteria for consideration of appointment to the rank of research assistant professor are:

- (a) The appropriate earned terminal degree from an accredited institution or outstanding research training, credentials, and accomplishments earned in a non-university environment;
- (b) Research accomplishments comparable to those of tenure-track faculty at the same rank that have comparable experience;

- (c) Potential to obtain external funding;
- (d) Demonstrated potential to contribute to research, publications, and presentations associated with the position;
- (e) Demonstrated potential to assist the unit in accomplishing its research agenda.

**3.13.6.3** Minimal criteria for consideration of appointment/promotion to the rank of research associate professor are:

- (a) The appropriate earned terminal degree from an accredited institution or outstanding research training, credentials, and accomplishments earned in a non- university environment; and at least five years' appropriate experience;
- (b) Research accomplishments comparable to those of tenured faculty at the same rank;
- (c) Demonstrated success at obtaining external funding;
- (d) Demonstrated contributions to the unit's research agenda.

**3.13.6.4** Minimal criteria for consideration of appointment/promotion to the rank of research professor are:

- (a) The appropriate earned terminal degree from an accredited institution or outstanding research training, credentials, and accomplishments earned in a non- university environment; and at least ten years' appropriate experience;
- (b) Research accomplishments comparable to those of tenured faculty at the same rank;
- (c) Outstanding success at obtaining external funding; and
- (d) Extensive contributions to research, publications, and presentations associated with the position;
- (e) Sustained and increasingly significant contributions to the unit's research agenda.

**3.13.7** Special faculty members who are paid shall be appointed for a specified term of service, as set out in writing in the letter of appointment. Appointments may be for a fixed term of one, two, three, four, or five years. The term of appointment of any paid special faculty member concludes at the end of the specified period set forth in the letter of appointment, and the letter of appointment constitutes full and timely notice that a new term will not be automatically granted or guaranteed when that term expires. This institution shall not be obliged to give any notice before a current term expires as to whether appointment will be offered for a new term.

**3.13.8** Special faculty members who are not paid may be appointed for a specified term of service or at will. Their pay and appointment status should be set out in the letter of appointment.

**3.13.9** During the term of their employment, special faculty members are entitled to seek recourse under Section 607 of the University Code and Section [4.11.3](#) of this *Faculty Handbook* (relating to faculty grievances).

**3.13.10** Special faculty members, whether paid or unpaid, are not covered by Section 604 of the University Code (relating to appointment, non-reappointment, and requirements of notice and review for tenure track faculty), and that section does not accord them rights to additional review of a decision by a constituent institution not to grant a new appointment at the end of a specified fixed term.

## 3.14 Part-Time Faculty

**3.14.1** See [The University of North Carolina Policy Manual, section 400.3.1.1](#) concerning required discussions relating to the primacy of teaching.

### 3.14.2 Definition and Titles

**3.14.2.1** A part-time faculty member is defined as a person with a faculty appointment and whose workload is less than twelve (12) semester credit hours or the equivalent per semester.

**3.14.2.2** See section [3.13](#), especially sections [3.13.2](#) and [3.13.3](#) for definitions and titles applicable to special faculty, a category which includes part-time faculty.

**3.14.2.3** Titles under which part-time faculty are appointed can be found in [section 3.13](#). The vast majority of part-time faculty are appointed at the rank of lecturer or adjunct instructor.

### 3.14.3 Terms of Contracts

**3.14.3.1** The terms and conditions of each appointment to a part-time faculty position shall be set forth in a written contract. A copy of the contract, including rank, salary (when possible), and contract date, signed by the Chancellor or the Chancellor's designee, shall be delivered to the faculty member. Contracts for part-time faculty are for fixed terms and may range from one semester to five years. Any special terms and conditions shall be clearly stated in the contract. The chair or dean who recommends the appointment shall be responsible for initiating the inclusions of special terms and conditions in contracts.

**3.14.3.2** Initial appointments may be for a fixed term of up to three years. Subsequent appointments to fixed terms of from one to five years' duration may be made either in direct succession or at intervals. Each shall be considered an initial appointment. This institution shall not be obliged to give any notice before a current term expires as to whether appointment will be offered for a succeeding term (see [section 3.13.7](#)).

**3.14.3.3** Part-time faculty will share with full-time faculty all rights guaranteed under the concept of academic freedom and all responsibilities as defined in section 3.3, entitled "Academic Freedom and Responsibility of Faculty."

**3.14.3.4** During the period of their employment, part-time faculty shall have full access to benefits of the dispute resolution processes outlined in [section 4.11](#) of this *Faculty Handbook*.

### 3.14.4 Benefits

The policy of the State of North Carolina is such that part-time faculty must have a workload of nine hours or the equivalent per semester and have a contract for an academic year in order to be eligible for benefits (see [Chapter VIII](#)). Part-time faculty with a contract of shorter duration are not eligible for such benefits as health coverage, disability salary continuation plan, group life and other insurance plans (see [Chapter VIII](#)).

### 3.14.5 Services

**3.14.5.1** Part-time faculty are eligible for the following services listed in Chapter VIII, [section 8.5](#): Auxiliary Services, University Bookstore, AppCard Office, Food Services, Controller, and Administrative Services. Part-time faculty are also eligible for all services provided by the State Employees Credit Union.

**3.14.5.2** Current part-time students, faculty, instructors, adjunct faculty, staff, and temporary employees are allowed to use recreational facilities. Their dependents and spouses are eligible to use the recreational facilities and to obtain an Appalachian State University ID card.

### **3.14.6 Salary Checks**

Part-time faculty salaries are paid in accordance with the schedule outlined in the employment offer contingent upon the completion of all appropriate forms and documents.

### **3.14.7 Tuition Free Courses**

Part-time faculty whose workload is less than nine hours or the equivalent and whose contract is less than an academic year are not eligible for tuition free courses (see Statement 15 of the Resource Manual of Administrative Policies and Procedures dated October 15, 1993). It is state policy that employees who are not eligible for participation in a state approved retirement plan cannot take tuition free courses.

### **3.14.8 Parking**

**3.14.8.1** Part-time faculty are eligible to receive a campus parking permit. Vehicle registration fees may be payroll deducted. For more information see the [Appalachian State University Parking and Traffic Regulations](#).

**3.14.8.2** Faculty with semester contracts will also have the option for payroll deduction. This deduction will be taken out in three installments for semester or year permits (no refunds). To be eligible for payroll deduction a faculty member must obtain a form from the appropriate dean and bring it to the University Parking and Traffic Department to fill out the necessary paperwork.

## **IV. Selected Regulations Applicable to Academic Administration and Faculty Employment**

### **4.1 Departmental Personnel Committees, Departmental Tenure and Promotion Committees, and Search Committees**

#### **4.1.1 Regulations of Departmental Personnel Committees**

The composition, functions, and procedures of departmental personnel committees as outlined in this section of the *Faculty Handbook* are the official guidelines for these committees and must be followed in all cases. Each department shall draw up its own specific operating procedures (e.g. size of committee, length of term, etc.) for the departmental personnel committee, and these shall be in accordance with the guidelines outlined herein. The provost and executive vice chancellor shall be responsible for seeking interpretations of any relevant regulations or policies.

#### **4.1.2 Composition of Departmental Personnel Committees**

**4.1.2.1** Each academic department (or other comparable academic subdivision) shall have a personnel committee consisting of at least four faculty members and the chair. When possible, the four faculty members shall consist of three tenured individuals and one non-tenured individual. In addition, when possible there shall be two alternates (one tenured and one non-tenured) who should attend all meetings and who shall, in cases of absences or recusals (see sections [4.1.4.1](#) through [4.1.4.5](#) and section [4.1.4.9](#)), take the place of faculty members in the respective tenure categories, thus preserving the 3/1 tenured/non-tenured ratio.

**4.1.2.2** The departmental chair shall serve as the non-voting chair of the departmental personnel committee and shall preside at all meetings. The chair shall establish called meetings when two or more committee members make a written request for a meeting of the DPC. When the personnel action being considered involves the departmental chair, the DPC will elect for that action a chair from among its tenured members.

**4.1.2.3** Every department's faculty shall elect the departmental personnel committee using the procedures in *Robert's Rules of Order* as currently revised, and determine the length of terms on the DPC. In departments with an adequate number of faculty, no faculty member may serve more than three consecutive years on a DPC. Persons who hold academic rank within a department, whether or not their salaries are from state-appropriated funds, shall be eligible for the committee.

**4.1.2.4** A departmental unit may increase the size of its departmental personnel committee by adding tenured and non-tenured faculty on the basis of a 3:1 ratio (when possible), excluding the departmental chair.

**4.1.2.5** The committee shall select a recorder from its voting membership.

#### **4.1.3 Functions of Departmental Personnel Committees**

**4.1.3.1** The functions of the departmental personnel committee in each department shall include, but not be limited to:

- (a) reviewing the credentials of all applicants for new or vacant non-tenure eligible positions including special faculty appointments, interviewing selected candidates, and making a recommendation to the chair of two or more qualified persons to fill the position (except in the case of special faculty appointments or when circumstances make only one candidate acceptable), and through the chair to the dean and the provost and executive vice chancellor. The personnel committee may or may not submit nominations in rank order of preference. Search committees may be established to assist or supplant the departmental personnel committee in performance of these functions (see SEARCH COMMITTEE [section 4.1.9](#)). Each member of a search committee shall be subject to the same confidentiality obligations that apply to departmental personnel committees.
- (b) reviewing all non-tenure eligible and special faculty (see sections [3.13-14](#)) and making recommendations regarding appointments, reappointments and promotions. The committee shall make a recommendation to the chair, who in turn shall make a recommendation to the dean; the dean will make a recommendation to the provost and executive vice chancellor and make known to the provost and executive vice chancellor the recommendation of the chair concerning the future employment of such faculty. The recommendations described above shall be accompanied by the results of the departmental personnel committee's vote, supporting material, and all documents submitted to the committee.

#### **4.1.4 Procedures of Departmental Personnel Committees**

**4.1.4.1** All meetings of departmental personnel committees shall be held on campus. Each member of an academic department must be notified in writing of all meetings and agenda items of the departmental personnel committee. The announcement should clearly state the time and place of the meeting and it should become a part of the DPC's permanent records. All department members who so desire may present their views before the committee in regard to any item(s) on the agenda.

**4.1.4.2** In all cases involving a vote on personnel decisions, the full voting membership of the departmental personnel committee must be present. Alternates should attend all meetings and vote in the absences of regular members.

**4.1.4.3** No abstention votes shall be allowed in DPC personnel decisions. Instead, if a voting member of the DPC wishes to be recused relative to any of the personnel items on a meeting's agenda, that person must provide the departmental chair with written notification of recusal from both the discussion and the vote on that particular matter. For that one personnel decision, an alternate from the respective tenure category shall then step in for both the deliberation and the vote. This rule shall supersede the rule in *Robert's Rules of Order* relative to the right of abstention.

**4.1.4.4** When possible, the aforementioned written notification shall be submitted with sufficient promptness to allow the alternate to be notified, before the meeting, that the alternate will become a voting member for that one agenda item.

**4.1.4.5** With the exception of the written notification ruling, this no-abstention-votes regulation shall also apply to the two situations noted in section [4.1.4.9](#). In those situations, recusal is required.

**4.1.4.6** The minutes of the departmental personnel committee should record all persons in attendance at the DPC meeting and all members of the DPC absent from the particular meeting. A record should be kept of each personnel action considered; however, this should not include individual comments. The written record should state that the personnel committee formally considered personnel action of the particular faculty member and should state those things that

were considered. The minutes should show the vote (the number of affirmative and negative votes) on each action, but not the votes of individual members of the committee.

**4.1.4.7** All minutes of departmental personnel committee action must be approved and, if necessary, modified by a majority of the assembled committee. Such action will normally take place at the next meeting of the DPC except that, following the last meeting of the committee in a given academic year, the recorder shall be responsible for gaining the approval of the minutes from the voting members of the committee.

**4.1.4.8** A permanent file of all minutes of the DPC shall be maintained in each department office. Nothing in these guidelines shall violate the confidentiality of the DPC minutes, except that any individual faculty member shall have access to those portions of the minutes of meetings in which personnel actions involving that faculty member were considered. All motions must be phrased in the affirmative.

**4.1.4.9** A member of the departmental personnel committee may not vote on any matter before the committee that concerns that member or any related person. In this case, the alternate member shall serve.

**4.1.4.10** The results of the DPC vote, supporting material, and all documents submitted to the committee, shall be forwarded with the departmental chair's recommendation to the dean and through the dean to the provost and executive vice chancellor.

#### **4.1.5 Regulations of Departmental Promotion and Tenure Committees**

The composition, functions and procedures of departmental promotion and tenure committees as outlined in this section of the *Faculty Handbook* are the official guidelines for these committees and must be followed in all cases. The provost and executive vice chancellor shall be responsible for seeking interpretations of any relevant regulations or policies. In departments where search committees make recommendations directly to departmental chairs, no reviewing group or persons may substitute their judgment for that of a search committee on matters relating to the professional qualifications of the individual involved, i.e., the individual's ability to fulfill adequately the professional requirements of the position. In departments where search committees 1) are not utilized or 2) make recommendations to departmental promotion and tenure committees, no reviewing group or persons may substitute their judgment for that of the departmental chair and/or the departmental promotion and tenure committee (PTC) on matters relating to the professional qualifications of the individual involved, i.e., the individual's ability to hold a certain rank in that department. However, in accordance with *The Code of The University of North Carolina*, section 602 (4), those charged with making decisions on initial appointment, reappointment, promotion and tenure shall examine and evaluate "DEMONSTRATED PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE," i.e., the faculty member's actual performance, in addition to other criteria in making those decisions. The full text of section 602 (4) follows:

The tenure policies and regulations of each institution shall set forth the general considerations upon which appointment, reappointment, promotion, and permanent tenure are to be recommended. The institutional regulations shall provide that these considerations shall include an assessment of at least the following: the faculty member's demonstrated professional competence, the faculty member's potential or future contribution, and institutional needs and resources. Each member of a promotion and tenure committee shall be



subject to the same confidentiality obligations that apply to search committees and departmental personnel committees.

#### **4.1.6 Composition of Departmental Promotion and Tenure Committees**

**4.1.6.1** Each departmental unit with tenure lines shall have one Promotion and Tenure Committee consisting of all tenured faculty members, excluding the department chair and excluding those who must recuse themselves (see [section 4.1.8.8](#)). In departments with fewer than four (4) tenured faculty members, the tenured faculty members will make nominations of tenured faculty in allied disciplines on campus and will elect from those nominated for a total of four (4) members who will serve for one year. Every election made to or by departmental Promotion and Tenure Committees shall use the procedures in *Robert's Rules of Order* as currently revised.

**4.1.6.2** The departmental chair shall schedule all departmental PTC meetings. While the chair shall be responsible for knowing and sharing both information about procedural matters and information requested by the committee, the chair's role in the committee's deliberations and decision shall be minimal. The departmental chair shall not vote on the PTC.

**4.1.6.3** At its first meeting, the PTC will elect a committee chair from among its members. The committee chair's responsibilities include: compiling the votes of the committee members, and forwarding the votes and the vote justification letters to both the departmental chair and dean.

**4.1.6.4** Tenured faculty members on OCSA or Family and Medical Leave are not required to serve on the PTC while on full paid or unpaid leave (6.2.3.3). However, they are eligible to serve should they decide to do so.

#### **4.1.7 Functions of Departmental Promotion and Tenure Committees**

**4.1.7.1** Departmental promotion and tenure committees (PTCs) make recommendations regarding contract renewal for tenure track faculty, Emeritus status (see [section 3.12](#)), graduate faculty status for tenure track and tenured faculty (see [4.5.3](#) and [4.4.5.1](#)), the granting of permanent tenure, and promotion to tenure track or tenured ranks, either when a request for tenure is made by a faculty member, or at the automatic intervals specified in section 3.8 (inclusive) of the *Faculty Handbook*. The committee shall make a recommendation to the departmental chair, who in turn shall make a recommendation to the dean, who will send to Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor both her/his own recommendation and that of the committee and the department chair concerning the advisability of conferring promotion and/or tenure.

#### **4.1.8 Procedures of Departmental Promotion and Tenure Committees**

**4.1.8.1** The tenure policies and regulations of each institution shall set forth the general considerations upon which appointment, reappointment, promotion, permanent tenure, and Emeritus status are to be recommended. The institutional regulations shall provide that these considerations shall include an assessment of at least the following: the faculty member's demonstrated professional competence, the faculty member's demonstrated past performance and the potential for future contribution, and institutional needs and resources.

**4.1.8.2** All meetings of promotion and tenure committees shall be held on campus. Each member of an academic department must be notified in writing of all meetings and agenda items of the PTC. The announcement should clearly state the time and place of the meeting and it should become a part of the PTC's permanent records. All tenure-track faculty members who so desire, except for



those who must recuse themselves (see [section 4.1.8.8](#)), may present their views before the committee in regard to any item(s) on the agenda.

**4.1.8.3** Face-to-face deliberations among the departmental PTC members are a crucial part of the faculty review of candidates being considered for reappointment, promotion, tenure, and/or Emeritus status. The justification of votes in writing should take place only after, and cannot substitute for, such face-to-face deliberation. All reasonable efforts must be made to attend meetings to discuss the candidate's case. Absentee votes and vote justification letters are, therefore, permitted only in extenuating circumstances.

**4.1.8.4** Voting will be carried out anonymously by paper ballots. In addition, each member of the departmental promotion and tenure committee (PTC) shall be encouraged to complete a university-wide vote justification form citing specific evidence of why the candidate does or does not meet departmental criteria for contract renewal, promotion, and/or tenure in the areas of teaching, research, and service as per the departmental guidelines. These forms are designed to provide important information to the deans and the provost in making their decisions.

The vote justification forms, which may be anonymous, shall be submitted within three working days of the PTC meeting at which the vote is taken. These letters shall be given to the committee chair, who will then provide these to the departmental chair and the dean at the end of the aforementioned working days, and sent through the dean to the provost and executive vice chancellor.

**4.1.8.5** The minutes of the PTC should record all persons in attendance at the PTC meeting and all members of the PTC absent from the particular meeting. A record should be kept of each personnel action considered; however, this should not include individual comments. The written record should state that the committee formally considered personnel action of the particular faculty member and should state those things that were considered. In instances of personnel action involving promotion or tenure of a faculty member, the minutes should state specifically that the criteria for promotion as set forth in section 3.8 or that the items required to be considered in granting tenure as specified in section 3.7 were considered along with any departmental criteria for promotion and tenure as published in the department's governing documents. The minutes should show the vote (the number of affirmative and negative votes) on each action, but not the votes of individual members of the committee.

**4.1.8.6** All minutes of the PTC action must be approved and, if necessary, modified by a majority of the assembled committee. Such action will normally take place at the next meeting of PTC except that, following the last meeting of the committee in a given academic year, the committee chair shall be responsible for gaining the approval of the minutes from the voting members of the committee.

**4.1.8.7** A permanent file of all minutes of the PTC shall be maintained in each department office. Nothing in these guidelines shall violate the confidentiality of the PTC minutes, except that any individual faculty member shall have access to those portions of the minutes of meetings in which personnel actions involving that faculty member were considered. All motions must be phrased in the affirmative.

**4.1.8.8** A member may be present at the promotion and tenure committee meeting in which his or her case will be considered for the sole purpose of presenting information and answering questions. The candidate will be recused from the discussion and from the vote on his or her promotion. The candidate may rejoin the meeting for other considerations and will be allowed to

participate in other PTC meetings during the year. Notification of results of the PTC vote for all candidates will not take place until the meeting is over. A member of the promotion and tenure committee may not address the PTC or cast a vote on any matter before the committee that concerns any related person.

**4.1.8.9** The candidate's file will remain in the main departmental office (or its electronic equivalent) and all tenured faculty members in that department will have access to review these materials.

**4.1.8.10** The results of the PTC vote, written vote justification statements, the candidate's supporting material, and all related documents submitted to the committee chair, shall be forwarded to the departmental chair who will include these materials along with her or his own recommendation to the dean, and through the dean to the provost and executive vice chancellor.

**4.1.8.11** The departmental chair shall notify the faculty member of the results of a departmental PTC vote on reappointment, emeritus status, tenure, or promotion within three working days following the date of the PTC vote, except under extenuating circumstances. Notification to the faculty member of the chair's recommendation to the dean on promotion, tenure, reappointment, or emeritus status should be made in a timely manner as defined by the college or school, not to exceed five working days, except under extenuating circumstances.

#### **4.1.9 Search Committees**

**4.1.9.1** The composition, functions and procedures of search committees for tenure track faculty as outlined in this section of the *Faculty Handbook* are the official guidelines for these committees and must be followed in all cases (NOTE: The departmental personnel committee reviews the credentials of all applicants for new or vacant special faculty appointments set forth in Section 4.1.3.1. Departmental Chair Search Committees are governed by Section 4.13.4). The provost and executive vice chancellor shall be responsible for seeking interpretations of any relevant regulations or policies. (See 4.13.4 for information on Departmental Chair Search Committees). In accordance with the guidelines outlined here, departments shall establish a standard method for creating search committees. Each department shall determine the size and membership of the committees. In all cases, no reviewing group or persons may substitute their judgment for that of a search committee on matters relating to the professional qualifications of the individual involved, i.e., the individual's ability to fulfill adequately the professional requirements of the position. In cases where search committees make recommendations to hire a candidate for a tenure track open-ranked position, the departmental promotion and tenure committee shall determine the candidate's recommended rank. If this is a joint appointment, at this time the "base" departmental unit of the faculty member must be determined in order for the base department's promotion and tenure committee to determine the candidate's recommended rank (see [Section 3.10](#)).

#### **4.1.9.2 Functions of Search Committees**

The search committee is responsible for reviewing ASU Policy Manual 601.8 "Hiring of EHRA Employees," as this policy may be amended from time to time. After the department has determined the general responsibilities for a faculty vacancy, the search committee shall prepare or review the job announcement, which contains minimum and preferred qualifications and shall develop selection criteria based on the position requirements. In accordance with ASU Policy Manual 601.8, the search committee shall oversee all aspects of advertising the position and

receiving applications; review all applications; conduct reference checks and preliminary interviews; and schedule and conduct on-campus interviews. Whenever possible, the search committee shall recommend at least two candidates for hire and may provide a ranked list of the candidates. Confidentiality shall be maintained throughout the search process, including, but not limited to, the identity of applicants, submitted application materials, reference checks, interviews, committee discussions and deliberations, short list determinations, and final offers. Information gathered during the search process shall not be shared with others in the department or unit who do not serve on the search committee without written permission from the applicants. Search committee members should not engage in discussions about the applicants or the submitted application materials, outside the confines of a search committee meeting which is “the only legally-privileged setting for discussion of confidential information related to a search”. (Quoted from ASU Policy Manual 601.8 Section 4.5.3).

#### **4.1.9.3 Search Committee Procedures**

(a) All meetings of search committees, involving deliberation, shall be held face-to-face or by appropriately secure digital communication on campus. Every member of an academic department must be notified in writing of all meetings and agenda items of the search committee. The announcement should clearly state the time and place of the meeting and it should become a part of the search committee’s records. All department members who so desire may present their views before the committee.

(b) The minutes of the search committee should record all persons in attendance at the meeting and all members absent. A record should be kept of each personnel action considered; however, this should not include individual comments. All personnel actions shall be determined by anonymous paper ballot votes. The written record should state that the search committee formally considered the personnel action. The minutes should show the vote (the number of affirmative and negative votes) on each action, but not the votes of individual members of the committee. All motions must be phrased in the affirmative.

(c) All minutes of search committee actions must be approved and, if necessary, modified by a majority of the assembled committee. Such action will normally take place at the next meeting of the committee except that, following the last meeting of the committee in a given academic year, the recorder shall be responsible for gaining the approval of the minutes from the voting members of the committee.

(d) A file of all minutes of the search committee shall be maintained with the search committee file (see ASU Policy Manual 601.8, Section 4.10). In addition, the paper ballots for each vote should be kept in sealed, labeled and dated envelopes with the search committee file. Nothing in these guidelines shall violate the confidentiality of the search committee minutes.

## **4.2 Appointments to the Faculty**

**4.2.1 See [The University of North Carolina Policy Manual, section 400.3.1.1](#) concerning required discussions relating to the primacy of teaching.**

**4.2.2** Initial appointments to the faculty shall be made by the provost and executive vice chancellor following receipt of the recommendations of the departmental personnel committee and/or the search committee, the departmental chair, and the dean.

### **4.2.3 Terms and Conditions of Appointment: The Contract**

**4.2.3.1** The terms and conditions of each initial appointment and each reappointment to the faculty shall be set forth in a written contract. The contract shall incorporate by reference all University policies, as they may be adopted and amended from time to time. A copy of the contract, including rank, salary (when possible), and contract date, and signed by the chancellor or the chancellor's delegate, shall be delivered to the faculty member.

**4.2.3.2** Any special terms and conditions shall be clearly stated in the contract. The chair or dean who recommends the appointment shall be responsible for initiating the inclusion of special terms and conditions in contracts.

**4.2.3.3** Contracts of reappointment shall be sent by March 1. Faculty members shall be notified that they must respond to these contracts within thirty calendar days of receipt, indicating in writing whether or not they accept the contract, and that failure to respond will be interpreted as resignation, or as failing or declining to accept the offer, except under extenuating circumstances.

### **4.2.4 Continued Availability of Special Funding**

**4.2.4.1** The written statement of appointment, reappointment, or promotion of a faculty member to a position funded in whole or in substantial part from sources other than continuing state budget funds or permanent trust funds shall specify that the continuance of the faculty member's services, whether for a specified term or for permanent tenure, shall be contingent upon the continuing availability of funds. This contingency shall not be included in a faculty member's contract in either of the following situations:

- (a) in a promotion to a higher rank if, before the effective date of that promotion, the faculty member had permanent tenure and no such condition was attached to tenure;
- (b) if the faculty member held permanent tenure in the institution on July 1, 1975, and the faculty member's contract was not then contingent upon the continuing availability of sources other than continuing state budget or permanent trust funds.

## **4.3 Evaluation of Faculty**

**4.3.1** Administrative Memorandum Number 338 regarding "Tenure and Teaching in the University of North Carolina" requires that Appalachian establish "review procedures for the evaluation of faculty performance to ensure (1) that student evaluations and formal methods of peer review are included in teaching evaluation procedures, (2) that student evaluations are conducted at regular intervals (at least one semester each year) and on an ongoing basis, (3) that peer review of faculty includes direct observation of the classroom teaching of new and non-tenured faculty and of graduate assistants, and (4) that appropriate and timely feedback from evaluations of performance is provided to those persons being reviewed."

**4.3.1.1 Evaluation of Faculty:** In addition to the formal components of a faculty evaluation specified in section 4.3.1, faculty must be aware of other factors, which may influence the annual review or other personnel actions pertaining to [section 4.3.2.1](#) such as [section 4.4](#) (Reappointment, Promotion and Tenure) or [section 4.7](#) (Post-Tenure Review). Therefore, no items that will be considered or relied upon in an annual review or other personnel action may be placed in the faculty member's personnel file within five working days prior to the annual review or personnel action, except under exigent circumstances. The circumstances justifying an exception to this rule

should be confined to criminal or other serious misconduct of such a nature that requires the University to act promptly to mitigate physical risk to the University community, or circumstances in which the Chancellor, pursuant to [section 4.10.2.6](#), suspends a faculty member with pay until a decision concerning discharge has been made.

### **4.3.2 Annual Review of Faculty**

**4.3.2.1** Provision is made for the individual faculty member's participation in formulating plans and goals for that faculty member. During the spring term, departmental chairs are required to hold a conference with every member of the department who is to continue as a member of the faculty for the next year. The purposes of this conference are to plan the work of the faculty member for the next year and to evaluate work of the previous year. During this conference, the faculty member has the opportunity to express preferences concerning assignments. These preferences should include statements concerning teaching assignments and an indication of the faculty member's commitment to professional and/or scholarly activities. In this conference, the faculty member and the chair will jointly establish goals for the faculty member that are to be attained during the next academic year. Specific plans should be made and realistic goals set. For faculty members who are initial appointees, an additional planning conference in the late summer or immediately after the beginning of their first semester of service must also be held.

At the annual conference, on three working days' written notice to the department chair, the faculty member may be accompanied by an observer of their choosing. If the faculty member chooses an observer, the chair may be accompanied by an administrator observer. Unless otherwise agreed, observers may not take part in the discussion between the faculty member and the chair. Observers may not be present as attorney for either party. Because confidential personnel file information will be discussed at the annual conference, the faculty member and any observers must sign an [Observer Waiver](#). This document includes the faculty member's authorization of the observer(s) to hear such confidential information, and commits the observer(s) to maintain the confidentiality of such information unless the faculty member subsequently authorizes disclosure.

**4.3.2.2** At this or subsequent spring conferences, there shall be an evaluation of the faculty member's work in which there will be a frank discussion of the faculty member's achievements with specific reference to the goals set in the previous conference. Also, at this conference, the results of any formal evaluation procedures that have been used up to the time of the conference should be discussed. The chair will give the faculty member an honest opinion concerning the faculty member's performance to date. This includes not only praise for work well done, but also suggestions for improvement or negative criticism. This conference will include a summary evaluation of the faculty member's performance for the year just completed. Following this conference, and in a timely manner, the chair will provide to the faculty member a written statement of evaluation, to which the faculty member will have an opportunity to respond in writing.

**4.3.2.3** As part of the faculty member's annual evaluation, the departmental chair will provide the faculty member with a written assessment of her or his progress toward tenure and promotion.

## **4.4 Reappointment, Promotion, and Tenure**

**4.4.1** See [The University of North Carolina Policy Manual, section 400.3.1.1](#) concerning required discussions relating to the primacy of teaching.

**4.4.2** The decision to reappoint, promote or tenure a faculty member may be based on any factor(s) considered relevant to the total institutional interests, but those responsible for making the decision must consider the faculty member's demonstrated professional competence, potential for future contribution, and institutional needs and resources. A decision not to reappoint, promote or tenure may not be based upon (1) the faculty member's exercise of rights guaranteed by either the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or Article I of the North Carolina Constitution; (2) unlawful discrimination based upon the faculty member's race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, political affiliation, age, disability, veteran status, genetic information or sexual orientation; or (3) personal malice. For purposes of this section, the term "personal malice" means dislike, animosity, ill will, or hatred based on personal characteristics, traits or circumstances of an individual that are not relevant to valid University decision making. See UNC Policy 101.3.1 II.B. for details.

**4.4.3** A faculty member who is to be considered for reappointment, promotion or permanent tenure must be notified by the departmental chair in writing ten working days prior to the meeting at which the faculty member's case will be considered. A candidate being considered for promotion or tenure has a right to speak before the PTC about his/her own case before the committee begins its deliberation on the decision. The candidate will be informed of this right in writing at least ten working days prior to the PTC meeting.

#### **4.4.4 Compilation of materials for reappointment of tenure-track faculty prior to tenure consideration**

Tenure-track faculty seeking contract renewal prior to tenure consideration shall follow their departmental guidelines for submission of materials to the promotion and tenure committee for review.

#### **4.4.5 Compilation of materials for tenure and/or promotion**

The University template for promotion and tenure portfolios shall be followed by all faculty seeking tenure and/or promotion. The Promotion and Tenure portfolio consists of two parts: a Promotion and Tenure (P&T) dossier and a Collection of Artifacts/Documentation appropriate to the faculty member's discipline. Particular requirements for faculty completing the P&T Portfolio are as outlined below:

##### **4.4.5.1 The P&T Dossier**

The P&T Dossier in its entirety shall be approximately 35 pages plus a curriculum vita (CV). The candidate's P&T dossier shall consist of the following and be placed in the following order:

1. cover letter;
2. summary one-page vita;
3. candidate's vita, including evidence related to teaching, research/creative endeavors, and service. The organization of these entries is up to the candidate, but the outline should include education and experience; awards and honors; peer-reviewed/juried products (grant/contract funding, publications, presentations, exhibits, etc.); course development and teaching responsibilities and innovations; outreach and/or service to the department, college, school, University, and discipline;
4. candidate's departmental P&T policies;

**(Sections 5-7 below should be no more than a total of 18 pages and each section should be no less than 2 pages.)**

5. evidence of quality and effective teaching:
  - a. A narrative statement describing the candidate's teaching philosophy and experience.
  - b. A discussion of three particularly notable indicators.
6. evidence of quality research/creative activities:
  - a. A narrative statement describing the candidate's plans for continuing research/creative activities and how these activities contribute to the discipline.
  - b. A discussion of three particularly notable indicators.
7. evidence of contributions to the department/college/university and/or the profession through service or outreach:
  - a. A narrative statement describing the candidate's commitment to service.
  - b. A discussion of three particularly notable indicators.
8. copies of Annual Reviews by the department chair;
9. written recommendations of the departmental promotion and tenure committee, chair, dean, and provost and executive vice chancellor will accompany the P&T dossier forward at each appropriate stage of the review;
10. graduate faculty membership (optional): If also requesting graduate faculty membership, faculty shall submit with the dossier an independent packet: the graduate faculty membership form (<http://www.graduate.appstate.edu/facultystaff/>), a CV, and a letter summarizing evidence of engagement in graduate education and of staying current in the discipline; and evidence of effective teaching and mentoring at the graduate level. These materials will be considered by the departmental promotion and tenure committee in a separate vote at the same time as the P&T review. The graduate faculty membership application will be sent forward to the academic dean for approval, and then to the graduate dean for final action (for more information see section 4.5 The Graduate Faculty).

#### **4.4.5.2 The Collection of Artifacts/Documentation**

The Collection of Artifacts/Documentation may include books, articles, recordings, videos, texts of grants and /or works in progress, other creative scholarly work, students' evaluations of teaching, peer reviews of teaching, syllabi, sample student work, letters documenting service, etc. Candidates are strongly advised to consult closely with their department chairs for guidance on selecting appropriate materials for the collection of artifacts/documentation.

#### **4.4.6 Submission of the Portfolio for Tenure and/or Promotion**

The entire P&T Portfolio (the P&T dossier and the collection of artifacts/documentation) shall be submitted to the department chair for consideration by the departmental promotion and tenure committee. The P&T Dossier as highlighted in section 4.4.5.1 must be submitted electronically. Artifacts and documentation may be submitted electronically or in printed form or a combination. The departmental promotion and tenure committee and department chair shall use both the dossier and the collection of artifacts when evaluating the candidate for tenure and/or promotion. However, after departmental deliberations are completed, only the P&T Dossier shall leave the department and go to the dean of the candidate's college. The collection of



artifacts/documentation shall be stored in the department and be available upon request during the remainder of that faculty member's P&T process.

**4.4.7** The departmental chair shall notify the faculty member of the results of a departmental promotion and tenure committee vote on reappointment, emeritus status, tenure, or promotion within three working days following the date of the promotion and tenure committee vote, except under extenuating circumstances. Notification to the dean and to the faculty member of the chair's recommendation to the dean on promotion, tenure, reappointment, or emeritus status shall be made in a timely manner as defined by the college or school, not to exceed five working days, except under extenuating circumstances. The departmental chair shall give the dean of the particular college/school the results of the promotion and tenure committee vote, written vote justification statements, and the P&T Dossier ([4.4.5.1](#) and [4.4.6](#)) submitted by the faculty member. For reappointment, emeritus status, tenure, and promotion, the chair's letter shall include an explanation of the reason(s) for the chair's and promotion and tenure committee's recommendation as well as the outcome of the promotion and tenure committee's vote. The faculty member shall receive a copy of this letter when the chair forwards the recommendation to the dean.

**4.4.8** The dean of the college/school shall forward his or her recommendation (with reasons for that recommendation) with the dossier, including any vote justification forms, to the provost and executive vice chancellor. The faculty member shall get a copy of this letter at the time the dossier is forwarded to the provost and executive vice chancellor.

**4.4.9** If the personnel action involves a reappointment and the provost and executive vice chancellor concurs with the recommendation, a notice of reappointment shall be sent to the faculty member in accordance with [section 4.4.13](#).

**4.4.10** If the personnel action involves a promotion and/or conferral of permanent tenure, rather than reappointment, the provost and executive vice chancellor shall attach her or his recommendation and make all material available to the chancellor.

**4.4.11** If the chancellor decides not to recommend promotion or permanent tenure of the faculty member, the chancellor shall convey that decision to the faculty member by a brief written statement explaining the reason(s) for the decision. The faculty member may seek review of that decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in [section 4.11](#) of this *Faculty Handbook* and in relevant sections of The Code of The University of North Carolina.

**4.4.12** If the chancellor concurs in a recommendation that will confer permanent tenure, the chancellor shall forward the recommendation to the Board of Trustees for a final decision. Permanent tenure may be conferred only by action of the Board of Trustees, or by such other agencies or officers as may be delegated such authority by the Board of Governors. All other favorable recommendations by the chancellor in regard to promotion shall be forwarded to the Board of Trustees for a final decision unless the approval authority is delegated by that board. The faculty member will be informed promptly of this decision.

**4.4.13** Notices of reappointment shall be sent on March 1 or earlier as specified in this section and in [section 3.8](#) inclusive. Faculty members shall be notified that they must respond to these notices within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt and that failure to respond will be interpreted to mean that the faculty member has declined reappointment, except in extenuating circumstances.



**4.4.14** The promotion of a departmental chair as a faculty member shall be considered by the departmental promotion and tenure committee. The departmental promotion and tenure committee will forward its recommendation to the dean. The dean shall send her or his recommendation and the committee's recommendation to the provost and executive vice chancellor, who shall process the personnel action in accordance with the provisions of [section 4.4.5](#).

**4.4.15** University administrators whose primary responsibility is outside the department but who hold an appointment in a department shall be reviewed for reappointment, promotion, and permanent tenure as are other members of the department. An administrator who normally takes part in the approval process for others' appointment, promotion, or conferral of permanent tenure shall not participate when a personnel action concerning the administrator is being considered.

**4.4.16** As part of the faculty member's annual evaluation, the departmental chair will provide the faculty member with a written assessment of her or his progress toward tenure and promotion.

#### **4.4.17 Joint Appointees**

Prior to consideration being given by the departmental promotion and tenure committee of the base department to any recommendation concerning the reappointment, promotion, or conferral of permanent tenure relating to a joint appointee, the chair of the base department will request in writing a written recommendation from the chair of the other department (and, in some cases, other departments) regarding the personnel action under consideration for the joint appointee. The chair of the other department will request a recommendation from the departmental promotion and tenure committee of that department, which will be included with the chair's recommendation when that recommendation is transmitted to the chair of the base department. The recommendations of the other department are to be considered along with all other information available to the departmental promotion and tenure committee of the base department, and will be included as a part of the material related to the personnel action which is to be submitted through the dean of the college/school of the base department to the provost and executive vice chancellor.

### **4.5 The Graduate Faculty**

Appalachian's graduate faculty are responsible for managing the graduate program of study in their respective departments or programs. This includes, but is not limited to, teaching graduate courses, mentoring graduate students, serving on thesis or dissertation committees, and performing research and creative activities to stay current in and advance their fields. Only graduate faculty and affiliate graduate faculty may vote on changes to graduate programs and curriculum in their respective areas.

#### **4.5.1 Membership and Affiliate Membership**

The following qualifications are required for regular Graduate Faculty Membership:

- a. the highest degree (PhD, EdD, MFA) in the discipline; and
- b. evidence of engagement in graduate education and research, including:
  - i. evidence of effective teaching and mentoring at the graduate level; or evidence of potential for effective teaching and mentoring at the graduate level; and

- ii. evidence that the faculty member is staying current in the discipline.

Please consult the [Graduate Faculty](#) website for the approved list of suggestions for appropriate evidence of engagement. Academic departments are encouraged to use these lists as guidelines in conjunction with the requirements laid out in their promotion, tenure, reappointment, and merit pay documents.

Affiliate membership may be granted in circumstances where the faculty member's credentials do not meet the above requirements, but professional or other academic experience equip the individual to teach a specific graduate class or classes or serve on a thesis or dissertation committee. The specific responsibility and timeline must be disclosed in the application. Affiliate membership may be requested for up to three years.

#### **4.5.2 Terms of Appointment and Timeline**

Regular Graduate Faculty appointment/ reappointment is requested at the same time that faculty apply for reappointment, tenure, promotion, and/or post tenure review. The term of appointment will be five years or until the next reappointment, tenure, promotion, or post tenure review, whichever is shorter. In particular:

##### **Appointment and reappointment for tenure-track faculty who have not yet attained tenure:**

The process will coincide with hiring, reappointment, and tenure, typically in the first semester, the third year, and the sixth year. Faculty members given credit for years taught at other universities and who, as a result, are reappointed or tenured on a different schedule will be eligible for Graduate Faculty Membership at a schedule depending on when they will be considered for reappointment or tenure.

##### **Appointment and reappointment for faculty with tenure:**

Tenured faculty will be considered for reappointment at the same time as promotion and/or post-tenure review. This includes faculty hired with tenure.

##### **Reappointment for tenured faculty members on administrative reassignment:**

Those on administrative reassignment (i.e., not subject to post-tenure review) will be eligible for reappointment as members every five years. This five-year cycle will begin in the initial year of the faculty member's fulltime administrative assignment. If the faculty member returns to teaching, s/he will not have to reapply for graduate faculty membership until s/he comes up for post-tenure review.

##### **Appointment to affiliate membership:**

Affiliate membership may be requested for up to three years.

#### **4.5.3 Application Process**

The application for Graduate Faculty Membership must include:

1. The [application form](#) from the Graduate Faculty website
2. A cover letter summarizing evidence of engagement in graduate education and research in the last five years, including specifically the following:
  - a. evidence of effective teaching and mentoring at the graduate level; or evidence of potential for effective teaching and mentoring at the graduate level; and

- b. evidence that the faculty member is staying current in the discipline.

#### **For regular Graduate Faculty Membership:**

This application should accompany the reappointment, tenure, promotion or post tenure review application materials and be reviewed and approved by the department and academic dean before being forwarded to the dean of research and graduate studies for final approval.

#### **For Affiliate Graduate Faculty Membership:**

This application should be reviewed and approved by the department chairperson and academic dean before being forwarded to the dean of research and graduate studies for final approval.

### **4.6 Non-Reappointment of Tenure-Track Faculty Members on Probationary Term Appointments**

#### **4.6.1 Permissible and Impermissible Grounds for Non-Reappointment**

The decision whether to reappoint a faculty member when a probationary term of appointment expires may be based on any factor considered relevant to the total institutional interests, but those responsible for making the decision must consider the faculty member's demonstrated professional competence, potential for future contribution, and institutional needs and resources. A decision not to reappoint may not be based upon (1) the faculty member's exercise of rights guaranteed by either the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or Article I of the North Carolina Constitution, (2) unlawful discrimination based upon the faculty member's race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, political affiliation, age, disability, veteran status, genetic information or sexual orientation; or (3) personal malice. For purposes of this section, the term "personal malice" means dislike, animosity, ill will, or hatred based on personal characteristics, traits or circumstances of an individual that are not relevant to valid University decision making. See [UNC Policy 101.3.1 II.B.](#) for details.

#### **4.6.2 Decision not to Reappoint**

The decision not to reappoint when a probationary term appointment as instructor, assistant professor, or associate professor expires will be made by the provost and executive vice chancellor. Such a decision shall not be made by the provost and executive vice chancellor until that official has received the recommendations of the departmental promotion and tenure committee, the departmental chair, and the dean. This decision is final. There is no administrative appeal beyond this point except as it may later be reviewed in accordance with the provisions of [section 4.11.3.](#)

#### **4.6.3 Conference with the Dean**

The dean of the faculty member's college/school shall send the faculty member by certified mail, return receipt requested, a written notice of non-reappointment. This notice shall direct the faculty member to [section 4.11](#) of this *Faculty Handbook* for information on review procedures and to this section of the *Faculty Handbook* regarding the right to a formal conference with the dean, and subsequently with the provost and executive vice chancellor. Within ten (10) working days after receiving a written notice of non-reappointment, the faculty member may request in writing a private conference with the dean to discuss the reasons for non-reappointment. This request shall be granted and the conference held within ten (10) working days after receipt of the request if possible, at which time the reasons for the decision shall be communicated to the faculty member.

Within ten (10) working days after the conference, the dean shall give the faculty member a written statement of whether the original decision remains in effect. Each such decision shall be communicated for information to the provost and executive vice chancellor. Following the conference with the dean, the faculty member may within fifteen working days request a conference with the provost and executive vice chancellor to review reasons for non-reappointment.

At the conference with the dean and provost, on three working days' written notice, the faculty member may be accompanied by an observer of their choosing. If the faculty member chooses an observer, the dean/provost may be accompanied by an administrator observer. Unless otherwise agreed, observers may not take part in the discussion between the faculty member and the dean/provost. Observers may not be present as attorney for either party. Because confidential personnel file information will be discussed at the conference, the faculty member and any observers must sign an Observer Waiver. This document includes the faculty member's authorization of the observer(s) to hear such confidential information, and commits the observer(s) to maintain the confidentiality of such information unless the faculty member subsequently authorizes disclosure.

**4.6.4** Time limits for filing a formal grievance as outlined in [section 4.11.3.1](#) will be suspended for the duration of these conferences. The faculty member may seek review of the matter in accordance with [section 4.11.3](#) within fourteen (14) days following the conference with the provost and executive vice chancellor. If the faculty member does not file a grievance within the time allowed, the non-reappointment decision is final.

## **4.7 Post-Tenure Review**

**4.7.1** Post-tenure review is a comprehensive, formal, periodic evaluation of cumulative faculty performance, the prime purpose of which is to ensure faculty development and to support and encourage faculty excellence. Post tenure review requirements can be found in the *UNC Policy Manual* 400.3.3 and 400.3.3.1[G].

**4.7.2** In addition to the annual review for all faculty, described in [section 4.3.2](#), each tenured member of the teaching faculty will be subject to a comprehensive, cumulative review on a regular and systematic basis, no less frequently than every five years. A review undertaken to decide on promotion qualifies as such a cumulative review. This comprehensive review shall provide for the evaluation of all aspects of the professional performance of faculty, whose primary responsibilities are teaching, and/or research, and/or service. If faculty responsibilities are primarily in one or two of these areas, post-tenure review and resulting recommendations should take this allocation of responsibilities into account. Faculty performance will be examined relative to the mission of the University, college, and program. Exemplary faculty performance will be recognized and rewarded. Because performance rewards are often part of the annual review process (described in [section 4.3.2](#)), the post-tenure review may provide additional support for this form of recognition.

Any academic year during which a tenured faculty member is on approved leave for more than 25 class days of the academic calendar or receives a total teaching-load reduction of more than six credit hours for medical or family reasons (6.2) or other adjustments of employment obligation (6.2.3) will not count for the post-tenure review five-year cycle unless the faculty member requests in writing to the departmental chair that it be counted. Such a request must be made within one calendar year following the end of the leave or course-load reduction.

**4.7.3** At the beginning of the post-tenure review cycle, the faculty member shall develop with his/her department chair a five-year goal or plan. This plan can be modified annually by the faculty member, in consultation with the department chair, as deemed appropriate by changes in institutional, departmental, or personal circumstances. Annual performance evaluations should be considered as a component of post-tenure review, but alone are not a substitute for a comprehensive five-year evaluation.

**4.7.4** A post-tenure review committee for a department or academic unit will be elected by a vote of the tenured faculty in the department or academic unit. The tenured faculty will elect from among themselves three tenured faculty, who will serve staggered, non-renewable, three-year terms. The post-tenure review committee elects a chair from among its members. The tenured faculty will elect tenured faculty members to fill any vacancies each year. The tenured faculty may also fill vacancies caused by resignation or other contingencies. In the event that there are not three tenured faculty in the department or academic unit, the tenured faculty will make nominations and will elect from among those nominated a tenured faculty member or members from an allied discipline to serve on the post-tenure review committee.

**4.7.5** The campus will ensure that all members of post-tenure review committees and administrators have [training and ongoing support](#) available in how to perform a meaningful and unbiased review of the faculty member.

**4.7.6** At the time of review, the faculty member under review will provide the committee with a brief one-page summary of their accomplishments over the previous five years and a current vita. The department chair will provide the review committee with copies of the faculty member's annual reviews for the previous five years, and a copy of the faculty member's five year plan.

**4.7.7** After review of submitted materials, the post-tenure review committee shall provide to the faculty member being reviewed and the departmental chair a one page summary concerning its evaluation and shall designate the faculty member's performance as "exceeds expectations," "meets expectations," or "does not meet expectations." The summary with designations shall be provided to the faculty member and chair within 15 working days, barring extenuating circumstances, of receiving the materials. The post-tenure review committee's feedback should include recognition for exemplary performance.

**4.7.8** The faculty member under review may provide written responses to the post-tenure committee and chair's reviews. A written response to the post-tenure review committee's evaluation shall be submitted to the department chair within 10 working days, barring extenuating circumstances, after receipt of the committee's evaluation, and will not be shared with the post-tenure review committee. A written response to the chair's review may be submitted to the dean within five working days, barring extenuating circumstances, after receipt of the chair's review and will not be shared with the chair.

**4.7.9** Department chairs shall provide a written review in addition to the review of the committee. The chair shall provide a written copy of his/her evaluative review to the faculty member within 15 working days, barring extenuating circumstances, from the time that the department chair receives the review committee's summary or from the time that the faculty member provides his or her written response to the committee recommendation (see Section 4.7.8). The chair shall forward the candidate's material, the post-tenure committee summary and recommendation, his/her recommendation, and faculty response, if any, to the dean within this same time period.

**4.7.10** Deans shall provide an evaluative review in addition to the reviews conducted by the committee and the department chair. The dean's review is cumulative and taken to be the final evaluation. This review will be shared with the faculty member within 10 working days, barring extenuating circumstances, from the time that the dean receives the chair's and the committee's written reviews or from the time that the faculty member provides his or her written response to the chair's recommendation (see Section 4.7.8). In cases where the dean functions as a department chair in an academic unit without departmental divisions, the higher administrative review will be performed by the provost and executive vice chancellor.

**4.7.11** All reviews must include a statement of the faculty member's primary responsibilities and delineate specific strengths and weaknesses as they relate to the faculty member's performance in teaching; scholarship and/or creative activities; and service.

**4.7.12** The provost and executive vice chancellor must certify that all aspects of the post-tenure review process for that year are in compliance with policies and guidelines.

**4.7.13** Any faculty member who receives a "does not meet expectations" rating in the post-tenure review will be given the opportunity to improve performance. In consultation with the dean, the faculty member's chair will: (a) consider the evaluation from the post-tenure review committee and the faculty member's response; and (b) prepare a written individual professional development plan for the faculty member.

A specific timeline including steps for improvement must be included in the development plan, with a clear statement of consequences should improvement not occur within the designated time line. Consequences may include discharge or demotion for "sustained unsatisfactory performance" after the faculty member has been given an opportunity to remedy such performance and fails to do so within a reasonable time, pursuant to [section 4.10.1.1](#) of the *Faculty Handbook*. The chair is encouraged to assign one or more mentoring peers to the faculty member, and the chair must hold a progress meeting with the faculty member on at least a semi-annual basis during the specified time line. If the faculty member's duties are modified as a result of a less than satisfactory rating, the development plan should indicate and take into account the new allocation of responsibilities.

## **4.8 Faculty Resignations**

**4.8.1** A faculty member resigning from the University should give prompt written notice of resignation with an effective date. This written notice shall be directed to the provost and executive vice chancellor with copies to the appropriate dean and chair.

**4.8.2** A faculty member who does not report for the opening day of class in the fall or spring semester and continues to be absent for ten consecutive school days without being excused by the departmental chair shall be considered to have resigned the position.

## **4.9 Termination of Faculty Employment**

### **4.9.1 Reasons Justifying Termination; Consultation Required**

**4.9.1.1** The employment of a faculty member with permanent tenure or of a faculty member appointed to a fixed term may be terminated by Appalachian State University because of (1)



demonstrable, bona fide institutional financial exigency or (2) major curtailment or elimination of a teaching, research, or public service program. Financial exigency is defined as a significant decline in the financial resources of the institution that is brought about by the decline in institutional enrollment or by other action or events that compel a reduction in the institution's current operations budget. The determination of whether a condition of financial exigency exists or whether there shall be a major curtailment or elimination of a teaching, research, or public service program shall be made by the chancellor, after consulting with the academic administrative officers and faculties as required by section [4.9.1.2](#) below. This determination is subject to concurrence by the president and then approval by the Board of Governors. If the financial exigency or curtailment or elimination of program is such that the institution's contractual obligation to a faculty member cannot be met, the employment of the faculty member may be terminated in accordance with the institutional procedures set out in section [4.9.2](#) below.

#### **4.9.1.2 Consultation with Faculty and Administrative Officers**

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

### **4.9.2 Termination Procedure**

#### **4.9.2.1 Considerations in Determining Whose Employment is to be Terminated**

In determining which faculty member's employment is to be terminated for the reasons set forth in section 4.9.1 above, consideration shall be given to tenure status, to years of service to the institution, and to other factors deemed relevant; but the primary consideration shall be the maintenance of a sound and balanced educational program that is consistent with the functions and responsibilities of the institution.

#### **4.9.2.2 Timely Notice of Termination**

**4.9.2.2.1** When a faculty member's employment is to be terminated because of major curtailment or elimination of a teaching, research, or public service program and such curtailment or elimination of program is not founded upon financial exigency, the faculty member shall be given timely notice; one who has permanent tenure shall be given not less than twelve months' notice; one who was appointed to a probationary or fixed term and does not have permanent tenure shall be given notice as follows:

- (a) During the first year of service to the institution, the faculty member shall be given not less than 90 calendar days' notice of such curtailment or elimination of programs;
- (b) During the second year of continuous service at the institution, the faculty member shall be given not less than 180 calendar days' notice of such curtailment or elimination of programs;
- (c) After two or more years of continuous service at the institution, the faculty member shall be given not less than twelve months' notice of such curtailment or elimination of programs;

**4.9.2.2.2** When a faculty member's employment is to be terminated because of financial exigency, the institution shall make every reasonable effort, consistent with the need to maintain sound educational programs and within the limits of available resources, to give the same notice as set forth in section [4.9.2.2.1](#) above.

### **4.9.2.3 Type of Notice**

The chancellor or the chancellor's delegate shall send the faculty member whose employment is to be terminated a written statement of this fact by certified mail, return receipt requested. This notice shall include a statement of the conditions requiring termination of the faculty member's employment; a general description of the procedures followed in making the decision; a referral to [section 4.9](#) of this *Faculty Handbook* for information on review procedures; a disclosure of pertinent financial or other data upon which the decision was based; a statement of the faculty member's right, upon request, to a reconsideration of the decision by a faculty committee if the faculty member alleges that the decision to terminate her or his employment rather than that of another faculty member was arbitrary or capricious; and a copy of this procedure on termination of employment.

### **4.9.3 Termination if Reconsideration Not Requested**

If, within ten working days after receiving the notice required by sections [4.9.2.2](#) and [4.9.2.3](#) above, the faculty member makes no written request for a reconsideration hearing, the faculty member's employment shall be terminated at the date specified in the notice and without recourse to any institutional grievance or appellate procedure.

### **4.9.4 Institutional Assistance to Faculty Following Termination**

When requested in writing by an employee whose employment has been terminated, the institution shall give the employee reasonable assistance (such as letters of reference) in finding other employment.

### **4.9.5 First Right of Refusal of New Positions**

**4.9.5.1** For a period of two years after the effective date of termination of a contract of a faculty member for any of the reasons specified in [section 4.9.1](#), the institution shall not replace the faculty member without first offering the position to the person whose employment was terminated.

**4.9.5.2** Any offer to a former faculty member pursuant to this section shall be made by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address last furnished by the faculty member; the faculty member will be given thirty calendar days after receiving the offer to accept or reject it.

## **4.10 Discharge or the Imposition of Serious Sanction**

### **4.10.1 Grounds for Discipline**

**4.10.1.1** A faculty member who is the beneficiary of institutional guarantees of tenure shall enjoy protection against unjust and arbitrary application of disciplinary penalties. During the period of such guarantees, the faculty member may be discharged or suspended from employment or diminished in rank only for reasons of:

- (a) incompetence, including significant, sustained unsatisfactory performance after the faculty member has been given an opportunity to remedy such performance and fails to do so within a reasonable time;
- (b) neglect of duty, including sustained failure to meet assigned classes or to perform other significant faculty professional obligations; or
- (c) misconduct of such a nature as to indicate that the individual is unfit to continue as a member of the faculty, including violations of professional ethics, mistreatment of students or other



employees, research misconduct, financial fraud, criminal, or other illegal, inappropriate, or unethical conduct. To justify serious disciplinary action, such misconduct should be either:

- (i) sufficiently related to a faculty member's academic responsibilities as to disqualify the individual from effective performance of University duties, or
- (ii) sufficiently serious as to adversely reflect on the individual's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness to be a faculty member.

**4.10.1.2** These sanctions may be imposed only in accordance with the procedures prescribed in section 4.10.2 below. For purposes of these regulations, a faculty member serving a stated term shall be regarded as having the protection of tenure until the end of that term. These procedures shall not apply to non-reappointment ([The Code §604](#), *Faculty Handbook* §4.6) or termination of employment ([The Code §605](#), *Faculty Handbook* §4.9).

**4.10.1.3** If the provost and executive vice chancellor receives credible information indicating that a) a faculty member has engaged in any of the grounds defined in Section 4.10.1.1, or b) harm to the faculty member, students, or others is threatened by the faculty member's continued presence in the classroom or otherwise on the campus, the provost and executive vice chancellor may reassign the faculty member to other duties or place the faculty member on leave with pay so that a thorough investigation of the concerns may be conducted. Before reassigning the faculty member or placing a faculty member on leave with pay, the provost and executive vice chancellor shall consult with the chair and vice-chair of the Faculty Senate concerning the propriety, the length, and other conditions of the reassignment or leave with pay. If an emergency precludes prior consultation with the chair and vice-chair of the Senate, the consultation shall occur as soon as is practicable after the reassignment or imposition of leave with pay. Following this consultation, the provost and executive vice chancellor shall decide whether reassignment or a leave with pay is appropriate and, if so, what conditions should apply.

**4.10.1.4** At any meeting that a faculty member believes may be related to disciplinary action, the faculty member may be accompanied by an observer of their choosing on three working days' written notice to the relevant administrator. There may be more than one administrator present. Unless otherwise agreed, the observer may not take part in the discussion between the faculty member and the administrator(s). The observer may not be present as attorney for the faculty member. Because confidential personnel file information is likely to be discussed at such a meeting, the faculty member and any observer must sign an [Observer Waiver](#). This document includes the faculty member's authorization of the observer to hear such confidential information, and commits the observer to maintain the confidentiality of such information unless the faculty member subsequently authorizes disclosure.

## **4.10.2 Procedures for Review of Disciplinary Cases**

**4.10.2.1** A faculty member who is to be disciplined, as through discharge from employment, suspension, demotion in rank, diminishment in pay, or deprivation of some other substantial interest, may require that such discipline be imposed only in accordance with constitutionally mandated due process of law, as specified by section 603 of The Code of The University of North Carolina. Such a case will be referred directly to the Faculty Due Process Committee for a formal hearing to be conducted in accordance with the requirements of this section 4.10.2.

**4.10.2.2** When disciplinary action against a faculty member is proposed, the provost and executive vice chancellor shall send to the faculty member by a method of mail or delivery that requires a

signature for delivery, a written notice of intention to discharge the faculty member or impose a serious sanction together with a written specification of the reasons. The notice shall include notice of the faculty member's right, upon request, to a hearing before the Faculty Due Process Committee, and shall direct the faculty member to this section of this *Faculty Handbook* for information about such review procedures. If within 14 calendar days after receiving the notice and written specification referred to above, the faculty member makes no written request for a hearing, the faculty member may be discharged or serious sanction may be imposed as proposed in the notice previously conveyed, without recourse to any institutional hearing or appellate (review) procedure.

**4.10.2.3** If the faculty member makes a timely written request for a hearing, the chancellor shall insure that the hearing is timely held before the Faculty Due Process Committee. The committee shall accord the faculty member thirty (30) calendar days from the time it receives the written request for the hearing to prepare a defense. The committee may, upon the faculty member's written request and for good cause, extend the time for such preparation. The Faculty Due Process Committee will ordinarily endeavor to complete the hearing within ninety (90) calendar days except under unusual circumstances such as when a hearing request is received during official University breaks and holidays and despite reasonable efforts the Committee cannot be assembled. The hearing shall be closed to the public unless the faculty member and the Faculty Due Process Committee agree that it may be open.

**4.10.2.4** The hearing shall be on the written specification of the reasons for the intended discharge or imposition of serious sanction. The provost and executive vice chancellor, or designee, and/or counsel first shall present the testimony of witnesses and other evidence in support of the proposed disciplinary action. The faculty member shall have the right to counsel, to present the testimony of witnesses and other evidence, to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses, to examine all documents and other adverse demonstrative evidence. The provost and executive vice chancellor, or designee, and/or counsel similarly shall be entitled to cross-examine adverse witnesses and examine adverse demonstrative evidence. Both parties may present such arguments, either oral or written, as the committee may allow. The provost and executive vice chancellor, or designee, and/or counsel has the burden of showing, by clear and convincing evidence, that permissible grounds for serious sanction exist and are the basis for the recommended action. A written transcript of all proceedings shall be kept, and if the faculty member requests, the University shall furnish a copy thereof to the faculty member at the University's expense. When the hearing is concluded, the committee shall make its written recommendations to the chancellor within fourteen (14) calendar days after its hearing concludes or after the full transcript is received, whichever is later, in reaching decisions on which its recommendations to the chancellor are to be based, the committee shall consider only the evidence presented at the hearing, and such written or oral arguments as the committee may allow. In evaluating the evidence, the committee shall apply the "clear and convincing" evidence standard in determining whether the University has met its burden of showing that permissible grounds for serious sanction exist and are the basis for the recommended action. The "clear and convincing" standard of proof is greater than the preponderance of the evidence standard required in most civil cases but lesser than the beyond a reasonable doubt standard in criminal cases. See, e.g., *In re Montgomery*, 311 N.C. 101, 109-110, 316 S.E.2d 246, 252 (1984).

**4.10.2.5** If the chancellor concurs in a recommendation of the committee that is favorable to the faculty member, the decision shall be final. If the chancellor intends to reject the recommendation of the Faculty Due Process Committee, the chancellor shall communicate that intention to the

committee along with the chancellor's reasons and provide an opportunity for committee response before taking final action. In such a case, the committee shall reconsider its recommendation, taking account of the chancellor's stated objections. The committee shall transmit its response to the chancellor within fourteen (14) calendar days of the committee's receipt of the chancellor's communication. After considering the committee response, the chancellor shall issue a decision either concurring in or declining to accept the committee's recommendation. The chancellor's decision shall be conveyed in writing to the affected faculty member, to the committee, and to the provost and executive vice chancellor. If the chancellor either declines to accept a committee recommendation that is favorable to the faculty member or concurs in a committee recommendation that is unfavorable to the faculty member, the faculty member may appeal the chancellor's decision to the Board of Trustees. This appeal shall be transmitted through the chancellor and be addressed to the chair of the Board of Trustees. Notice of appeal shall be filed within 14 calendar days after the faculty member receives the chancellor's decision. The appeal to the Board of Trustees shall be decided by the full Board of Trustees. However, the Board of Trustees may delegate the duty of conducting a hearing to a standing or ad hoc committee of at least three members. The Board of Trustees, or its committee, shall base its consideration of the appeal upon the written transcript of hearings held by the committee; but it may, at its discretion, hear such other evidence as it deems necessary. The Board of Trustees' decision shall be made as soon as reasonably possible after the chancellor has received the faculty member's request for an appeal to the Board of Trustees. This decision shall be final except that the faculty member may, within 14 calendar days after receiving an adverse decision from the Board of Trustees, file a written notice of appeal, by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by another means that provides proof of delivery, with the Board of Governors if the faculty member alleges that one or more specified provisions of The Code of The University of North Carolina have been violated. Any such appeal to the Board of Governors shall be transmitted through the president.

**4.10.2.6** When a faculty member has been notified of the University's intention to discharge the faculty member, the chancellor may reassign the individual to other duties or suspend the individual at any time with full pay and continue the suspension until a final decision concerning discharge has been reached by the procedures prescribed above.

**4.10.2.7** All records of a disciplinary case hearing which relate to personnel action affecting any University employee or contain information personally identifiable to a student shall be maintained confidentially and shall be disclosed only in accordance with Chapter 126, Article 7 of the North Carolina General Statutes, and applicable federal law, including, but not limited to, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1232g), and regulations adopted thereunder. Any failure or refusal to maintain confidentiality of records under such laws and regulations constitutes misconduct for which any University employee may be subject to disciplinary action.

### **4.10.3 Jurisdiction and Functions of the Faculty Due Process Committee**

**4.10.3.1** The Faculty Due Process Committee conducts formal, adversarial hearings in which parties to a dispute may present evidence designed to establish their respective positions, to the end that the committee may make findings of fact and attendant recommendations for proper resolution of the dispute.

**4.10.3.2** The committee shall maintain a complete record of all testimony and other evidence presented at a hearing, from which a verbatim transcript will be supplied at the expense of the University, if requested by the faculty member.

**4.10.3.3** The committee shall determine its own rules of procedure. Hearings will not be bound by strict rules of evidence or other formal prescriptions such as characterize the inquiries of courts of law. Rather, the committee shall resolve all questions about relevance and reliability and sufficiency of evidence in a manner that comports with common perceptions of reasonableness.

**4.10.3.4** Both a faculty member who has invoked any hearing process to be conducted by the committee and the respondent may be represented by legal counsel and/or by another advisor-advocate of their choice. Any person representing a party in such a hearing shall serve subject to all rules and regulations as may be adopted by the committee to preserve the integrity and fairness of the hearing process. The committee shall determine the appropriateness of the conduct of all participants.

## **4.11 Policies and Procedures for Employment Dispute Resolution**

### **4.11.1 Basic Principles**

**4.11.1.1** When there are disputes about the proper resolution of questions affecting a faculty member's employment, various University procedures may be used to review the problem at the faculty member's request.

**4.11.1.2** A faculty member aggrieved about a term or condition of employment, other than a disciplinary action, is encouraged to discuss the matter informally with the departmental chair. If a satisfactory resolution is not obtained, the faculty member is encouraged to discuss the matter with the chair's superiors, up to and including the provost and executive vice chancellor. In these discussions, on three working days' written notice to the chair or relevant administrator, the faculty member may be accompanied by an observer of their choosing. If the faculty member chooses an observer, the chair or administrator may be accompanied by an administrator observer. Unless otherwise agreed, observers may not take part in the discussion between the faculty member and the chair or administrator. Observers may not be present as attorney for either party. Because confidential personnel file information is likely to be discussed at such meetings, the faculty member and any observers must sign an Observer Waiver. This document includes the faculty member's authorization of the observer(s) to hear such confidential information, and commits the observer(s) to maintain the confidentiality of such information unless the faculty member subsequently authorizes disclosure.

Independent of such consultation, the faculty member (including a person on special faculty appointment) may invoke a grievance process that is intended to assure a comprehensive and fair assessment of the circumstances, to the end that an equitable resolution of the problem may be achieved. The proper subjects of such grievance inquiries may include, but are not necessarily limited to, reappointment, promotion, salary, permanent tenure, matters related to post-tenure review, and termination for financial exigency or program curtailment. In appropriate instances a formal hearing process may be conducted by the Faculty Grievance Hearing Committee (FGHC) in accordance with the requirements of [section 4.11.3](#) of these regulations and sections 604, 605, and 607 of The Code of the University of North Carolina. Although constitutionally mandated procedural safeguards do not apply to such grievance cases, the University community separately has established appropriate safeguards by enacting these regulations.

**4.11.1.3** An aggrieved faculty member may enlist the assistance of any individual or the Faculty Grievance Assistance Committee to help prepare a grievance case. The committee exists to advise the faculty member about the preparation of the case for hearing by the Faculty Due Process Committee or the Faculty Grievance Hearing Committee, to answer the faculty member's questions about the process of grievance, or to be available as a source of information for the faculty member during the grievance process.

**4.11.1.4** All records of a grievance case hearing which relate to personnel action affecting any University employee or contain information personally identifiable to a student shall be maintained confidentially and shall be disclosed only in accordance with Chapter 126, Article 7 of the North Carolina General Statutes, and applicable federal law, including, but not limited to, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1232g), and regulations adopted thereunder. Any failure or refusal to maintain confidentiality of records under such laws and regulations constitutes misconduct for which any University employee may be subject to disciplinary action.

#### **4.11.2 Composition of Committees**

**4.11.2.1** The quality and credibility of University dispute resolution procedures are enhanced by the participation of faculty committees. That members of both the Faculty Due Process Committee and the Faculty Grievance Hearing Committee (FGHC) are elected by their colleagues rather than appointed signifies a collegial approach to resolving disputes. The composition and membership of the Faculty Grievance Hearing Committee shall be as specified in [Section 4.11.3.8](#).

**4.11.2.2** The Faculty Due Process Committee shall be composed of five members and an alternate, all to be elected by the faculty. Nomination and election shall follow procedures for other at-large faculty elections. Membership of the Faculty Due Process Committee shall be composed of faculty with permanent tenure, regardless of rank. The term of office of a member of the Faculty Due Process Committee shall be three years; members shall have staggered terms.

**4.11.2.3** In the event a vacancy should occur in the membership of a committee during the academic year, the chair of the Faculty Senate shall designate a person holding the appropriate rank to fill the unexpired term. The chair of the Faculty Senate shall take into consideration equitable apportionment of committee membership among the various colleges/schools. Such designations by the chair of the Faculty Senate are subject to approval by a two-thirds vote of the Faculty Senate.

**4.11.2.4** The alternate shall attend committee meetings but shall not vote except as a replacement for a regular member. No committee member shall participate in an inquiry if that person holds appointment in the aggrieved faculty member's department, participated directly in the decision or action questioned by the grievance, or has any other substantial conflict of interest. No officer of administration, including departmental chairs or directors of administrative units, shall be eligible to serve on such a committee.

**4.11.2.5** The Faculty Grievance Assistance Committee shall consist of four members who each shall have served on a Faculty Due Process Committee or a Faculty Grievance Hearing Committee, but are not currently members of the Faculty Due Process Committee or the Faculty Grievance Hearing Committee. The term of membership shall be three years; members shall have staggered terms. The committee members shall be elected from among a list of interested and eligible faculty.

### **4.11.3 Grounds and Procedures for Review of Grievance (Non-disciplinary) Cases**

**4.11.3.1** A grievance may be considered pursuant to this formal hearing process only if it is based on the contention that some right or entitlement of the faculty member—derived either from University policies or from the provisions of state or federal laws, or from commonly shared understandings within the academic community about the rights, privileges and responsibilities attending University employment—has been abridged to the faculty member’s detriment. Examples would be if the decision-maker disregarded an established standard for evaluation, relied on impermissible consideration such as race or sex, or failed or refused to consult with or receive information from mandated advisory bodies. Eligible grievances thus defined include matters directly related to a faculty member’s employment status and institutional relationships, e.g., decisions not to reappoint, promote or recommend permanent tenure; termination for financial exigency or program curtailment under [section 4.9](#) of this *Faculty Handbook*; decisions not to grant graduate faculty status; decisions regarding merit salary increases; matters related to post-tenure review; and decisions regarding teaching assignments and other workload matters. Two types of grievances are distinguished. So-called 604 grievances involve promotion, tenure, and non-reappointment decisions and must be filed within fourteen (14) calendar days after receipt of final written notice of the decision in question (but see [section 4.6.4](#) suspending this time limit during the pendency of conferences with the dean and Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor). Review by the Faculty Grievance Hearing Committee of 604 grievances is limited to a determination of whether the administrative action was (1) based upon an impermissible ground identified in [section 4.4.2](#) and [section 4.6.1](#) of this *Faculty Handbook*, or (2) affected by a material procedural flaw. So-called 607 grievances can involve any other matter related to the faculty member’s employment status (e.g., graduate faculty status, merit pay, workload issues, and post tenure review). 607 grievances must be filed within ninety (90) days from the date the faculty member receives written notice of the grievable action, except for requests for reconsideration of a termination for financial exigency or program curtailment, for which a hearing must be requested, as specified in [section 4.9.3](#), within 10 working days after receiving the notice required by [section 4.9.2.2](#) and [section 4.9.2.3](#). If the faculty member does not file a grievance in a timely fashion, the administrator’s decision or action is final without recourse to any faculty committees, the University, or the Board of Governors.

**4.11.3.2** As used herein, the term “material procedural flaw” means a departure from prescribed procedures by which decisions concerning reappointment, promotion and the conferral of permanent tenure are made, to the extent that such departure casts substantial doubt upon the validity of the challenged decision. A material procedural flaw is one that, more likely than not, produced a decision different from that which would have resulted otherwise.

**4.11.3.3** Whether a material procedural flaw occurred shall be determined by reference to those procedures that were in effect at the time the challenged decision was made. The Faculty Grievance Hearing Committee shall ask the chancellor to certify what procedures were then in effect, if that is a disputed matter.

**4.11.3.4** In grievances contesting termination of faculty employment under [section 4.9](#) of this *Faculty Handbook*, the Faculty Grievance Hearing Committee’s review shall be limited to the question of whether the decision to terminate the complaining faculty member was arbitrary or capricious.

**4.11.3.5** 604 grievances (promotion of untenured faculty, tenure, non-reappointment) are governed by Section 604 of The Code of The University of North Carolina, and Board of Governors Policy 101.3.1 “Review of Non-reappointment Decisions Under Section 604 of the Code.” 607



grievances are governed by Section 607 of the Code of the University of North Carolina, and Board of Governors Policy 101.3.2 “Grievances Filed Pursuant to Section 607 of The Code.” The Faculty Grievance Hearing Committee (FGHC) of Appalachian State University shall hear, pursue adjustment through mediation, and advise the administration with respect to the adjustment of grievances of members of the faculty, including grievances concerning non-promotion brought by tenured faculty members per *UNC Policy Manual* 101.3.2 IIb. The authority of the FGHC shall be solely to hear representations by the persons directly involved in a grievance, to pursue voluntary adjustment by the parties through mediation, and to advise adjustment by the administration when appropriate. To the extent that these procedures are determined to conflict with any of the foregoing policies, the policies shall prevail.

Grievances within the province of the FGHC shall include matters directly related to a faculty member’s institutional relationships and conditions of employment. However, no grievance that grows out of or involves matters related to a formal proceeding for the suspension, discharge, or termination of a faculty member, or that is within the jurisdiction of another standing faculty committee, may be considered by the FGHC.

#### **4.11.3.5.1 The Grievance Procedure**

As a first step in the grievance procedure, the faculty member may meet with a representative of the Grievance Assistance Committee (GAC). The GAC representative will notify the chair of the Faculty Grievance Hearing Committee (FGHC) of this initial contact. Before any 607 grievance petition is submitted, the grievant must show evidence that she or he has met with the respondent(s) in an attempt to reach resolution, as specified in the paragraph below. In the case of a 604 grievance involving promotion, tenure or non-reappointment, the faculty member is advised, but is not required, to follow the steps outlined in sections [4.6.2](#) through [4.6.4](#) of the *Faculty Handbook*. All documents generated pursuant to the initiation of a grievance and by any person at any subsequent stage of the grievance process become confidential personnel records and are protected as such under the applicable state statute(s).

The grievant’s request for this initial meeting with the respondent(s) should be granted as expeditiously as possible, but within ten (10) working days, absent written documentation to the GAC of extenuating circumstances. At the initial meeting, both the grievant and the respondent(s) may be accompanied by another person of their own choosing as an observer, although such attendees may not take part in the discussion between the grievant and the respondent(s). Attorneys are not allowed at this meeting, but both the grievant and respondent(s) may consult with attorneys prior to or following the meeting. Because confidential personnel file information is likely to be discussed at the initial meeting, the grievant and any observers must sign an [Observer Waiver](#). This document includes the grievant’s authorization of the observer[s] to hear such confidential information, and commits the observer[s] to maintain the confidentiality of such information unless the grievant subsequently authorizes disclosure.

If agreement is reached between the parties, a written document stating the terms of the resolution will be produced jointly and signed by the grievant and the respondent(s), each of whom will be provided a copy. Copies will also be delivered to the immediate supervisors of all parties involved and to the provost and executive vice chancellor, whose office will confirm within five (5) working days that the terms of the resolution conform to University policy and may be implemented.

The grievance procedure stops at this point unless the respondent(s) fails to abide by the terms specified in the resolution. Under this circumstance, if the grievant has performed (or was ready and willing to perform) those of his or her obligations under the resolution that were preconditions to respondent's performance, the grievant may include the resolution attempt as part of his or her petition to the FGHC for redress. If there is no agreement, the non-resolution will be noted in writing, signed by the parties, and distributed as above.

**4.11.3.5.2** If resolution of the matter is not achieved through informal discussion as required in section 4.11.3.5.1, above, or as recommended in section [sections 4.6.2 through 4.6.4](#), the grievant will submit her or his written petition for redress to the chair of the FGHC, accompanied by a copy of any documents resulting from these meetings. The petition will specifically name the respondent(s) against whom the grievance is directed and will set forth in full detail the nature of the grievance. It is essential that the grievant, at this stage, state her or his case as completely as possible, since this document will establish the issues to be considered by the FGHC and may not be altered or amended at a later date, except to add specific claims based on events that had not occurred or evidence that was not available on the date of the original filing.

The petition must:

- (a) state the nature of the grievance;
- (b) name the parties to the dispute;
- (c) identify the University policy or practice, or state or federal law that allegedly was violated to the grievant's detriment;
- (d) summarize the evidence that the grievant is prepared to submit in support of the contention; and
- (e) affirm that all previous attempts at resolution of the dispute have failed.

**4.11.3.6** With respect to 604 grievances concerning promotion, tenure, or non-reappointment, the FGHC will schedule the matter for hearing (or will direct the parties to participate in mediation as provided in section [4.11.3.7](#) below) provided the grievance has been timely filed. With respect to 607 grievances on all other matters, the FGHC will review the petition and, by a vote of the majority of the committee membership, decide whether the petition sets forth sufficient grounds to warrant acceptance of the matter on the facts alleged. The FGHC shall grant a hearing with respect to a 607 grievance if it determines:

- (a) that the grievance is timely filed and that required preliminary attempts at dispute resolution have been pursued and have failed;
- (b) that the request does contain a contention that a right or entitlement of the faculty member, conferred by University policy or practice, or state or federal law has been abridged or, in a grievance concerning termination for financial exigency or program curtailment as provided in [section 4.9.2.3](#), that the termination decision was arbitrary or capricious; and
- (c) that the facts alleged, if established, will support that contention.

If the committee votes not to consider a 607 grievance, the matter is closed, except that, in a grievance concerning termination for financial exigency or program curtailment as provided in [section 4.9.2.3](#), the grievant may appeal as provided in [section 4.11.4.1](#).

**4.11.3.7** If a majority of the FGHC votes to accept the petition, the chair of the FGHC is responsible for providing a copy to the respondent(s) within 5 working days of its receipt. At this point, the parties to



a 607 grievance are required to take part in formal mediation arranged on their behalf by the FGHC chair and the provost and executive vice chancellor. In 604 grievances (promotion, tenure, non-reappointment) mediation shall be made available at the option of the grievant. Appalachian State University will pay the costs of bringing a mediator to campus to conduct the mediation sessions in an effort to find a mutually agreeable resolution to the conflict. The mediator must have completed specialized mediation training and be certified by the North Carolina Office of State Personnel, the UNC General Administration, or the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts. The mediator, found acceptable and agreed to by both parties, should not be a member of the Appalachian State University community, although outside mediators from the community or other UNC campuses may be considered. Mediation does not entail findings of fact or involve other evidentiary procedures. Attorneys are prohibited from participating in the process or acting as observers. The mediation is to be limited to the grievant, the respondent(s) and the mediator, although the parties have the right to consult with others during recesses and before committing to any agreement. Any time limit adopted by a UNC constituent institution or prescribed by Board of Governors Policy concerning the formal resolution of UNC Code Section 607 grievances will be suspended for the duration of a mediation process being conducted pursuant to this policy. However, the parties are encouraged to use their best efforts to complete mediation within twenty (20) working days. Mediation procedure described above modified from [here](#). See also Inside North Carolina: a guide to state employment, p. 24, NC Office of State Personnel (June 2007); UNC Office of the President, Employee Mediation and Grievance Policy and Procedure, Ann W. Lemmon (January 2005).

**4.11.3.7.1** If a mutually agreeable resolution is reached through mediation, a written statement will be produced by the mediator detailing the agreement and will be signed and dated by all parties to the mediation. Any agreement proposing to obligate Appalachian State University must also be signed by an appropriate and properly authorized University official. Copies will be provided to the parties specified in [section 4.11.3.5.1](#), above. At this point, the FGHC chair will be notified by the mediator by an unelaborated written statement that the mediation was successful, and the grievance will come to an end.

**4.11.3.7.2** If mediation fails, no record of the mediation will be released other than an unelaborated written statement from the mediator to the chair of the FGHC that mediation was attempted and was unsuccessful. Copies of the unelaborated written statement will be provided to the parties specified in [section 4.11.3.5.1](#), above. Under no circumstances may the mediator be called as a witness in any subsequent proceeding, nor may any statements made during mediation be used against either party in a formal grievance hearing or any other forum. The mediator will dispose of any documents used in the process. Upon notification of the failure of mediation, the grievant must notify the chair of the faculty grievance committee in writing within 5 working days of the desire to proceed with the grievance hearing. Since the FGHC has already determined that the grievant's petition merits the committee's consideration, the grievant's written notification to the FGHC chair of a desire to proceed to a formal grievance hearing will be automatically granted. The grievant may end the process at any time from this point forward.

**4.11.3.8 The Faculty Grievance Hearing Committee**, as a committee constituted solely of faculty and charged with hearing disputes arising out of a faculty member's relationship with the University, shall determine any and all policies and procedures, not inconsistent with any restrictions in Section 607 of the UNC Code and Article VI, Sections 1 and 3 of the Faculty Constitution, necessary to carry out its responsibilities in the conduct of a grievance hearing. The

FGHC will be composed of nine (9) members elected by the faculty at-large: three (3) members from each of the ranks of professor, associate professor, and assistant professor. Five (5) members of the FGHC, with each rank represented on the hearing panel, will conduct hearings. At least two (2) members must be of the same rank as the grievant; the other members of the hearing panel may be apportioned in any manner consistent with the foregoing requirements of this section. If the grievant is from any rank other than those specified by sections [3.8.5](#), [3.8.6](#) and [3.8.7](#), or holds a part-time faculty appointment, all professorial ranks must be represented on the hearing panel.

Nomination and election shall follow procedures for other at-large faculty elections. The term of office of a member of the FGHC shall be three years; members shall have staggered terms.

**4.11.3.9** Faculty members shall be allowed to be represented at a grievance hearing by an advisor-advocate of his or her choice as long as that person is not serving as the faculty member's attorney. If the faculty member chooses to be represented by an advisor-advocate, the respondent may likewise be represented by an advisor-advocate. However, no advisor-advocate may be called as a witness. The faculty member also shall be allowed to have an attorney present as an observer, and if the faculty member so elects, the respondent may likewise have an attorney present as an observer. Attorney-observers are not, however, permitted to speak, although a party may consult with her or his attorney-observer during breaks in the hearing as well as at any other stage in the process aside from the hearing. Presence at the hearing is limited to the members of the FGHC, the grievant, the respondent(s), the parties' advisor-advocates and/or attorney-observers, if any, and a designated recorder.

The hearing shall begin with a presentation by the faculty member or faculty member's advisor-advocate of evidence designed to support the faculty member's contentions. The presentation shall be limited to those matters specified in the request for a hearing on which the FGHC based its agreement to conduct the hearing or to such other matters specified in [section 4.11.3.5.2](#). FGHC members may question all witnesses presented by any party, the grievant, and the respondent(s). At the conclusion of the hearing, the FGHC shall meet in closed session to consider the matter. The FGHC may consider only such evidence as was presented at the hearing and need consider only the evidence offered that it considers fair and reliable. The burden is on the aggrieved faculty member to satisfy the FGHC, by a preponderance of the evidence, that her or his contention is true. After the conclusion of the hearing, the FGHC shall complete its deliberations and produce its decision within twenty (20) working days.

**4.11.3.10** In a 607 grievance, the FGHC shall transmit its report to the faculty member, the respondent(s) and the provost and executive vice chancellor. In a 604 grievance involving promotion, tenure, or non-reappointment, and in a grievance concerning non-promotion of a tenured faculty member, the FGHC shall transmit its report to the faculty member, the respondents, and the chancellor. When the FGHC makes a recommendation unfavorable to the faculty member in a 607 grievance, the FGHC's decision, as a determination of a body of the grievant's peers, shall be final, except that, in a grievance concerning termination for financial exigency or program curtailment as provided in [section 4.9.2.3](#), the grievant may appeal as provided in [section 4.11.4.1](#). When the FGHC makes a recommendation unfavorable to a 604 grievant challenging a promotion, tenure, or non-reappointment decision, the appeal process for such a grievant is to the chancellor, and if the chancellor concurs in an FGHC recommendation unfavorable to the faculty member, the grievant may appeal to the Board of Governors, pursuant to [section 4.11.4.2](#), below.

**4.11.3.11** If the FGHC concludes that the grievant's contention has been established, it shall provide notice and its recommendations for corrective action to the faculty member, the respondent(s), and the provost and executive vice chancellor.

**4.11.3.12** The provost and executive vice chancellor or the chancellor shall issue a written decision within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the FGHC report. The decision shall be transmitted to the grievant, the respondents, and to the FGHC. If, prior to issuing the written decision, the provost and executive vice chancellor or the chancellor intends to reject the recommendation of the FGHC, the provost and executive vice chancellor or chancellor shall communicate that intention to the grievant and the FGHC along with the reasons and provide an opportunity for committee response before taking final action. The grievant may consult with the GAC regarding the provost and executive vice chancellor (or chancellor's) decision.

**4.11.3.13** In a 607 grievance, if the provost and executive vice chancellor declines to take corrective action acceptable to the grievant, the grievant may appeal to the chancellor by submitting the FGHC report and subsequent communications with the provost and executive vice chancellor. If the chancellor concurs in a recommendation of the committee that is favorable to the grievant, the chancellor's decision is final. If the chancellor declines to accept a committee recommendation that is favorable to the grievant, a faculty member may appeal the chancellor's decision pursuant to [section 4.11.4.1](#), below.

**4.11.3.14** In a 604 grievance involving promotion, tenure or non-reappointment, if the chancellor concurs with an FGHC recommendation that is favorable to the faculty member, the chancellor's decision shall be final. If the chancellor declines to accept a committee recommendation that is favorable to the faculty member, the faculty member may appeal by filing a written notice of appeal with the Board of Governors pursuant to [section 4.11.4.2](#).

#### **4.11.4 Appeal Beyond the Chancellor**

**4.11.4.1** With respect to a decision adverse to the faculty member in a 607 grievance about a matter other than a promotion, tenure, or non-reappointment decision, the line of appeal is as prescribed by Section 607 of The Code, and shall be guided by the following procedure:

- (a) A grievant dissatisfied with the chancellor's disposition of a grievance must file written notice of appeal with the Board of Trustees, by submitting such notice to the chancellor, within ten (10) working days after the grievant's receipt of the decision by certified mail, return receipt requested. The appeal to the Board of Trustees shall be to a standing committee of five (5) members to be selected and agreed upon by the chair of the Board of Trustees and the chair of the Faculty Senate. The immediate past chair of the Faculty Senate may advise the current chair if the chair feels that it is necessary. The appeal shall be transmitted through the chancellor and be addressed to the chair of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees Appeals Committee shall base its consideration of the appeal upon the written record of the grievance. The Board of Trustees Appeals Committee will make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days after receipt by the chancellor of the notice of appeal. The decision of the Board of Trustees is final.

**4.11.4.2** With respect to a decision adverse to the faculty member in a 604 grievance about a promotion, tenure, or non-reappointment decision, the line of appeal is as prescribed by Section 604 D(2) of The Code and shall be guided by the following procedure:

If the chancellor concurs in an FGHC recommendation that is unfavorable to the faculty member, the faculty member may appeal by filing a written notice of appeal with the Board of Governors, by submitting such notice to the president, by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by any other means that provides proof of delivery, within fourteen (14) calendar days after the faculty member's receipt of the chancellor's decision. The notice must contain a brief statement of the basis for the appeal. The purpose of appeal to the Board of Governors is to assure (1) that the campus based process for reviewing the decision was not materially flawed, so as to raise questions about whether the faculty member's contentions were fairly and reliably considered, (2) that the result reached by the chancellor was not clearly erroneous, and (3) that the decision was not contrary to controlling law or policy. See Policy 101.3.1 for further information. The composition and membership of the Faculty Grievance Hearing Committee shall be as specified in [section 4.11.3.8](#).

## **4.12 Policy Regarding Personnel Files**

### **4.12.1 Definition of Personnel File**

A personnel file consists of "any information gathered by" the University with respect to an applicant for employment, current employee, or former employee, "and which information relates to the individual's application, selection or non-selection, promotions, demotions, transfers, leave, salary, suspension, performance evaluation forms, disciplinary actions, and termination of employment wherever located and in whatever form [e.g., paper documents, electronic media, microfilm or microfiche]." See N.C.G.S. §126-22.

#### **4.12.1.1 Anonymous Source Information**

**4.12.1.1.1** Subject to the exceptions stated below, no material or information received from or provided by anonymous sources may be placed in a personnel file.

**4.12.1.1.2** Data from student evaluations and University-based student opinion surveys may be placed in the personnel file, and may be used for purposes of annual evaluation and other personnel decisions.

**4.12.1.1.3** Evaluative materials or summaries thereof prepared by peer committees as part of a regular evaluation system may be placed in a faculty member's personnel file when signed by a representative of the committee.

#### **4.12.2 Location and Maintenance of Faculty Personnel Files**

Although information about faculty members will likely be maintained by several offices (e.g., chair, dean, HRS), the official personnel file for each faculty member will be maintained by the office of the senior administrator of the college/school or library that includes the faculty member's department/unit. Within three (3) business days of placing new documents or information in a faculty member's personnel file, the other offices maintaining such files must submit copies to the senior administrator's office for addition to the official personnel file. Pursuant to the *Faculty Handbook* [section 4.3.1.1](#), no items that will be considered or relied upon in an annual review or other personnel action may be placed in the faculty member's personnel file within the five working days prior to the annual review or personnel action, except under exigent circumstances.

### **4.12.3 Non-Personnel-File Information**

**4.12.3.1** Not every record or piece of information that relates to an employee is part of the faculty member's personnel file. Information that does not relate to, or will not be relied upon in making one of the employment actions listed in [section 4.12.1](#) above, should not be part of or added to the faculty member's personnel file.

**4.12.3.2** For example, information gathered in the investigation of allegations of misconduct should be maintained in a confidential investigation file in the office conducting the investigation (e.g., Office of General Counsel and/or the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Compliance). While investigations often involve review of copies of existing records from an individual's personnel file, investigations also gather information and documents that are not part of that file, including witness statements and other documentary evidence. Such documents should not be made part of a personnel file unless and until it is determined that the information should be relied upon in making one of the listed employment actions and at that time the documents relied upon in the employment action will be placed in the official personnel file, which is available to the faculty member.

**4.12.3.3** When there is doubt as to whether information should be included in a personnel file, the question should be referred to the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor.

### **4.12.4 Public Information**

The University maintains a record of each of its employees, showing the employee's "name, age, date of original employment or appointment to the State service, current position, title, current salary, date and amount of most recent increase or decrease in salary, date of most recent promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, separation, or other change in position classification, and the office or station to which the employee is currently assigned." N.C.G.S. §126-23. This is public information and the "person having custody of such records shall permit them to be inspected and examined and copies thereof made by any person during regular business hours." *Id.* At Appalachian State University, the custodian of such records is Human Resource Services.

### **4.12.5 Confidentiality of Non-Public Information**

Other than the public information described in [Section 4.12.4](#) above, "all other information contained in a personnel file is confidential." N.C.G.S. §126-24.

### **4.12.6 Access to Personnel File Information**

**4.12.6.1** A faculty member, applicant for faculty employment, former faculty member, or the faculty member's properly authorized agent (including the faculty member's attorney) may have access to his or her personnel file "in its entirety except for (i) letters of reference solicited prior to employment, or (ii) information concerning an medical disability, mental or physical, that a prudent physician would not divulge to a patient. An employee's medical record may be disclosed to a licensed physician designated in writing by the employee." N.C.G.S. §126-24(l). These documents will be kept in a separate envelope as required by the [ASU Personnel File Checklist](#). In addition, a current or former faculty member, applicant, or authorized agent, may obtain copies of personnel file materials, except as provided otherwise by law.

**4.12.6.2** Faculty members are advised to examine their personnel file, particularly preceding an annual evaluation or a personnel action such as re-appointment, promotion, tenure, and post-tenure review. A written request for an appointment to review a personnel file must be submitted to the office of the dean, or other appropriate senior administrator, at least three (3) working days



in advance of the date on which the faculty member wishes to review the personnel file. On three working days' written notice to the dean or other appropriate administrator, the faculty member may be accompanied by an observer of their choosing. If the faculty member chooses an observer, the dean or other appropriate administrator may be accompanied by an administrator observer. Observers may not be present as attorney for either party. Because confidential personnel file information will be reviewed, the faculty member and any observers must sign an [Observer Waiver](#).

Upon receipt of the written request, the office of the dean, or other appropriate senior administrator, will: (1) communicate with other offices to ensure that copies of all personnel file documents have been furnished to the office of the dean, or other appropriate senior administrator; (2) temporarily segregate any pre-employment reference letters or medical disability information that a prudent physician would not divulge to a patient; and (3) communicate with the faculty member to schedule a time during regular business hours for review of the file. The faculty member will be required to present an identification card with a photograph of the faculty member prior to being granted access to the personnel file.

**4.12.6.3** Others who may have access to a personnel file and information contained therein without the employee's consent include the employee's supervisor (with respect to the faculty, the chain of supervision includes the chair, the dean, or other senior administrator, the provost and executive vice chancellor, and the chancellor), members of the General Assembly, a party in a lawsuit if authorized by a court order, or an official of a state or federal government agency (or any political subdivision thereof) when inspection is deemed necessary and essential to the pursuance of a proper function of the University by the chancellor, after consultation with the provost and executive vice chancellor, the department chairperson, and the relevant dean. N.C.G.S. §126-24 (2)-(5).

**4.12.6.4** Because the functions of departmental personnel committees, departmental promotion and tenure committees, and search committees are essential to maintaining both the integrity of the University and the level and quality of services provided by the University, the chancellor, consistent with the provisions of N.C.G.S. §126-24, has authorized the disclosure to the members of such committees such personnel file information with respect to current or prospective faculty members as is relevant to such committees' performance of their functions and duties under *Faculty Handbook* sections [4.1.3](#) and [4.1.4.2](#). Because a faculty member's personnel file may contain information that is not relevant to the committee's deliberations, the department chair, or other such supervisor, shall have the discretion to determine whether specific items of personnel file information are relevant to the committee's deliberations. In the event a department chair, or other such supervisor, determines that specific personnel file information is not relevant to the committee's deliberations, the chair or other such supervisor may not subsequently rely upon such information in making his or her recommendation to the dean concerning the committee's recommendation.

#### **4.12.7 Objections to Material in Personnel File**

A current or former faculty member or an applicant for faculty employment "who objects to material in his [or her] file may place in his [or her] file a statement relating to the material he [or she] considers to be inaccurate or misleading," or "may seek the removal of such material from his [or her] file in accordance with the grievance procedure" described in *Faculty Handbook* [sections 4.11.3.5.1 – 4.11.4.1](#). See N.C.G.S. §126-25. If the final decision from the grievance procedure directs the removal of the material in question, the original and all copies of the material removed shall be destroyed and no inaccurate or misleading information derived from the material removed may be retained.

## **4.12.8 Consequences of Unauthorized Release of Confidential Personnel File Information**

### **4.12.8.1 Criminal Liability**

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §126-27: “Any public official or employee who shall knowingly and willfully permit any person to have access to or custody or possession of any portion of a personnel file designated as confidential by the Article, unless such person is one specifically authorized by G.S. 126-24 to have access thereto for inspection and examination, shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor and upon conviction shall only be fined in the discretion of the court but not in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500.00).”

### **4.12.8.2 Civil Liability**

University employees, including faculty members, who engage in unauthorized disclosure or release of confidential personnel file information risk liability in civil lawsuits arising out of claims such as defamation, infliction of emotional distress, interference with contractual relationships, etc. In such lawsuits, if malice or willful conduct can be proved, punitive damages may be awarded.

### **4.12.8.3 No Defense and Indemnification**

The Defense of State Employees Act (N.C.G.S. §143-300.3) provides for the defense of a state employee in “any civil or criminal action or proceeding brought against him . . . on account of an act done or omission made in the scope and course of his employment as a State employee.” In addition, University faculty and staff have the benefit of limited indemnification by the University pursuant to North Carolina law, as well as excess liability insurance coverage with limits of \$5,000,000 per occurrence and \$10,000,000 annual aggregate with respect to claims that their conduct in the course of their employment caused compensable injury. Because defense by the Attorney General, and indemnification and excess liability insurance coverage are available only to employees performing duties within the course and scope of their employment duties, and because conduct that violates state law or University policy may be deemed “outside the scope of employment,” any employee who is sued or prosecuted for violating the confidentiality of personnel file information will likely bear all costs of defense (e.g., attorney’s fees and court costs) and any damages or fines assessed against the employee.

### **4.12.8.4 Disciplinary Action**

Because the unauthorized disclosure of confidential personnel file information is a violation of State law and University policy, faculty members and other employees who engage in such conduct will be subject to disciplinary action.

## **4.13 Appointment and Review of Academic Administrators**

### **4.13.1 Appointment**

#### **4.13.1.1 Election of a chancellor is fixed by statute as a duty of the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina.**

4.13.1.2 Procedures for appointment to a senior administrative position, as determined by the Board of Governors, include the following:

- (a) appointment by the chancellor of a nominating committee of no less than seven persons representing the faculty, administrative staff, students, and other groups as the chancellor may

deem appropriate. The majority shall be full-time faculty members not currently serving as administrators.

- (b) nomination to the chancellor by the committee of two or more persons qualified to fill the position. (If the chancellor finds none of the nominees acceptable, additional nominations may be requested or another committee appointed.)
- (c) appointment by the chancellor to positions other than those of provost or vice chancellor.
- (d) recommendation by the chancellor to the Board of Trustees in the case of the positions of provost or vice chancellor; and
- (e) approval by the Board of Trustees.

**4.13.1.3** A member of the administrative staff does not attain tenure in an administrative position. If, however, the administrator holds academic rank and/or tenure at the time of the appointment, that person continues to hold such rank or tenure as a member of the department in which such status was held prior to appointment to an administrative position. The appointment of a dean of a college/school will include tenure in an academic department/school.

**4.13.2 Review.** The chancellor or the chancellor's designee will provide for periodic review of administrators. The director of Institutional Research, Assessment and Planning (IRAP) will convene the first meeting of each reading committee and will facilitate the selection of a chair, or co-chairs, from among the committee members.

#### **4.13.2.1 Administrative Reviews**

The chancellor, the provost and executive vice chancellor, and deans will be reviewed every three years.

##### **4.13.2.1.1 Chancellor Evaluation**

- (a) All faculty, staff, and students will be provided the opportunity to evaluate the chancellor;
- (b) The evaluative questions will be revised as needed by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee working with the Faculty Senate's Welfare and Morale Committee and will be developed from the appropriate job descriptions.
- (c) The administrator under review will have the option to provide a statement that reflects on his/her goals and accomplishments.
- (d) The reading committee for the chancellor's evaluation and review will be comprised of the president of the Student Government Association, the president of the Graduate Student Association Senate, the chair of Staff Senate, the chair of the Faculty Senate, and the chair of the Council of Chairs. All committee members and the chancellor will be provided the raw data. The reading committee will meet to discuss the outcome of the evaluation process and write a document summarizing the results. The committee will then meet with the chancellor to discuss their findings. After this meeting, the committee will write a final report and submit it to the chair of the Board of Trustees and to the president of the University of North Carolina system. The review process shall be confidential including, but not limited to, such components as the raw data, committee deliberations, and the final report.
- (e) The Faculty Senate chair will notify the faculty when the process is completed.



- (f) The Board of Trustees evaluates the chancellor every four years and will be provided with the necessary data from the most recent campus review.

#### **4.13.2.1.2 Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Evaluation**

- (a) All faculty and direct report staff will be provided the opportunity to evaluate the provost and executive vice chancellor;
- (b) The evaluative questions will be revised as needed by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee working with the Faculty Senate's Welfare and Morale Committee and will be developed from the appropriate job descriptions.
- (c) The administrator under review will have the option to provide a statement that reflects on his/her goals and accomplishments.
- (d) The reading committee for the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor will be comprised of the chair of the Faculty Senate, the chair of the Council of Chairs and a dean jointly appointed by the Faculty Senate chair and the chancellor. The committee will elect a chair. All committee members and the chancellor will be provided the raw data.
- (e) The reading committee will meet and discuss the outcome of the evaluation process and write a document assessing the results. The committee will then meet with the provost and executive vice chancellor to discuss their findings. After this meeting, the committee will write a final report and submit it to the chancellor. The review process shall be confidential including, but not limited to, such components as the raw data, committee deliberations, and the final report.
- (f) The chancellor will notify the faculty when the process is completed.
- (g) The Faculty Senate-run evaluation of the provost and executive vice chancellor will not in any way preclude other evaluations of the provost and executive vice chancellor by the chancellor, but is designed to provide one component of a general performance evaluation of the provost and executive vice chancellor.

#### **4.13.2.1.3 Dean Evaluations**

- (a) All faculty in a college will be provided the opportunity to evaluate the dean of that college.
- (b) Dean evaluations will take place on a rotating basis. New deans will be evaluated in their second year and, thereafter, every three years.
- (c) The task of developing and updating dean evaluation instruments will be the responsibility of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Committee for Welfare and Morale. Evaluation instruments will be tailored to the dean's job description with input from the provost and executive vice chancellor.
- (d) The administrator under review will have the option to provide a statement that reflects on his/her goals and accomplishments.
- (e) The reading committee for the dean of a college will be composed of five members: a member of the Faculty Senate Committee for Welfare and Morale; a department chair from within the dean's college; a department chair from outside the dean's college; a faculty member with the rank of professor from within the dean's college; and one faculty member with the rank of professor outside the dean's college. The reading committee chair will be elected by the committee and should not be in the college of the dean being evaluated. For

colleges or schools without formal departments (such as the Library or School of Music) a program head will substitute for the inside department chair.

- (f) The reading committee will receive the raw data and meet to review it. The reading committee will then produce a written report summarizing the reading committee's review of the administrator along with a data summary and compiled comments with any identifying information removed.
- (g) The reading committee will then meet with the provost and executive vice chancellor and the dean under review to discuss the findings. The dean and provost and executive vice chancellor shall receive a copy of the report and the summary data at least three working days prior to the meeting with the provost and executive vice chancellor. After meeting with the dean and the provost and executive vice chancellor, the reading committee will write a final report. The Faculty Senate chair shall receive the raw data and summary report at the completion of the administrative review. The evaluation meeting with the provost and executive vice chancellor should take place before the end of the spring semester of the academic year in which the evaluation takes place. The review process shall be confidential including, but not limited to, such components as the raw data, committee deliberations, and the final report.
- (h) The provost and executive vice chancellor will notify the faculty in the dean's unit when the process is complete.
- (i) Faculty Senate-run reviews of deans shall not in any way preclude other dean evaluations by the provost and executive vice chancellor, but is designed to provide one component of a general performance evaluation of the dean.

#### **4.13.2.1.4 Other Administrative Evaluations**

Other administrators such as vice chancellors and vice provosts will be reviewed under the following conditions: 1. when requested by the chancellor or provost and executive vice chancellor, or 2. when initiated by the Faculty Senate chair, or 3. when directed by a majority vote of the Faculty Senate.

(a) The task of developing and updating evaluation instruments for other administrators will be the responsibility of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Committee for Welfare and Morale. Evaluation instruments will be tailored to the administrator's job description with input from the provost and executive vice chancellor.

(b) The administrator under review will have the option to provide a statement that reflects on his/her goals and accomplishments.

(c) The reading committee for other administrators will be composed of four members (where possible representing different colleges): a member of the Faculty Senate Committee for Welfare and Morale; a department chair (or program head, for units like Library, or School of Music); a dean; and a faculty member holding the rank of professor. The reading committee chair will be selected from among the committee members.

(d) Reading committees for other administrators will receive the raw data and meet to review it. The reading committee will produce a written report summarizing the reading committee's review of the administrator along with a data summary and compiled comments with any identifying information removed. The reading committee will meet with the provost and

executive vice chancellor (or other supervisor) and the administrator under review to discuss the findings. The administrator under review and provost and executive vice chancellor/other supervisor shall receive a copy of the report and the summary data at least three working days prior to the evaluation meeting. After meeting with the provost and executive vice chancellor or supervisor, the reading committee will write a final report. The Faculty Senate chair shall receive the raw data and final report at the completion of the administrative review. The evaluation meeting with the provost and executive vice chancellor/supervisor should take place before the end of the spring semester of the academic year in which the evaluation takes place. The review process shall be confidential including, but not limited to, such components as the raw data, committee deliberations, and the final report.

(e) Faculty Senate-run evaluations of academic administrators who work regularly with faculty shall not in any way preclude other administrator evaluations by the provost and executive vice chancellor or their supervisor.

(f) The administrator under review's supervisor will notify the faculty in that unit when the process is complete.

### **4.13.3 Administrative/Faculty Positions**

**4.13.3.1** There are several positions within the University, and particularly in the area of Academic Affairs, which are characterized by the following: (1) primarily an administrative, rather than a teaching position, (2) primarily a "staff" rather than a "line" position, (3) duties that involve working primarily with faculty and students in academic programs, and (4) primarily occupied by persons holding academic rank or eligible to hold such rank. Examples of such positions include assistant deans, associate deans, and directors of administrative units. Within this grouping of positions, two categories exist. In the first category are assistant deans and associate deans who are most directly responsible to and serve at the pleasure of the individual to whom they report. The second category consists of positions such as directors of administrative units that have neither students, faculty, nor programs of their own, and have distinct responsibilities to faculty, students, and others with whom they must work in the discharge of the respective responsibilities and duties.

**4.13.3.2** For a position in the first category (i.e., assistant dean, associate dean), it will be the responsibility of the person supervising the position to determine the most appropriate method for filling the position. Notification and discussion of the method to be used for the selection process for persons to fill positions in the first category will be made through the established reporting channels, up to and including the level of the provost and executive vice chancellor.

All such positions will be advertised and applications received within a time limit determined by the Compliance Officer.

**4.13.3.3** For a position in the second category, a search committee will be formed, normally consisting of five to seven persons, who are representative of the primary groups with which the person to be selected will be working most directly. The provost and executive vice chancellor, in consultation with the dean of the college/school involved, will determine the various constituencies that are to be represented on the search committee; the provost and executive vice chancellor and the dean may wish to consult with others prior to a final determination being made of these constituencies. The dean of the college/school involved, in consultation with the constituencies to be represented on the search committee, will submit to the provost and executive vice chancellor the names of at least two persons from each of these constituencies who are available to serve on the search committee. From this list of names, the provost and executive vice chancellor will

proceed with the appointment of the search committee. In addition to the persons appointed to this committee, the dean of the college/school involved may also serve as a member of the committee. All such positions will be advertised and applications received within a time limit determined by the Compliance Officer.

**4.13.3.4** Procedures to be followed by the search committee for positions identified with the second category are as follows:

- (a) At the first organizational meeting, a chair will be elected by the members of the search committee;
- (b) At the initial meeting the dean of the college/school involved will submit to the search committee a description of the duties and responsibilities associated with the position;
- (c) Two (2) applicants will be interviewed. Since the cornerstone of our personnel policy is to promote from within, it behooves each search committee to consider carefully the application of each internal applicant for the position opening;
- (d) Timely written notification of non-selection will be given to all applicants;
- (e) A nomination will be made by the committee and appropriate administrator to the provost and executive vice chancellor of two or more qualified persons to fill the position (except when circumstances make only one candidate acceptable). The nominations may be submitted in rank order. If the provost and executive vice chancellor finds none of the nominees acceptable, additional nominees may be requested;
- (f) Recommendation will be made to the chancellor for approval.

**4.13.3.5** In any case where a question arises as to whether or not a position referred to in this policy falls under the aegis of the first or second category, the final determination of such a question will reside with the provost and executive vice chancellor. In all cases concerning the selection of persons to fill positions in either of the two categories, the requirements prescribed by equal opportunity policies will be strictly maintained.

#### **4.13.4 Appointment and Review of Departmental Chairs**

##### **4.13.4.1 Constitution of the Departmental Chair Search Committee**

###### **4.13.4.1.1 The departmental chair search committee shall consist of:**

- (a) six (6) members of the department elected by the faculty of the department (as defined in Article II, [Section 3](#), of the Faculty Constitution); and
- (b) a member of an allied department appointed by the dean of the college/school. The department may forward suggestions for consideration.

**4.13.4.1.2** When the department consists of six or fewer members, all shall be invited to serve on the committee.

**4.13.4.1.3** The ratio of tenured to non-tenured will be 4:2, whenever possible.

**4.13.4.1.4** Departments with a multiple focus (such as political science/criminal justice) shall strive to have all areas fairly represented.

**4.13.4.1.5** If the department offers a graduate degree or degrees, at least one committee member will be a member of the graduate faculty.

#### **4.13.4.2 Charge to the Departmental Chair Search Committee**

Prior to the selection of the committee, the dean will meet with the department and charge it. In this meeting, the dean will emphasize consideration of the University's commitment to diversity when electing representatives to the committee.

#### **4.13.4.3 Procedures**

**4.13.4.3.1** At the first organizational meeting, a chair will be elected by the members of the departmental chair search committee.

**4.13.4.3.2** Timely notification of non-selection will be given to all applicants.

**4.13.4.3.3** Nomination will be made by the committee to the dean of the college/school. The names and resumes of a short list of candidates will be sent to the dean if and when the committee prepares such a list. The committee will nominate two or more qualified persons to fill the position (except when circumstances make only one candidate acceptable). The committee may or may not submit these in ranked order of preference. The dean will send the committee's recommendation, along with the dean's recommendation to the provost and executive vice chancellor. If the provost and executive vice chancellor finds none of the nominees acceptable, additional nominees may be requested.

**4.13.4.3.4** A departmental chair does not attain tenure as chair. The departmental chair does, however, hold academic rank and will have tenure as a faculty member.

**4.13.4.3.5** When a departmental chair search committee has identified and voted to recommend candidates to the dean, the committee will recommend that an appointment with tenure should be made.

#### **4.13.4.4 Periodic Reopening of the Departmental Chair Position**

**4.13.4.4.1** A person is appointed as a chair for a period of one year (July 1 – June 30). If an individual receives appointment to the position of chair in five consecutive years (including service as acting or interim chair) from the date of the initial appointment, the position will be reopened for nominations automatically in September of the fifth year of that individual's service as chair and every three years thereafter. The purpose of the periodic reopening of the position is to provide opportunity for the chair to return to faculty status and/or for the department to signal interest in positive change; that is, change not necessarily linked to the regular annual review of the chair.

**4.13.4.4.2** At that designated time, the dean will inform the faculty and the departmental chair that the periodic reopening of the position is taking place. The faculty of the department shall assemble, without the departmental chair, to discuss the future of the department and its leadership. Before this meeting is adjourned and while a quorum exists, departmental faculty (as defined in Article II, [Section 3](#) of the Faculty Constitution) shall vote by secret ballot on whether to recommend to the dean that the department seek candidates for the position of departmental chair or that the department continue with the current chair for an additional term of three years. A simple majority shall be required. The result of this vote (the number of yeas, nays, or abstentions) shall be communicated to the dean of the college, and the dean will share the results with the departmental chair. After consulting with all EPA and SPA personnel working at least .75 time in the department, the dean shall recommend to the provost and

executive vice chancellor whether the department should seek candidates for the position of departmental chair or continue with the current chair for an additional term of three years.

**4.13.4.4.3** If the faculty vote to continue with the current departmental chair, that person may continue as departmental chair for an additional term of three years. If the current chair does not wish to continue serving as departmental chair, then at this point the procedure for appointing a departmental chair ([section 4.13.4](#)) will be followed.

**4.13.4.4.4** If the faculty vote to consider other candidates, then a second vote will be taken on whether to seek candidates from outside the department or to consider only internal candidates. A simple majority shall be required. If a position is available, the departmental chair search committee may request of the dean an external search. A request for an external search does not preclude the dean from limiting a search to department members. At this point, the procedure for appointing a departmental chair ([section 4.13.4](#)) will be followed.

**4.13.4.4.5** The dean of the college will convene the meeting. The faculty shall select a member to chair the meeting, conduct all balloting, prepare minutes of the meeting, and immediately inform the departmental faculty and the dean of the college of the ballot results. Minutes of the meeting shall only record those faculty present and the ballot results, and shall be sent to the dean of the college. The paper ballots for this vote shall be kept in sealed, labeled, and dated envelopes, and filed in the office of the dean.

#### **4.13.4.5 Annual Review of Departmental Chairs**

**4.13.4.5.1** Provision is made for a written review of departmental chairs each year. However, no chair who has served less than a full year in that position, or who is on an off-campus assignment, shall be reviewed.

**4.13.4.5.2** The purpose of the review is to evaluate and strengthen the departmental chair's performance with regard to the responsibilities listed in the *Faculty Handbook*. The dean of the college/school concerned will prepare a report concerning the performance of the chair, which will be submitted to the Office of Academic Affairs. While it is recognized that a review report will generally contain both positive and negative aspects, a report is considered positive overall unless the dean recommends that the chair be removed from office.

#### **4.13.4.5.3 Procedure for the Review Process**

**4.13.4.5.3.1** During the first week of the spring semester, the evaluation instrument will be distributed by the dean's office to each faculty member within each academic department including the library.

**4.13.4.5.3.2** Within five (5) working days after receiving the form, the faculty (as defined by [Article II, Section 2](#) of the Constitution) are to evaluate their respective chair and to return the form(s) in an unmarked, sealed envelope to the dean of the college/school who will then compile a summary of the evaluation responses for the dean's annual evaluation conference with the chair.

**4.13.4.5.3.3** Prior to or during the month of February, the dean shall discuss the summary with the chair in an annual spring conference called for this purpose. Following this meeting, the dean will discuss the evaluation of the chair with the provost and executive vice chancellor.

**4.13.4.5.3.4** Following discussions of the evaluation with the chair and provost and executive vice chancellor, the dean will communicate with the department regarding the dean's recommendation, consistent with Article 7, Chapter 126-24 of the State Personnel Act regarding privacy of personnel records. The communication may be provided in writing or in a meeting with the department.

**4.13.4.5.3.5** In the event that a negative recommendation appears to be under consideration by the dean, the chair has the right to call a meeting of the dean, the faculty, and the chair to discuss the basis or lack of basis for the recommendation.

**4.13.4.5.3.6** In the event that the dean recommends the removal of the chair, the dean and the provost and executive vice chancellor will meet with the chair to discuss the evaluation and the dean's recommendation.

**4.13.4.5.3.7** If the provost and executive vice chancellor accepts the dean's recommendation that the chair be removed, the provost and executive vice chancellor should complete the process of removal by notifying in writing the chair, the faculty of the department, and the dean of the college/school of the decision. If the provost and executive vice chancellor rejects the dean's recommendation for removal, the provost and executive vice chancellor shall notify in writing these same persons of the decision and of any recommendations the provost and executive vice chancellor wishes to make.

**4.13.4.5.3.8** If the chair remains in the position and suggestions for improvement have been made, the dean of the college/school involved will follow up as necessary to determine whether or not the recommendations are being implemented.

**4.13.4.5.3.9** When viewed as necessary, the dean, chair, or the faculty by a petition of more than 50% of the faculty of a department may call for a meeting between the dean and the faculty members to discuss concerns pertaining to the chair's performance. (The "more than 50%" requirement is not to be construed that the petitioning faculty members have decided one way or the other on the merits of the issues that might be discussed.) Upon completion of this meeting, it is the dean's responsibility to communicate the information from this meeting to the chair, to give the chair the opportunity to respond if the chair wishes, and to make a recommendation about the chair, if appropriate, based on the written and oral evaluations that have been collected.

## **V. University Mandates Applicable to Faculty and Academic Administrators**

### **5.1 Employment of Related Persons (Anti-Nepotism Policy)**

#### **5.1.1 Basic Principles**

Consistent with the principle that university employees and prospective employees shall be evaluated on the basis of individual merit, without reference to considerations of race, sex, religion or national origin, or any other factors not involving personal professional qualifications and performance, the following restrictions, designed to avoid the possibility of favoritism based on family or personal relationship, shall be observed with respect to institutional personnel who are not subject to the State Personnel Act:

**5.1.1.1** Related persons shall not serve concurrently within the institution in any case where one such related person would occupy a position having responsibility for the direct supervision of the other related person.

**5.1.1.2** With respect to proposed employment decisions which would result in the concurrent service of related persons within the same academic department (or other comparable institutional subdivision of employment), a person related to an incumbent employee may not be employed if the professional qualifications of other candidates for the available position are demonstrably superior to those of the related person.

**5.1.1.3** With respect to the concurrent service of related persons within the same academic department (or other comparable institutional subdivision of employment), neither related person shall be permitted, either individually or as a member of a faculty or as a member of a committee of a faculty, to participate in the evaluation of the other related person.

#### **5.1.2 Definition of “Related Persons”**

The following relationships are sufficiently immediate to invoke the prohibitions against concurrent service of related persons:

- (a) parent and child;
- (b) brothers and sisters;
- (c) grandparent and grandchild;
- (d) aunt and/or uncle and niece and/or nephew;
- (e) first cousins;
- (f) stepparent and stepchild;
- (g) stepbrothers and stepsisters;
- (h) husband and wife;
- (i) parents-in-law and children-in-law;
- (j) brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law;
- (k) guardian and ward;
- (l) persons engaged in amorous relationships: an amorous relationship exists when, without the benefit of marriage, two persons voluntarily have a sexual union or are engaged in a romantic courtship (e.g., dating or engaged to be married) that may or may not have been consummated sexually.



### **5.1.3 Effective Date**

The provisions of this policy shall be applicable prospectively only, with reference to appointments made after the adoption date of the policy.

### **5.1.4 Employees Subject to the State Personnel Act**

With respect to University employees who are subject to the State Personnel Act, applicable restrictions concerning the concurrent service of related persons shall be those adopted by the State Personnel Board.

**5.1.5** Each chancellor shall report annually to the Board of Trustees, at the regular meeting falling closest to the date of commencement, concerning all specific cases during the preceding year in which the terms of this policy were applied.

## **5.2 Improper Relationships Between Students and Employees**

The University of North Carolina does not condone amorous relationships between students and employees. Members of the University community should avoid such liaisons, which can harm affected students and damage the integrity of the academic enterprise. In two types of situations, University prohibition and punishment of amorous relationships is deemed necessary: (1) when the employee is responsible for evaluating or supervising the affected student; (2) when the student is a minor, as defined by North Carolina law. The following policies shall apply to all employees and students of the sixteen constituent institutions.

### **5.2.1 Prohibited Conduct**

**5.2.1.1** It is misconduct, subject to disciplinary action, for a University employee, incident to any instructional, research, administrative or other University employment responsibility or authority, to evaluate or supervise any enrolled student of the institution with whom he or she has an amorous relationship or to whom he or she is related by blood, law, or marriage.

**5.2.1.2** It is misconduct, subject to disciplinary action, for a University employee to engage in sexual activity with any enrolled student of the institution, other than his or her spouse, who is a minor below the age of 18 years.

### **5.2.2 Definition of Terms**

**5.2.2.1** “Amorous relationship.” An amorous relationship exists when, without the benefit of marriage, two persons as consenting partners (a) have a sexual union or (b) engage in a romantic partnering or courtship that may or may not have been consummated sexually.

**5.2.2.2** For “Related by blood, law or marriage” see [section 5.1.2 Definition of “Related Persons”](#).

**5.2.2.3** “Evaluate or supervise” means:

- (a) to assess, determine or influence:
  - (1) one’s academic performance, progress or potential, or
  - (2) one’s entitlement to or eligibility for any institutionally conferred right, benefit or opportunity, or
- (b) to oversee, manage or direct one’s academic or other institutionally prescribed activities.

### **5.2.3 Corrective Action**

Violations of the provisions of Section A shall be addressed in accordance with remedial measures prescribed by each constituent institution; if disciplinary action is brought against an affected employee, it shall be conducted in accordance with existing institutional policies and procedures prescribed for prosecuting misconduct charges against members of the class of employment of which the affected employee is a member.

### **5.2.4 Guidelines on Implementing Improper Relationships Policy**

On March 15, 1996, the Board of Governors adopted a policy concerning “Improper Relationships Between Students and Employees” for immediate implementation by all constituent institutions. The new policy governing relationships between University students and employees identifies and defines a type of misconduct that can result in sanctions, including discharge from employment, against any employee who violates its provisions. The chancellors are responsible for insuring that both employees and students are effectively informed, on a continuing basis, about the type of misconduct prohibited by this policy; and they must insure that appropriate policies and procedures for receiving, investigating and resolving charges of misconduct are in place. The revised anti-nepotism policy, separately approved by the Board of Governors, also must be effectively publicized by the chancellors, so that all affected employees will be aware of the broadened definition of “related persons” to whom its restrictions apply.

## **5.3 Conflicts of Interest and Commitment**

The University’s Policy on Conflict of Interest and Commitment is set forth in ASU Policy Manual 604.6. [http://policy.appstate.edu/Conflict of Interest and Commitment](http://policy.appstate.edu/Conflict_of_Interest_and_Commitment).

## **5.4 Policy on Outside Work**

**5.4.1** It is the policy of the Board of Trustees of Appalachian State University that the chancellor has the power to allow a person to do a reasonable amount of outside work providing this in no way interferes with her or his teaching and other responsibilities. For this reason, it is understood that this approval to engage in outside activities in no way relieves the faculty member from the responsibility of performing all of her or his University duties, including teaching, counseling, office hours, committee work, and other responsibilities of a full-time faculty member at the University. In the event the chancellor concludes that the outside activity is resulting in such interference, the faculty member agrees to cease the outside activity or resign from full-time faculty status and responsibility.

**5.4.2** The *Faculty Handbook* offers the following explanation of this policy: “Since faculty members are encouraged to engage in professional activities such as research and writing for publication within the area of their specialization, normally these activities will not be considered outside activities. However, when a faculty member devotes a large amount of time to activities not directly related to her or his duties to the University, the question of abrogation of commitment arises. Subject to the adequate performance of teaching and other duties, and in the absence of any conflict of interest, faculty members are free to engage in activities that entail remuneration—for example, subsidized research, article writing, and consultation. The concern is with the amount of time devoted to these outside activities and possible conflict of interest or infringement on assigned duties with the University rather than the amount of money earned.

However, the Board of Trustees policy statement refers to “outside work” in general, rather than specifying professional activities for remuneration, and is concerned with the amount of time devoted to such outside work and potential interference with teaching or other responsibilities to the University. Therefore, this policy should be applied to any outside activities—for example, professional activities, private business activities, volunteer or service activities, or political activities—whether or not they may entail remuneration. Before commencing such activities, faculty members must receive the University’s approval and sign the above statement as required by the Board of Trustees.

### **5.4.3 Procedures regarding outside work**

At least ten (10) days prior to committing themselves to work outside their regular assignments, faculty members will submit a written “Request for Approval to Engage in Outside Work” to the departmental chair. (Or, if the department seeks approval, she or he should submit the request to the dean.) This request will outline the nature of the work and give an estimate of the time that will be devoted to it, including a statement of definite hours which are necessary for engaging in the activity if a definite time within normal working hours is required. See the [Request Outside Work](#) form.

The “Request for Approval to Engage in Outside Work” will be reviewed by the departmental chair, the dean of the college/school, and the provost and executive vice chancellor to determine whether the proposed activity is consistent with the policy statement of the Appalachian State University Board of Trustees. The signature of each on the Request for Approval form will indicate approval of the activity. Within ten (10) calendar days, the faculty member will be informed of the action taken and the reasons for such action. The concern is with the amount of time devoted to outside activities and possible infringement on assigned duties with the University rather than with the amount of money involved. Ordinarily, an outside activity occurring only one time and requiring a limited amount of time would not fall within the intent of this policy.

If the request is approved, the signature of the faculty member on the Board of Trustees statement on outside work (on the Request for Approval form) will indicate an understanding and acceptance of the terms under which approval for the activity is granted.

In July of each year, the provost and executive vice chancellor will submit to the chancellor a summary of all “Requests for Approval to Engage in Outside Work” filed during the preceding twelve months. This report will be derived from summaries of departmental activities provided by the deans.

## **5.5 Political Activity of University Employees.**

The University’s policies on political activities are as set forth in The UNC Policy Manual:

300.5.1 Political Activities of Employees

<http://www.northcarolina.edu/apps/policy/index.php?pg=vs&id=331&added=1>

300.5.2 Candidacy for Elective Office: Officeholding (Elective and Appointive Public Office)

<http://www.northcarolina.edu/apps/policy/index.php?pg=vs&id=332&added=1>

## **5.6 Use of State Property**

State statutes and directives from various administrative offices of the state emphasize that property (motor vehicles, facilities, equipment, and the like) shall not be used for personal

convenience, benefit, or gain and must be limited to official use only. Scrupulous caution is, therefore, emphasized and urged. Any state employee or other individual who violates these laws and policies pertaining to proper use of state property does so at her/his own risk. If any doubt exists as to what may or may not be a violation, those responsible as “caretakers” of state property will be glad to hear questions and attempt to answer them.

Appalachian State University is on the DAIN-RADSI Access System for long distance calls. Any use of the State Telephone Network for other than official state business is a violation of the tariffs filed with the North Carolina Utilities Commission. Misuse of the system may result in appropriate penalties, including dismissal.

[http://policy.appstate.edu/Basic Spending Guidelines by Fund Source#Long Distance Telephone Calls](http://policy.appstate.edu/Basic%20Spending%20Guidelines%20by%20Fund%20Source#Long%20Distance%20Telephone%20Calls)

## **5.7 Soliciting for Sales, Other Commercial Announcements, or Selling on Campus**

Soliciting for sales, selling on campus or other commercial announcements on campus is forbidden; this includes the use of University bulletin boards for such. Any exception to this policy must be individually justified and approved by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs in consultation with other appropriate offices of the University.

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## VI. Faculty Workload and the Instruction of Students

### 6.1 Faculty Workload

#### 6.1.1 Professional Workload

The professional workload for full-time faculty members includes teaching; scholarship and/or creative activities; and professional, university, and community service relevant to faculty expertise. Instructional activities are crucial to the role of all members of the faculty and the primary mission of the university. The University's current Carnegie classification determines the standard for the distribution of time spent on scholarship and/or creative activities, instructional activities, and service for tenured and tenure-track faculty. However, non-tenure-track faculty members, including special faculty appointments, have specific duties that are defined under special faculty appointments (*Faculty Handbook* [section 3.13](#)) and are further specified by their academic units (department, school, program, etc.).

#### 6.1.2 Instructional Expectations

Activity directly affecting the education of students includes class preparation and student evaluation, scheduled and unscheduled office hours for individual student counseling, and meetings of committees within programs, departments, colleges, and schools of the institution that are responsible for curriculum development, syllabus preparation, and program evaluation. Instructional assignments will be arranged through consultation among faculty, unit administrators, and deans and determined by the individual faculty member's total professional workload. Within this framework, classroom teaching assignments for faculty members may vary from semester to semester and from one faculty member to another. The maximum teaching load for faculty is twelve credit hours per semester, or equivalently twelve instructional contact/load hours in formally scheduled lab, clinical or studio courses, in addition to office hours as defined in *Faculty Handbook* section 6.1.2.2. For each formal instructional credit/contact/load hour, faculty members typically spend two to three hours in preparation for teaching.

##### 6.1.2.1 Department Guidelines for Differential Workloads

All tenure-line faculty members are expected to engage in some combination of instructional activities, scholarship and/or creative activities, and service. Each department will maintain written guidelines on instructional, scholarship/creative activities, and service workload; these workload guidelines will outline any differential instructional responsibilities resulting from administrative duties, scholarship and/or creative activity, and other special assignments. Department workload guidelines will also specifically outline relevant course load equivalencies for lab, clinical or studio courses and for oversized courses. Department workload guidelines will be developed by the department's tenure-line faculty in consultation with the unit administrator and dean and be voted on by the tenure-line members of the department. The distribution of duties described in the workload guidelines may vary by academic discipline, college, program, school and departmental missions, and over time in an individual faculty member's career. Therefore, between and within colleges and academic units, differences in teaching loads reflect the differing distribution of time to scholarly and/or creative productivity, service, administrative and other duties, as well as the differing accrediting standards and missions of the unit and college.

In determining the teaching load of an individual faculty member, unit administrators use the national standard adopted by the University—currently the Delaware Study of instructional costs and productivity. After soliciting faculty teaching preferences and prior to making final faculty assignments in accordance with department workload guidelines, the unit administrator shall

advise each unit faculty member of teaching duties and other responsibilities in addition to teaching. If changes in a faculty member's assignment become necessary, the faculty member shall be notified of such changes as soon as possible.

### **6.1.2.2 Office Hours**

Every faculty member is required to be available a minimum of 1.5 hours per week for every three (3) student credit or instructional workload hours during the regular academic year to consult with students. During the term of a summer session in which a faculty member teaches, office hours expectations are half of those during the regular academic year. Each academic unit will maintain an office hours policy that establishes standards regarding a mix among formal office hours, meetings in other locations, and electronic communications appropriate for faculty members and curricula in that department. A schedule indicating the times available for formal office hours, meetings in other locations, and electronic communications must be listed on course syllabi and provided to the departmental, program or school office at the beginning of each semester. Electronic communication addresses, URLs, and/or phone numbers must be listed on course syllabi and also provided to the faculty member's academic unit office.

### **6.1.2.3 Faculty Absences from Class**

Whenever a faculty member must cancel a class for any reason, she or he must notify the unit administrator. The faculty member must make appropriate arrangements for the missed student class time.

## **6.1.3 Research and Creative Activity Expectations**

Because faculty scholarship and/or creative activity informs teaching, faculty productivity in scholarship/creative activity is crucial for generating, understanding, and disseminating new knowledge. Thus, every member of the tenure-track and tenured faculty is expected to pursue research/creative activity in that person's area of specialization. Such scholarly and/or creative activity may be specifically relevant to instruction, it may add generally to the body of knowledge and understanding in a particular field, or it may have direct practical applications, as in business, industry, government, primary and secondary education, public health, and national defense (see [section 3.8](#) for criteria for tenure-eligible ranks).

### **6.1.3.1 Expectations for Pre-Tenure Scholarship/Creative Activity**

Prior to tenure, all tenure-line faculty are expected to engage in all three professional activities (instructional activities, scholarship/creative activity and service). All three professional activities are necessary in order for a tenure-line faculty member to achieve tenure and promotion to associate professor, as defined in *Faculty Handbook* [section 3.8.6](#). Department workload guidelines for pre-tenure, tenure-line faculty therefore will reflect college minimum requirements for the production of scholarship/creative activity (see *Faculty Handbook* [section 6.1.2.1](#) on developing department workload guidelines).

### **6.1.3.2 Workload Adjustments for Scholarship/Creative Activity After Tenure is Attained**

Post tenure, and over the course of a long career, faculty involvement with scholarship/creative activities may substantially increase, resulting in decreased instructional responsibilities (within the limits of departmental need); or, faculty involvement with research may decrease and be less than the college minimum, resulting in increased instructional load. Department workload guidelines should clearly outline the parameters for such differential workloads. Workload guidelines should also provide a mechanism by which tenured faculty who have previously



arranged for decreased scholarly/creative responsibilities can return to a level of instructional responsibility that accommodates the department standard for scholarly/creative production. Any change in instructional workload due to increased or decreased scholarship/creative responsibilities should be discussed between the unit administrator and faculty member and put in writing in the faculty's annual review.

**6.1.3.3 Special Assignments.** Teaching load reductions for special assignments (e.g., intramurals, athletics, music performance groups, drama and debate, publications, placement and counseling services, and student field experiences) will be made to those persons responsible for such activities only after consultation with the appropriate departmental chair and prior approval of the dean of the college/school involved and the provost and executive vice chancellor.

#### **6.1.4 Summer Teaching**

The summer session, consisting of two summer terms, provides coursework equivalent to that of the academic year. Faculty should submit requests for summer teaching to the unit administrator in writing, but no faculty member can be guaranteed a teaching assignment in the summer session; tentative appointments are made pending enrollment statistics.

#### **6.1.5 Unit Administrator Workload**

The professional workload for academic unit administrators, as faculty members, includes: instructional activities; scholarship and/or creative activity; and professional, university, and relevant community service. The distribution of time to scholarly and/or creative productivity, service, administrative and other duties, will be determined by the dean to whom the unit administrator reports considering accrediting standards as well as the scope and mission of the unit and college.

## **6.2 Paid Leaves of Absence and Other Adjustments of Employment Obligations**

### **6.2.1 Paid Leaves of Absence for Medical or Family Reasons**

**6.2.1.1** There are times when a faculty member, for one of the reasons listed in section [6.2.1.3](#) below, may find it necessary to be absent in total or in part for an extended period of time. In such cases, leave with pay will be considered subject to the following procedures and conditions, including the completion of the [Leave Request and Certification forms](#):

- (a) Eligibility for consideration is limited to those faculty who (1) are eligible to participate in the N.C. Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System or the UNC Optional Retirement Program and (2) have been employed a minimum of half-time at Appalachian State University for at least one year;
- (b) When a faculty member finds it necessary to take such leave, a request in writing will be submitted to the departmental chair stating the reason for the request and the expected length of time (not to exceed one semester) the absence or reduced workload will last. The request for leave should be submitted at least sixty (60) days in advance of the leave or as soon as practicable after the need for the leave is foreseeable;
- (c) The departmental chair will discuss the request with the dean who will in turn notify the provost and executive vice chancellor what is requested and what is recommended;
- (d) The provost and executive vice chancellor will make the final decision and will so notify the faculty member in writing;

- (e) When leave is taken for medical reasons for oneself, the University may require that the faculty member have a health care provider certify that the faculty member is fit to resume duties. The University makes the ultimate decision as to the faculty member's fitness to resume duties;
- (f) The departmental chair is responsible for arranging coverage of the faculty member's duties. Whenever feasible, replacement instructors should be hired to assume the duties of a faculty member on extended leave. Responsibility for covering the cost of replacement instructors will be determined through consultations among the departmental chair, dean, and provost and executive vice chancellor;
- (g) Any academic year during which, under this policy, a probationary faculty member is on leave for more than twenty-five (25) class days of the academic calendar or receives a total teaching-load reduction of more than six credit hours will not count as probationary service with respect to permanent tenure unless the faculty member requests in writing to the departmental chair that it be so counted. Such request must be made within one calendar year following the end of the leave or course-load reduction;
- (h) Paid leave provided for under this policy has no effect on the faculty member's other employment benefits. All periods of paid leave under this policy will be construed as family and medical leave under the Family Medical Leave Act, and the FMLA entitlement of twelve (12) weeks without pay will run concurrently with any period of paid time off. The North Carolina Family Illness Act allows for an extension of up to fifty-two (52) weeks of leave without pay during a five-year period in cases of serious illness of a child, spouse, or parent. Faculty with a balance of accrued leave from a previous twelve (12)-month appointment will be requested to exhaust that leave before receiving paid sick leave under this policy;
- (i) Unused leave under this policy will not be accumulated or carried over to another academic year; allowable as terminal leave payment when the faculty member leaves the University; or used to extend years of creditable service for retirement benefit purposes;
- (j) Responsibility for maintaining faculty leave records rests with the Office of Academic Affairs. Copies of all such records should also be maintained in the offices of the appropriate departmental chair and dean.

**6.2.1.2** There may be extraordinary circumstances when a one-semester leave is not sufficient. When this is the case, a request for an extension of the leave may be made subject to the procedures and conditions stated above. Should time in excess of two consecutive semesters be required, it will be necessary to consider a leave of absence without pay or a medical disability leave.

**6.2.1.3** Leave with pay will be considered for any of the following reasons:

- (a) for the birth of a child and/or to exercise primary responsibility for the care of an infant following the birth;
- (b) to exercise primary responsibility for care of a child under age five placed with the faculty member for adoption or foster care, provided the leave is taken immediately following the placement;
- (c) to exercise primary responsibility for the care of the faculty member's child, spouse, domestic partner, or parent when that child, spouse, domestic partner, or parent has a serious health condition;
- (d) because the faculty member has a serious health condition and is unable to perform the essential functions of the position.



## **6.2.2 Off-Campus Scholarly Assignments**

Provision is made for off-campus scholarly assignments for all tenure-track faculty members at Appalachian State University. Information regarding these assignments may be obtained by a faculty member from the dean of the college/school in which the faculty member is located.

### **6.2.2.1 Guidelines for Off-Campus Scholarly Assignments**

**6.2.2.1.1 Purpose.** Off-campus scholarly assignments are a means by which the institution facilitates the continued professional growth of its faculty. Such assignments provide institutional encouragement and support to the faculty in developing, maintaining and broadening academic and instructional competencies that are valued by the University.

#### **6.2.2.1.2 Eligibility**

- (a) All tenure-track faculty members who have served at Appalachian State University for a minimum of four years are eligible; however, members with tenure will be given preference;
- (b) No person will be eligible to receive more than one such assignment within any 6-year period.

#### **6.2.2.1.3 Procedures for Application and Approval**

- (a) A request for an off-campus scholarly assignment must include a detailed statement of the proposed project or activity and be submitted to the chair of the department;
- (b) Departmental approval by majority vote of the tenure-track faculty and the endorsement of the departmental chair are required before an application is submitted to the dean of the college/school for action. The dean will thereafter submit the proposal, along with the dean's endorsement or rejection, to the provost and executive vice chancellor;
- (c) A request for an off-campus scholarly assignment should be submitted at least six months prior to its effective date;
- (d) Every effort will be made to grant approved OCSA requests for faculty; however, all requests for OCSAs are resource-dependent.

#### **6.2.2.1.4 Conditions**

- (a) An off-campus scholarly assignment may be granted for full salary for either one or two semesters. In no case will Appalachian State University provide financial support that would result in an excess of the contract salary. Stipends from grants or other outside sources may be combined with Appalachian State University support to equal a faculty member's contract salary. Supplemental support from outside sources for travel including subsistence will not be counted in computing the salary;
- (b) Upon completion of an off-campus scholarly assignment, the recipient shall present a report of results and accomplishments to colleagues in a departmental meeting. A written summary of that report shall be filed with the department, the dean of the college/school, and the provost and executive vice chancellor. Faculty members accepting an off-campus scholarly assignment must agree to return to Appalachian State University for a period of at least one year at the conclusion of the assignment.

## **6.2.3 Other Adjustments of Employment Obligations**

**6.2.3.1** Special terms for part-time employment with commensurate compensation, or for relief from all employment obligations with or without pay for a specified period, may be granted with

the permission of the chair, dean, provost and executive vice chancellor. Such special terms must be expressed in writing in a memorandum of agreement. See also sections [3.8.5.6](#), [3.8.6.5](#), and sections [3.8.5.11](#) and [3.8.6.7](#).

**6.2.3.2** These provisions do not apply to informal temporary adjustments of the regularly assigned duties of faculty members by the departmental chair who is responsible for their direct supervision, nor to the University's granting of extended leaves of absence with or without compensation.

**6.2.3.3** A faculty member is relieved of all service obligations to the University while on full-time paid or unpaid leave, including an OCSA (off-campus scholarly assignment) and Family or Medical Leave. In particular, a faculty member is not eligible to serve on a departmental personnel committee during the academic year in which the leave occurs, or during an academic year in which she or he is absent from campus from any reason (for example, on a foreign exchange) for a semester or more.

#### **6.2.3.4 Independent Study**

Independent study is the term applied to the study of a subject not listed in the regular curricular offerings. Under the independent study program, a student designs a project and then individually pursues the study under the auspices of a qualified faculty member who serves as a consultant for the student during the course of the study. The student must be either degree seeking, working toward teacher licensure, or have special permission from the dean. In all cases, permission from the departmental chair (in which the course is offered) will need to be secured. The vehicles for this are course numbers 2500, 3500, 4500, 5500, 6500 and 7500 depending on the level of the student. For information on independent study, students should consult the chair of the department in which the independent study is to be done.

Each student seeking approval for an independent study will petition the appropriate faculty member and seek their consent to supervise the independent study, typically through an oral prospectus. If the faculty member agrees to supervise the student, a written prospectus will be drawn up by the student and presented to the departmental chair. If the chair approves, she/he will determine the amount of credit and authorize the registration for the independent study. The chair's decision then goes to the dean for review and approval. Registration for the course will be done during the registration period, and grades will be reported in the regular way at the end of the semester in which the project is completed.

The faculty member who supervises an independent study receives teaching hour credit on the following basis: for each semester hour of undergraduate independent study supervised by a faculty member, the faculty member will receive one-twelfth teaching hour credit; for each semester hour of graduate independent study supervised by a faculty member, the faculty member will receive one-sixth teaching hour credit.

The departmental chair will maintain a record of the work done by faculty members in the chair's department in supervising students in this category and when the faculty member has accumulated sufficient credits for a teaching load reduction, such a reduction will be given in some term of the regular academic year. It must be understood that the needs of students come first, and it may not always be possible to arrange for the reduced load in the term which the faculty member requests it. Also, it must be understood that the reduction in load can only be claimed during one of the regular terms of the academic year and cannot be claimed during the summer term.

With the approval of the instructor, the departmental chair, the dean of the college, and the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, graduate students who have been admitted to candidacy and who have filed their Program of Study may register for independent study in their major field.

Students registered for independent study must be scheduled for regular conference periods at least weekly. No more than six semester hours of independent study may be applied toward a graduate degree, and no more than twenty-five percent of the student's degree program may be taken in a combination of selected topics and independent studies.

#### **6.2.3.5 Individual Study**

Individual study is the pursuit of a regularly listed course by a student without attending classes on a regular basis. The student must be either degree seeking, working toward teacher licensure or have special permission from the dean. In all cases, permission from the departmental chair (in which the course is offered) will need to be secured. The student seeking approval for an individual study will petition the appropriate faculty member and seek their consent to supervise the individual study, typically through an oral prospectus. If the faculty member agrees to supervise the student, the student and faculty member will work out the method of study, then permission from the departmental chair is secured. The grade for the course will be submitted to the Registrar in the regular way at the end of the semester in which the project is completed.

The usual limitations on academic load apply to the student's total load, including the load in regular classes and work taken individually.

If a faculty member supervises a student in individual study of a course at a time when the faculty member is teaching that course as a part of her/his regular assignment, then the faculty member will receive one-twenty-fourth teaching hour credit for that supervision. If a faculty member supervises a student in individual study of a course at a time when she or he is not teaching that course, then for each semester hour of individual study supervised by the faculty member, the faculty member will receive one-twelfth teaching hour credit.

The departmental chair will maintain a record of the work done by the faculty members in the chair's department in supervising students in this category and when the faculty member has accumulated sufficient credits for a teaching load reduction, such a reduction will be given during one term of the regular academic year. It must be understood that the needs of the student come first, and it may not always be possible to arrange for the reduced load in the semester in which the faculty member requests it. Also, it must be understood that the reduction in load can only be claimed during one of the regular semesters of the academic year and cannot be claimed during the summer term.

### **6.3 Student Absences From Class**

#### **6.3.1 General Attendance Policy**

**6.3.1.1** It is the policy of Appalachian State University that class attendance is an important part of a student's educational experience. Students are expected to attend every meeting of their classes and are responsible for class attendance. Since attendance policies vary from professor to professor, students should refer to the course syllabus for detailed information. Regardless of what

reasons there may be for absence, students are accountable for all academic activities, and faculty may require special work or tests to make up for the missed class or classes.

In addition, faculty members are required to make reasonable accommodations for students requesting to miss class due to the observance of religious holidays. All ASU students are allowed a minimum of two absences per year for religious observances. Up to two absences for such observances will be excused, without penalty to the student, provided that the student has informed the instructor in the manner specified in the syllabus. Notice must be given by the student to the instructor before the absence occurs and no later than three weeks after the start of the semester in which the absence(s) will occur. Arrangements will be made to make up work missed by these religious observances, without penalty to the student. For the purposes of this policy, ASU defines the term “religious observance” to include religious holidays, holy days, or similar observances associated with a student’s faith that require absence from class.

Faculty, at their discretion, may include class attendance as a criterion in determining a student’s final grade in the course. On the first day of class, faculty must inform students of their class attendance policy and the effect of that policy on their final grade; both policies must be clearly stated in the class syllabus.

A student who does not attend a class during one of its first two meetings may, at the discretion of the academic department, lose her or his seat in that class. Further, if a class meets only one time per week—e.g., a laboratory or an evening class—the student must attend the FIRST meeting of that class or risk losing her or his seat.

**6.3.1.2** A syllabus is to be prepared for each course and distributed at the first of the semester. The syllabus should include the following: an explanation of course goals and objectives, the name of the text and any other materials required of each student, the instructor’s office hours, an explanation of how the grade is to be determined, and an explanation of any additional reading, papers, projects and examination which the instructor expects to give or assign.

**6.3.1.3** Syllabi for courses taught in the present and previous semester should be on file in the departmental offices and should be made available to students who request them. These syllabi would indicate the structure of courses as they are being or have been taught.

**6.3.1.4** If a student does not regularly attend an audited course, the instructor may request an administrative withdrawal grade to be assigned. The instructor should provide documentation to the Registrar’s Office with the recommendation.

**6.3.1.5** The Student Health Services **DOES NOT** write medical excuses for students who miss a class for illness or injury. However, faculty may call Student Health Services at (828) 262-3100 to verify the day and time the student was seen. The nature of the student’s illness or problem will not be divulged unless the student has signed the appropriate release of medical information.

**6.3.1.6** Classes prior to a university break or a state holiday end with the student’s last meeting time for the day preceding the break or holiday.

### **6.3.2 Attendance Policy Relating to Participation in University-Sponsored Activities**

**6.3.2.1** As an integral part of the academic program at Appalachian State University, the University sponsors and otherwise supports co-curricular programs, athletic programs, and other out-of-class

activities such as field trips. Participation in such activities occasionally requires a student to miss one or more class meetings.

**6.3.2.2** A student who expects to miss one or more class meetings because of participation in a University-sponsored activity has several responsibilities: the student (in person) will notify the instructor in advance of any absence; the student is expected to complete all work missed by making up the work in advance or by completing any compensatory assignment that may be required by the instructor; the student is expected to maintain satisfactory progress in the course; and the student (otherwise) is expected to maintain satisfactory attendance in the class if so required. In the event that a student anticipates that participation in a University-sponsored activity will require missing more than 10% of the class meetings, the student is required to discuss this matter with her or his instructor at the beginning of the semester and may be advised to drop the course.

**6.3.2.3** If the above responsibilities are met, it is expected that the instructor will excuse the absence and permit the student to make up missed work in whatever manner the instructor deems appropriate.

### **6.3.3 Emergency Absences.**

When a student is out of town and unable to return to campus due to hospitalization, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances, the student or the student's parents may contact the Office of Student Development to request that professors be notified as to the reason for the absence. This notification is conveyed to the appropriate departmental office as a matter of information only and does not serve as an official excuse for class absence. Only individual faculty members make this determination, and documentation may be requested by the faculty members. The Office of Student Development does not provide this service when notification is received after the absence has occurred. Also, if a student is in town, that student is responsible for notifying the individual faculty members that she/he will be missing class.

## **6.4 Student Involvement in Faculty Searches**

Our students have a vested interest in the hiring of new faculty. Currently, some departments actively encourage student participation and try to ensure broad student representation in the hiring decisions. Other departments involve students tangentially, but do not actively encourage students to express their views about possible new faculty members.

**6.4.1** Involving students in faculty searches and allowing them to express their views on incoming faculty has the following benefits:

- (a) The students develop a sense of efficacy, that they can affect the environment around them;
- (b) Incoming faculty candidates will get the impression that student opinion is respected and they will get to meet some of our students and begin to form bonds with them;
- (c) Faculty may benefit from the insights about particular candidates offered by students involved in the search.

**6.4.2** Departments are urged to develop strategies that encourage student involvement in the hiring of prospective faculty. Recommendations for ways to involve students in faculty searches:

- (a) Announce to students in class and in various academic clubs that prospective faculty will be on campus and that students are encouraged to provide input;
- (b) Identify a pool of interested students who would like to meet with and offer insights about prospective candidates;
- (c) Keep these students informed about prospective faculty;
- (d) Set up formal meetings with interested students and the departmental personnel committee and allow students to make comments before the final short list of candidates is drawn up and after the candidates have appeared for an interview.

## **6.5 Academic Integrity and Student Discipline**

(See also relevant Student Development pages.)

Members of the faculty should report general disorderly behavior and student misconduct to the Director of Student Judicial Affairs in the Office of Student Conduct. Students should report similar cases to the director of student judicial affairs.

Procedures for dealing with general student disciplinary matters are addressed in the Appalachian State University Code of Student Conduct. Procedures for dealing with cases of academic misconduct (such as cheating, plagiarism, or fabrication of data, etc.) are addressed in Appalachian State University's [Academic Integrity Code](#).

In cases of student misconduct in the classroom, laboratory, or other class setting, the instructor may immediately require the student in question to leave the classroom and at the close of class, the instructor should notify the director of student judicial affairs in the Office of Student Conduct. The instructor has the right to temporarily exclude a student from a class for disruptive behavior until the situation is dealt with and resolved in a timely manner. If the instructor plans to initiate disciplinary proceedings against the student, the instructor will submit, in writing, a statement of fact regarding the incident. Members of the faculty may choose to contact the Appalachian State University Police Department in cases of student misconduct when students are disruptive or disorderly. Appalachian State University's Academic Integrity Code sets forth the standards of academic integrity at Appalachian State University and describes attendant responsibilities for faculty and students.

## **6.6 Obtaining Academic Credit By Fraudulent Means**

The North Carolina General Assembly has prohibited assistance to any person in fraudulently obtaining academic credit as follows:

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, corporation or association to assist any student, or advertise, offer or attempt to assist any student, in obtaining or in attempting to obtain, by fraudulent means, any academic credit, grade or test score, or any diploma, certificate or other instrument purporting to confer any literary, scientific, professional, technical or other degree in any course of study in any University, college, academy or other educational institution. The activity prohibited by this subsection includes, but is not limited to, preparing or advertising, offering, or attempting to prepare a term paper, thesis, or dissertation for another; impersonating or advertising, offering or attempting to impersonate another in taking or attempting

to take an examination; and the giving or changing of a grade or test score or offering to give or change a grade or test score in exchange for an article of value or money;

- (b) Any person, firm, corporation, or association violating any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. This section includes the acts of a teacher or other school official; however, the provisions of this section shall not apply to the acts of one student in assisting another student as herein defined if the former is duly registered in an educational institution in North Carolina and is subject to the disciplinary authority thereof.

## **6.7 Student Advising**

Appalachian State University views advising students as one of its highest responsibilities and priorities. It seeks to provide every student with assistance in identifying academic and career interests, developing a realistic and successful academic program, planning an effective career strategy, and addressing personal and social areas of concern. Faculty, administrators, and staff are committed to a comprehensive advising system that addresses students' needs at each stage in their University education.

### **6.7.1 Academic Advising Center**

General Studies Academic Advising serves all students in their first semesters. Faculty advisors from the academic departments and professional staff advisors educate students regarding University requirements and policies. They assist with academic planning, interpreting University policies, and developing academic majors and career strategies. Advising for freshmen, first semester transfers, students whose GPA is below a 2.0 and high-risk students in General Studies is mandatory. The Center is located in 107 D.D. Dougherty Hall, (828) 262-2167.

### **6.7.2 Advising in the Colleges/School.**

When students complete thirty (30) semester hours, meet freshman English requirements, and attain at least a 2.00 grade-point average, they may declare a major. In this case, their academic records are forwarded from General Studies to the appropriate degree-granting college (College of Arts and Sciences, Walker College of Business, Reich College of Education, College of Fine and Applied Arts, Hayes School of Music, and the College of Health Sciences). In some cases, additional requirements must be met to be formally accepted into a college/school. Personnel are available in the dean's office of each degree-granting college or school to answer general questions about University graduation requirements, interpret University policy, and review a student's official record.

### **6.7.3 Advising in the Departments.**

Since advising policies vary at the upper division level, students who have declared a major should contact their major department for advising information. As the primary source of advising for the major, the departmental advisor helps students in developing realistic and successful academic programs, exploring career opportunities, and staying informed about University and departmental policies and activities.

Faculty members maintain weekly office hours for routine conferences with students. Many faculty will be able to answer general questions about University regulations and requirements, but others will refer students to departmental, college/school, or University advisors for both general and specialized advising. When students have personal and social problems, faculty members assist if possible and, if the need is apparent, make necessary referrals to one of the special counseling services on campus.

#### **6.7.4 Advising Responsibilities.**

In order for academic advising to be constructive and beneficial, it is important that both the student and the University advisor recognize respective responsibilities. The advisor is committed and prepared to provide appropriate, accurate, and timely information at every stage of the student's career. The student, on the other hand, must be willing to accept advice, realizing that the ultimate responsibility for understanding University regulations and for meeting graduation requirements resides with the student. Advising is a shared responsibility between the student and the advisor.

### **6.8 Students with Disabilities**

The Office of Disability Services assists eligible students with documented disabilities to achieve their goal of becoming graduates of Appalachian State University. Consistent with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, it is the policy of Appalachian State University that "no otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States shall, solely on the basis of her/his handicap, be excluded from participation or be denied benefits of or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

It is the responsibility of the student to provide the Office of Disability Services with current, comprehensive documentation to support her/his request for accommodations. Due to the confidential nature of such documentation, the student is responsible for showing the instructor a copy of their individual Academic Accommodation Plan and explaining the impact of the requested accommodation(s) within the University classroom, program, and campus-wide activities.

It is the responsibility of the Office of Disability Services to determine eligibility, meet with the student, and create an individual Academic Accommodation Plan that reflects reasonable academic accommodations.

It is the responsibility of each instructor to provide the reasonable accommodations stated on the Academic Accommodation Plan. Accommodations may include (not all exclusive): closed-captioned videos, interpreters, extended-time on test in a distraction-reduced environment, scribes, and assistive technology.

The Office of Disability Services may be reached at (828) 262-3053 or (828) 262-3056, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

### **6.9 Major Tests and Assignments Prior to Exams**

It is strongly recommended that only tests and major assignments included on the syllabus be required during the five (5) class days prior to the final exam period. This recommendation, however, does not include make-up tests.

#### **6.9.1 Additional Assignments During Last Week of Classes**

Instructors are requested to not make additional graded assignments, including tests, projects, or papers, not included on the syllabus within a seven (7) calendar day period before Reading Day. Laboratory assignments do not fall into this category.



Students are expected to curtail their social activities and club sponsored activities during this seven calendar day period. Club sponsored activities are not allowed during this seven calendar day period.

## **6.10 Class Evaluations**

Appalachian State University's policy concerning student evaluation of classes and instruction requires as a minimum that such evaluations be carried out in every class during each fall semester. The timetable specified in the University policy is designed to ensure that fresh evaluation results will be available for consideration during the annual spring conferences between faculty and departmental chairs. It should be noted, however, that any college, school, or department wishing to require student evaluations during other academic terms as well is free to do so, and they may be administered voluntarily by individual faculty during such terms also.

## **6.11 Final Examinations**

All scheduled examination periods will be met at the assigned time. A final examination period is provided at the end of each semester. After the schedule for examinations has been made (i.e., after the schedule has been officially announced in the Schedule of Classes for a given semester), an instructor may NOT change the date or time of an examination without permission of the departmental chair and dean. A class, which meets at an hour not provided for in the Final Examination Schedule, must arrange for an examination during THE EXAMINATION PERIOD at an hour convenient to members of the class and the instructor, and with the approval of the departmental chair. INSTRUCTORS DETERMINE HOW THEY WILL USE THE ASSIGNED PERIOD, BUT ALL SCHEDULED EXAMINATION PERIODS WILL BE MET AT THE ASSIGNED TIME.

A student may take an examination outside of the scheduled time only by permission of the instructor of the course. Permission is granted only in case of emergency. A student who is absent from a final examination because of an emergency takes the make-up examination at the convenience of the instructor.

## **6.12 Final Grades**

### **6.12.1 Reporting Final Grades**

Final semester grades are reported to the Registrar's Office no later than 1:00 P.M. on the day following the Faculty Grading period. At the end of each semester, the student's grades are available via AppalNET. (Note, however, that North Carolina law prohibits the release of grades, transcripts, or diplomas to students with unpaid accounts.)

Faculty members who cannot meet the final grade submission deadline should contact the Registrar's Office for an extension of time for reporting grades.

#### **6.12.1.1 Grade Reporting (Faculty Absence/Incapacitation)**

In all circumstances, except those stipulated below, the grades recorded shall be those assigned by the faculty member (instructor of record). Any action taken by the university to withhold transcripts for any reason shall not involve any changes in the recorded grade.

In the event that a faculty member has not turned in a grade or grades on time, and if the faculty member cannot be located, an interim grade of "NR" (Grade Not Reported) will be assigned by the Registrar's Office. If a graduating student is involved, the departmental chair may, with the concurrence of two other departmental faculty members, assign a grade.

In the event that a faculty member becomes incapacitated prior to the time grades should have been assigned, the departmental chair, along with two other departmental faculty members, shall jointly decide the action to be taken.

### **6.12.2 Grade Changes**

Faculty members should exercise extreme care in evaluating students and in reporting grades. A faculty member must secure the form for changing a grade in the departmental office. All grade changes are subject to review by the dean of the college/school. A legitimate reason for all grade changes is required. Except for changes for I (incomplete), the only permissible reason for a grade change is an error on the part of the faculty member in computing or in reporting the student's grade.

### **6.12.3 Final Grade Appeal Procedure**

**6.12.3.1** Any student considering a grade appeal should understand that each faculty member has the right and responsibility to determine grades according to any method chosen by the faculty member that is professionally acceptable, communicated to everyone in the class, and applied to all students equally. Prejudiced, arbitrary, or capricious academic evaluation by a faculty member, however, is a violation of the student's rights and is a valid ground for a final grade appeal.

#### **6.12.3.2 Steps to take in final grade appeal:**

- (a) Any student who contests a course final grade shall first attempt to resolve the matter with the instructor. The student must explain her or his position to the instructor and attempt to understand the instructor's reasons for assigning the grade. The purpose of the meeting is to reach a mutual understanding of the student's situation and the instructor's actions and to resolve differences in an informal and cooperative manner. If the student fails to reach a satisfactory solution in consultation with the instructor, the student must present the appeal in writing (using the [Grade Appeal Form](#)) to the chair of the department in which the contested grade was awarded.
- (b) The student must file the written appeal with the departmental chair within fourteen (14) calendar days after consulting with the instructor. The statement must be specific and concise and limit itself to citations of evidence pertaining to valid grounds for the appeal. Through conferring with the student and the instructor, the departmental chair will seek resolution by agreement. The student must provide the departmental chair with a course syllabus and all available tangible materials related to the grade (e.g., exam and term papers) as well as a list of any items used in the evaluation for which the student cannot provide documentation (e.g., unreturned exams, grades on class participation, attendance records);
- (c) If there is failure to reach an agreement through consultation with the departmental chair, the student may file the written appeal with the Grade Appeals Committee through the office of the dean of the college or school in which the grade was awarded. The student must file this written appeal within thirty (30) calendar days after the beginning of classes in the next semester after the contested grade was awarded. When possible, the form must be signed and dated by both the instructor and the departmental chair as well as the student. In accordance

with the instructions on the form, the student must present with it the documentary evidence furnished to the departmental chair and any other evidence relevant to the case;

- (d) The dean or the dean's designee serves as convener of the Grade Appeals Committee of the college or school. Each full committee consists of the convener (who presides over hearings), the chair of the department in which the contested grade was assigned, three faculty, one undergraduate student, and one graduate student, all from the college or school which the committee serves. The departmental chair sits in a non-voting capacity, and the convener votes only in the case of a tie. The three faculty members, one alternate faculty member, and two students are appointed by the dean from among volunteers for the assignment. A quorum for each committee shall consist of no fewer than one student and two faculty members, along with the convener;
- (e) The Grade Appeals Committee has authority to screen out frivolous or unsubstantiated appeals. The convener will explain any such finding in writing to the student, the faculty member, and the departmental chair;
- (f) If the committee grants a full hearing, the student will appear before it to present all evidence relevant to her or his case. The convener will also invite the instructor to appear and present any evidence in support of the instructor's grade decision. The committee may ask questions of either or both and will hold its deliberations in executive session after hearing the case. The dean, the departmental chair, the faculty member, and the student will receive prompt written notification of the committee's findings. **THE COMMITTEE'S DECISION IS BINDING.** If the committee supports the student's appeal, the instructor will be required to re-evaluate the student according to a specific method. The method of re-evaluation will depend on the circumstances of the appeal. Re-evaluation will not be used in a punitive manner toward the student. The student has fourteen (14) calendar days to inform the instructor, departmental chair, and convener in writing whether she or he consents to the proposed method of re-evaluation (which must be completed within the semester of the finding). Should the student not consent to the proposed method of re-evaluation, the instructor, departmental chair, and committee will mutually agree on a method of recalculating the appealed grade. In either case, the resulting grade is final and may not be appealed.

### **6.13 Commencement Exercises**

Appalachian has two formal commencement exercises each year. The commencement dates are found in the University's Academic Calendar in the Undergraduate Bulletin, in the Graduate Bulletin, and on Appalachian State University's Home web site.

Faculty are encouraged to attend the commencement exercises. Faculty members furnish their academic regalia, which may be ordered through the University Bookstore.

### **6.14 Faculty Responsibility During Fire or Other Emergencies**

For EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTS, call 9-911. ALL requests for non-emergency medical transports should be made to the University Police Department at 262-2150.

In the event of a fire or other emergency in a building, each faculty member is responsible for directing the orderly evacuation of students under her/his supervision. Faculty should also participate in any emergency planning within their building or department. Faculty are also expected to observe University policies and procedures in the event of a disaster or other

emergency situation on campus. Refer to the [Appalachian State University Policy Manual](#) and the [Emergency Evacuation and Fire Prevention Plan](#).

## **6.15 Other Academic Policies and Procedures**

For information on academic policies and procedures not covered in this document, refer to the [AP&P Manual](#); the [Undergraduate Bulletin](#); the [Graduate Bulletin](#); the [Appalachian State University Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity](#); and other appropriate university publications.

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## VII. Faculty Senate, Committees, and Councils

### 7.1 Faculty Senate

**7.1.1** The Faculty Senate is composed of one member from each academic department/unit that makes up the University. A department or unit may choose not to fill its senate seat, in which case, the seat will remain empty. Questions of quorum and voting matters will be determined by the number of active seats and may vary from year to year. In addition, there shall be five “at large” seats filled by faculty from across the University. For a description of the procedures relating to the election of Faculty Senate members, see [Article IV, Section 3](#) of the Faculty Constitution (Chapter I in the *Faculty Handbook*). For additional information see the [Faculty Senate](#) website, especially the [Faculty Senate Guidebook](#).

**7.1.2** The chair of the faculty (provost and executive vice chancellor) is an ex-officio non-voting member of the Faculty Senate and shall serve as liaison officer between the Faculty Senate and the chancellor of the University.

**7.1.3** The chancellor of the University shall meet with the Faculty Senate at its first and last meetings of the academic year. At the first meeting, the chancellor shall review administrative plans and goals for the upcoming year. At the last meeting, the chancellor shall review administrative accomplishments and on-going initiatives.

**7.1.4** The Faculty Senate Executive Committee, consisting of the officers and the committee chairs, shall meet with the provost and executive vice chancellor at least once during each semester to discuss mutual concerns.

**7.1.5** At the last senate meeting of the academic year, the senate shall elect the officers, with the exception of the parliamentarian, for the following year, chosen from a minimum of two names for each position nominated from the floor. Candidates must give permission before their names are placed in nomination. Officers may be re-elected each year for the duration of their tenure on the senate. The Committee on Committees will solicit names and oversee the voting and the election process for the following year’s nominations of officers.

### 7.2 Faculty Senate Committees

The committees of the Faculty Senate are appointed by the chair of the faculty senate, with the advice and consent of the Faculty Senate. The chairs of these committees are elected by the membership of the respective committees. Faculty Senate Committee act on matters assigned to them by the senate. Each committee may also initiate and pursue matters germane to its area of responsibility. Each committee is a recommending body, presenting its recommendation to the full senate for consideration.

These committees together with their memberships and responsibilities are as follows:

#### 7.2.1 Agenda Committee.

The Agenda Committee shall be defined as the elected officers and the parliamentarian of the Faculty Senate, the past chair of the senate and the provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs (non-voting). The Agenda Committee shall meet at least once prior to each

regularly scheduled senate meeting to formulate and approve (by the vote of the members in attendance) the agenda for each upcoming senate meeting. The Agenda Committee also:

- (a) works with the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor and, where applicable, the chancellor, to prepare the agenda for the General Faculty meetings;
- (b) refers matters to the appropriate committee; and
- (c) handles other business pertaining to agenda matters.

### **7.2.2 Committee on Academic Policy**

The Committee on Academic Policy:

- (a) considers matters of academic policy;
- (b) handles other business that influences academic policy; and
- (c) members of the committee serve as liaisons to the Undergraduate Academic Policies and Procedures Committee and the Graduate Academic Policies and Procedures Committee, and are non-voting members of Undergraduate Academic Policies and Procedures Committee and the Graduate Academic Policies and Procedures Committee, unless otherwise appointed to the committees as college/school representatives.

### **7.2.3 Budget Committee**

The Budget Committee:

- (a) studies matters relating to budget planning at Appalachian;
- (b) studies matters relating to the acquisition and distribution of the University's funds, equipment, and supplies;
- (c) considers University financial concerns of faculty; and
- (d) the chair of the budget committee and the Faculty Senate Chair will serve as members of any tuition committees established.

### **7.2.4 Campus Planning Committee**

The Campus Planning Committee:

- (a) considers matters of faculty concern relating to long-range and physical planning;
- (b) serves as Faculty Senate liaison with the Strategic Planning Commission and the Traffic Policy Committee; and
- (c) investigates problems arising from the condition or management of the physical environment on campus.
- (d) Senate will assign a member of this committee to serve on the University Council on the Safety of the Campus Community.

### **7.2.5 Chancellor Advisory Committee**

The Chancellor Advisory Committee meets four (4) times each academic year (two (2) times each semester). The membership consists of:

- (a) chair and vice chair of the Faculty Senate;

- (b) two standing committee chairs; each standing committee chair attends at least once each academic year;
- (c) four or five senators will attend one (1) of the meetings so that each senator, other than chair, vice chair, and standing committee chairs, attends once throughout the academic year; and
- (d) provost and executive vice chancellor.

The Chancellor Advisory Committee acts as an informal advisory committee on behalf of the faculty to provide information and discuss matters of faculty interest and concern with the chancellor.

**7.2.6 Committee on Committees.** The vice chair of the senate is the chair of the Committee on Committees. The Committee on Committees:

- (a) submits to the senate, at its April meeting, and at other appropriate times, recommendations for nominations to fill vacancies on University committees;
- (b) strives to insure that a nominee serves on no more than one standing University committee per three-year term and has no more than one other University committee assignment (including Faculty Senate committees and University committees);
- (c) reviews annually the membership and responsibilities of each of the University committees, and periodically conducts detailed reviews of University committees;
- (d) determines whether or not each University committee is meeting as often as specified and fulfilling the functions it was created to fulfill;
- (e) makes recommendations to the senate for abolishing, changing, and/or adding University committees;
- (f) makes recommendations to the senate for the replacement of members on those University committees on which such members are not accepting their responsibilities, or when vacancies on those committees occur;
- (g) handles other business that pertains to committees; and
- (h) will solicit names and oversee the voting and the election process for the following year's nominees of senate officers.

**7.2.7 Committee on Welfare and Morale.**

The Committee on Welfare and Morale:

- (a) monitors in all areas of fringe benefits and provides representation by three committee members on the Faculty/Staff Benefits Committee;
- (b) coordinates and participates in the orientation program for new faculty members and spouses;
- (c) handles other business that pertains to faculty welfare and morale; and
- (d) a member of the Committee on Welfare and Morale shall serve as a member of the non-tenure track faculty committee.

**7.2.8 Committee on Welfare of Students.**

The Committee on Welfare of Students:



- (a) deals with problems, or problem areas, that directly affect the general student body and the well-being of every student currently enrolled at Appalachian;
- (b) serves as liaison to bring serious student problems and possible solutions to the attention of the faculty, administration, and student body for the purpose of developing or reformulating policy;
- (c) collaborates on matters related to student and/or student–faculty relations, with other campus persons or units, in particular the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Development, the director of Auxiliary Services, the presidents of Student Government Association and Graduate Student Association Senate, the director of Admissions, and the Registrar; and
- (d) serves, in some situations, as an investigatory body.

### **7.2.9 Faculty Governance Committee.**

The Faculty Governance Committee:

- (a) monitors matters pertaining to faculty governance on the campus;
- (b) monitors the formal structures of faculty governance and recommends changes that will improve the functioning of those structures;
- (c) maintains oversight of changes to the Faculty Handbook proposed by the Faculty Senate and approved or modified by the chancellor or the provost and executive vice chancellor;
- (d) recommends to the senate changes to the Faculty Handbook that will improve clarity, accuracy, and provide updated information;
- (e) works with the provost and executive vice chancellor, the chancellor, and the Board of Trustees to ensure progress regarding any proposed change;
- (f) works with those responsible for publishing the Faculty Handbook to make sure it is widely and easily available to faculty;
- (g) monitors, as well as advises and informs the senate regarding all proposals for changes in the Faculty Handbook;
- (h) the composition of the committee includes the chair and vice chair of the Faculty Senate, the immediate past senate chair if he/she continues to be employed by the University, or a past senate chair who continues to be employed by the University who is willing to serve, and two or more additional faculty members at the chair’s discretion. The provost and executive vice chancellor (or designated representative) and a representative from the Council of Chairs shall serve as ex-officio, non-voting members;
- (i) The chair of the committee shall be the chair of the Faculty Senate.

### **7.2.10 Faculty Assembly Committee**

**Representation in the Faculty Assembly** is apportioned among the constituent institutions of the University of North Carolina according to the number of full-time equivalent faculty positions allocated to each institution. Thus, Appalachian is currently apportioned four delegates to the Assembly. The Chair of the Senate serves as head of Appalachian's delegation to the Assembly, with the Vice Chair of the Senate serving as his/her alternate.

**7.2.10.1 The Faculty Assembly Committee** consists of 3 delegates and 1 alternate. The alternate will attend the meetings in the event that one of the delegates cannot attend. Those wishing to become delegates to the Faculty Assembly submit their names during the process in which Senate

committee assignments are made. The term is for 1 year, but Senators may have their service on the committee renewed. Should there be fewer than 4 members of the Senate able to serve on the Faculty Assembly Committee, the Committee on Committees will make recommendations to the Senate from the faculty for committee members and/or an alternate.

**7.2.10.2 It is the responsibility of the delegates to the Faculty Assembly** to represent the interests of the Appalachian faculty to the Faculty Assembly, the President of the University of North Carolina, and the General Administration. Further, the delegates serve as a conduit for information from the Faculty Assembly and the General Administration to the faculty at Appalachian.

**The longest serving member of the delegation** (other than the Faculty Senate chair) will make a presentation to the Senate summarizing the Faculty Assembly agenda and any items requiring action at the first Senate meeting following a meeting of the Assembly.

**7.2.10.3 In the event that a Faculty Assembly delegate must vacate the office**, the Senate's Committee on Committees will make a recommendation to the Senate for a replacement to serve the remaining time in the delegate's term. Preference will be given to sitting Senators.

### **7.2.11 Campus Technology Committee**

The Campus Technology Committee:

- (a) represents the Faculty Senate on technology related committees, councils, and task forces that deal with technology issues;
- (b) selects representation for technology related committees, councils, and task forces;
- (c) is a conduit for faculty needs to the various technology groups on campus;
- (d) brings the Faculty Senate information about proposed changes to technology policy and infrastructure on campus.

## **7.3 University Committees**

Current membership of the Faculty Senate, University and Faculty Committees, and Councils, will be furnished by the chair of the Faculty Senate each fall.

### **7.3.1 The Membership of University Committees**

**7.3.1.1** The membership of University committees is determined in accordance with the following procedures:

- (a) At its April meeting, the Faculty Senate shall nominate one person for each faculty vacancy occurring on University committees and forward the list to the chancellor of the University or the chancellor's representative.
- (b) At the beginning of each academic year, the Student Government Association shall nominate one or more persons for each student vacancy occurring on University committees and shall submit a list of such nominees to the chancellor of the University or the chancellor's representative.

(c) On or before September 1, the president of the Staff Senate shall nominate one or more persons for each staff vacancy occurring on University committees and shall submit a list of such nominees to the chancellor of the University or the chancellor's representative.

7.3.1.2 The membership of each committee should be arranged so that each of the colleges/schools of the University and the library can be represented as proportionately as possible, based on the total number of faculty members indicated within the committee description.

7.3.1.3 The chancellor and the provost and executive vice chancellor of the University shall be ex-officio non-voting members of all committees. All non ex officio members may vote.

7.3.1.4 The terms of office of faculty members of committees shall be three (3) years. The terms of office of student members of committees shall be determined by the Student Government Association. The terms of office of staff members of committees shall be determined by the Staff Senate.

7.3.1.5 New members of University committees shall take office to begin with the fall semester and end at the conclusion of the second summer session.

### **7.3.2 The Operating Procedures of University Committees**

7.3.2.1 The standing committees shall be called University committees.

7.3.2.2 Their membership shall be made up of faculty members, administrative officers, students, and staff members. Any committee is empowered to invite for counsel and advice from other members of the University community as it chooses. The total number of committee members as listed below includes only those members, which are elected or appointed to said committee. Additional ex-officio membership may occur, if necessary.

7.3.2.3 The committees shall meet at least once each semester or more frequently.

7.3.2.4 Every committee will select a chair, or co-chairs, from among the voting members, for the academic year at their first fall semester meeting.

7.3.2.5 Each committee shall keep minutes of its proceedings and distribute copies to its members.

7.3.2.6 Each committee shall prepare an annual report of its work for the year and submit by June 30 a copy to the administrative officer to whom it is responsible, and a copy to the Faculty Senate chair. The annual report shall also include recommendations.

7.3.2.7 The responsibility of the committees shall be to recommend the establishment and implementation of University policy and to carry out specific functions assigned to them. These committees shall, within the areas of their individual responsibilities, serve as receiving, coordinating, and decision-making boards regarding recommendations from the committees or councils of the individual colleges/schools when these recommendations affect University-wide policies and procedures.

7.3.2.8 Each University committee shall report through its appropriate administrative officer to the chancellor of the University. In a few instances, committees shall report directly to the chancellor.

### **7.3.3 Committee Chair**

The duties of the chair of each University committee shall be to:

**7.3.3.1** Periodically check the *Faculty Handbook* (Chapter VII: Faculty Senate, Committees, and Councils) to ensure that the committee is properly constituted and is operating according to the descriptions and guidelines given in Chapter VII, particularly in the following important respects:

- (a) total membership;
- (b) voting membership (ex-officio members, invited consultants, experts and observers may not vote);
- (c) membership proportions:
  - (i) the proper number of faculty, staff, students, trustees, ex-officio members, et al. (not all committees have members from each group);
  - (ii) proper representation of faculty members from the various academic units in the University. The Faculty Senate Committee on Committees should be promptly informed of any remediable discrepancies;
- (d) responsibilities and authority. Some committees have both appeals duties and policy duties; these committees should not allow the press of appeals duties to cause them to ignore their equally important duty to establish, review, and recommend changes in policy;
- (e) frequency of meetings: Chapter VII, section [7.3.2.3](#) requires one meeting per semester. Some committees with important work to do can do it in only a few meetings; other committees need frequent meetings. Committees with policy-making functions should exercise initiative in reviewing current policies at least once a year to see if changes are needed;
- (f) attendance: The frequency, length, times, and places for meetings may vary. Each committee should adopt a policy suited to its nature and needs; and
- (g) reporting: the *Faculty Handbook* lists the persons and groups to whom each committee reports its actions or recommendations. Each committee should also attempt to coordinate its work with that of other committees or individuals with allied interests and responsibilities. The Faculty Senate sometimes takes up matters that coincide with the responsibilities and interests of one or more of the University committees. In order to lessen the chances of unnecessary duplication or conflict, the Faculty Senate and its committees and the University committees should confer with one another when an item of possibly mutual interest arises.

**7.3.3.2** Develop and maintain a continuity file (to contain a full description of the committee's duties and authority, its current membership, its policies and procedures, and its actions and recommendations) and deliver that file to that chair's successor;

**7.3.3.3** Provide a copy of the continuity file (or its equivalent) to any new committee member prior to any meeting at which actions are to be taken, appeals heard, or recommendations made.

**7.3.4 Committees.** The committees, the number of members comprising them, the officers to whom reports are made, and the specific areas of committee responsibility shall be as follows:

#### **7.3.4.1 Academic Integrity Board**

- (a) Members on Committee: 12 – 6 faculty and 6 students. The AIB contains two (2) standing committees: (1) the faculty committee, and (2) the student committee. The Faculty Committee is composed of the AIB's six (6) faculty members and one (1) student member. The Student Committee is composed of the AIB's six (6) student members and one (1) faculty member. Faculty AIB members are nominated by the Committee on Committees of the Faculty Senate from a list of volunteers willing to serve and are approved by a vote of the Faculty Senate.

Faculty members serve three (3) year staggered terms and may be nominated for consecutive terms. Student AIB members are nominated by the Student Government Association President and selected by the Student Judicial Board interview panel. Student AIB members serve two-year staggered terms. The provost and executive vice chancellor or her/his designee will convene the first meeting and facilitate the selection of a chair, or co-chairs, from among the voting members of the committee;

- (b) reports to: the provost and executive vice chancellor;
- (c) areas of responsibility: In addition to considering violations of the Academic Code and determining appropriate sanctions as part of the AIB, the Faculty Committee is also charged with providing their peers with guidelines for promoting and enforcing academic integrity; educating faculty about academic integrity issues; conducting academic integrity workshops for faculty; and observing faculty reactions to the operation of the Code and to the academic environment of the University. In addition to considering violations of the Academic Code and determining appropriate sanctions as part of the AIB, the Student Committee is also charged with promoting academic integrity among their peers through a series of seminars, workshops, and classes; educating students about the seriousness of academic integrity; and observing student reactions toward the operation of the Code and the University's academic environment; and
- (d) see [http://policy.appstate.edu/Academic Integrity Code](http://policy.appstate.edu/Academic_Integrity_Code) for a copy of the Academic Integrity Code.

#### **7.3.4.2 Admissions Committee**

- (a) Members on Committee: 13 members consisting of 7 faculty, with one representing the School of Music and with representation from at least three of the following colleges and schools: Arts & Sciences, Fine & Applied Arts, Business, Education, Health Sciences, Honors College; 3 staff representatives, one from each of the following units: Learning Assistance Program, Student Athlete Services, Office of Disability Services, Student Development; and 3 undergraduate students. The Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management and the Director of Admissions shall serve as ex officio non-voting members. The Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management will convene the first meeting and facilitate the selection of a chair, or co-chairs, from among the voting members of the committee.
- (b) Report to: the provost and executive vice chancellor for policy recommendations and the Director of Admissions for appeals recommendations.
- (c) Areas of responsibility: Establish and verify implementation of the policies governing admissions of undergraduate students. Functioning as a sub-committee of the Admissions Committee, the Admissions Review Committee serves as an appeals board for admission cases. This sub-committee includes the faculty and staff of the Admissions Committee, plus the Senior Associate Director of Admissions who will cast a vote in case of a tie.

#### **7.3.4.3 Arts And Cultural Programs Advisory Committee**

- (a) Members on Committee: 14–6 faculty, 2 staff, and 6 students. The associate vice chancellor for University communications and cultural affairs will convene the first meeting and facilitate the selection of a chair, or co-chairs, from among the voting members of the committee;
- (b) report to: the associate vice chancellor for University Communications and Cultural Affairs;
- (c) areas of responsibility: Advise and recommend on selection of artists for the Performing Arts Series.

#### **7.3.4.4 Awards Committee**

- (a) Members on Committee: 19-15 faculty (3 from Arts and Sciences, 2 from Business, 2 from Education, 2 from Fine and Applied Arts, 2 from Music, 2 from College of Health Sciences, and 2 from the Library); 2 staff; and 2 students (one undergraduate and one graduate). Faculty composition can be any faculty, including adjunct and part-time. In the event a member of the committee wishes to seek an award, an alternate from her/his area will be recommended to the Faculty Senate by the Committee on Committees to serve for the duration of the awards process. The chair of the Faculty Senate or his/her designee, will convene the first meeting and facilitate the selection of a chair, or co-chairs, from among the voting members of the committee;
- (b) report to: the provost and executive vice chancellor;
- (c) areas of responsibility: selecting and facilitating University and external awards, including but not limited to: ASU teaching awards, the Board of Governors Awards for Excellence in Teaching, and the O. Max Gardner award.

#### **7.3.4.5 Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee**

- (a) Members on Committee: 6-3 faculty and 3 staff – two elected from the faculty and one from the Faculty Senate Committee on Welfare and Morale. The director of Human Resource Services shall serve as an ex officio, non-voting member, will convene the first meeting and facilitate the selection of a chair or co-chairs, from among the voting members of the committee;
- (b) report to: director of Human Resource Services;
- (c) areas of responsibility: Reviews present programs, approves changes, and makes additions to the fringe benefit package.

#### **7.3.4.6 General Education Council**

- (a) The General Education Council is responsible for overseeing the General Education Program, including but not limited to: establishing criteria for course inclusion in the various components of the general education curriculum, approving all general education credit for courses, approving plans and reports for General Education program assessment, and developing and approving policies related to the structure and management of the General Education Program.
- (b) Notification. Agendas and minutes for the meeting of the General Education Council will be sent to the entire faculty at least six days prior to scheduled meetings. This requirement may be waived in exceptional circumstances.
- (c) Council Membership. Membership on the Council is divided into voting and non-voting members. Voting Members on Council: 2 undergraduate students and 19 faculty (Chairs of the following Faculty Coordinating Committees: Fine Arts, First Year Seminar, Historical Studies, Integrative Learning Experience, Liberal Studies Experience, Literary Studies, Quantitative Literacy, Science Inquiry, Social Science, and Wellness Literacy; one at-large delegate from each undergraduate degree-granting college (Arts and Sciences, Business, Health Sciences, Education, Fine and Applied Arts, and Music) to be filled by elections in the respective colleges for three year terms; one representative from the Library; Director of Writing Across the Curriculum; and the Director of General Education, who will serve as Chair of the Council.)

The Director of General Education and the Faculty Coordinator of First Year Seminar are appointed positions. All subcommittee Chairs, with the exception of the Faculty Coordinator of First Year Seminar, will be elected by the Committee members. The Faculty Coordinator of First Year Seminar is the permanent non-voting chair of this subcommittee. Faculty Coordinating Committee members are appointed for three year staggered terms by the Faculty Senate. Members will be chosen for their disciplinary expertise and with concern for representation across departments and colleges. Non-voting members on the Council: Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and liaisons from University College Academic Advising, Registrar's Office, and Institutional Research and Planning, and a member of the Faculty Senate.

(d) Report to: Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education

#### **7.3.4.7 Gifts Acceptance Committee (GAC)**

- (a) Members on Committee: 11–9 tenured faculty, at least one from each college, school, and library, a vice provost, and the vice chancellor for University Advancement. Faculty members are elected in college elections. Elected members serve 3-year terms that are staggered. The chair of the Faculty Senate or his/her designee would convene the first meeting and facilitate the selection of a chair from among the voting members of the committee;
- (b) report to: the provost and executive vice chancellor and chancellor;
- (c) areas of responsibility: Conducts timely reviews of conditional gifts, where conditional gift is defined as a private contribution that because of a qualifier, restriction, or goal is considered by the chancellor, the provost and executive vice chancellor, or the University Foundation to be non-routine and therefore might affect academic program planning, majors, programs, institutes, centers, course offerings, course content, specific course requirements, faculty appointments, learning resources, or other material aspects of the curriculum. Consults with additional faculty or administrators, at the earliest possible stage, as necessary depending on the specific possible effects of the gifts. Makes a timely recommendation about the acceptance, rejection, or redirection of the final form of conditional gifts to the provost and executive vice chancellor. Considers requests made by faculty to review conditional gifts.

#### **7.3.4.8 Graduate Academic Policies and Procedures Committee**

- (a) All proposals originate within the program and are approved by both the department and the college review committee prior to submission to the Graduate Academic Policies and Procedures Committee.
- (b) Members on the Graduate Academic Policies and Procedures Committee: 14 – 13 Faculty holding full graduate faculty status, excluding affiliate members, and one graduate student as voting members. The faculty voting members shall include at least one faculty member from each college or school offering graduate programs and the Library, with additional faculty members to be based on the current proportion of full graduate faculty in the colleges or schools. The graduate student member shall be selected by the Graduate Student Association Senate (GSAS). The ex-officio non-voting membership of the Graduate Committee shall include the graduate dean and associate dean, the chair of the Undergraduate Academic Policies and Procedures Committee (or his/her designee), and one person from each of the following areas: dean's office in each college/school, Registrar, Distance Education, Office of Research, Division of Enrollment Management, and Faculty Senate's Academic Policy Committee. The provost and executive vice chancellor, or his/her

designee, will convene the first meeting and facilitate the selection of a chair, or co-chairs, from among the voting members of the committee.

- (c) Report to: the provost and executive vice chancellor.
- (d) Areas of Responsibility: graduate curriculum, policies affecting graduate programs, appeals concerning academic matters coming from graduate programs in any college/school, department, members of the faculty or students and matters referred to it by the provost and executive vice chancellor or the chancellor.
- (e) The Graduate Academic Policies and Procedures Committee will send its agenda to the entire faculty at least six working days prior to a scheduled meeting.

#### **7.3.4.9 Library Services Committee**

- (a) Members on Committee: 15–9 faculty, including the dean of the library, 2 students, and 3 staff. The dean of the library shall convene the first meeting and will facilitate the selection of a chair, or co-chairs, from among the members of the committee;
- (b) report to: the provost and executive vice chancellor;
- (c) areas of responsibility: policies and procedures in the Carol G. Belk Library and Information Commons.

#### **7.3.4.10 Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Committee**

- (a) Members on Committee: 8 – 6 faculty (3 tenure track faculty and 3 non-tenure track faculty) and 2 students. A member of the Faculty Senate Welfare and Morale Committee shall serve as a liaison between that Faculty Senate committee and the Non-Tenure Track Faculty Committee. The senator from the Welfare and Morale Committee will convene the first meeting and will facilitate the selection of a chair, or co-chairs, from among the members of the committee;
- (b) report to: the provost and executive vice chancellor;
- (c) areas of responsibility: policies and procedures relevant to non-tenure track faculty.

#### **7.3.4.11 Registration and Calendar Committee**

- (a) Members on Committee: 10–5 faculty, 2 staff, 2 students (one undergraduate and one graduate), and 1 representative from the Controller's Office, and the following seven ex-officio members: Dean of Students, representatives from Human Resource Services, Conferences and Institutes, Admissions, Summer Sessions, Athletics, and Academic Advising. The Registrar and a representative from Academic Affairs shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting members. The Registrar will convene the first meeting, and will facilitate the selection of a chair, or co-chairs, from among the members of the committee;
- (b) report to: the provost and executive vice chancellor;
- (c) areas of responsibility: policies governing registration, academic scheduling, and the calendar.

#### **7.3.4.12 Traffic Policy Committee**

- (a) Members on Committee: 9 – 3 faculty, 3 staff, and 3 students. The director of Parking and Traffic shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member;
- (b) report to: the vice chancellor for business affairs;



- (c) areas of responsibility: the review and development of policy regarding traffic and parking at Appalachian State University.

#### **7.3.4.13 Tuition Appeals Committee**

Members on Committee: 7 members consisting of 4 faculty and 3 staff. The four faculty shall represent four different colleges. The three staff shall represent the Learning Assistance Program, Office of Financial Aid, and Office of Transfer Services. The Registrar and University Treasurer shall serve as ex-officio members. The Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management and Associate Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs will convene the first meeting and facilitate the selection of a chair, or co-chairs, from among the voting members of the committee. The committee reports to the provost and executive vice chancellor.

Areas of Responsibility: Review and make decisions on appeals for tuition surcharge and tuition and fee refunds based upon evidence of “Other extraordinary hardship—.” Hardship of any kind which, despite responsible handling, resulted in the substantial disruption or interruption of the student’s pursuit of a degree.

#### **7.3.4.14 Undergraduate Academic Policies And Procedures Committee**

- (a) Members on Committee: 17–15 faculty and 2 undergraduate students. The student membership (one-year term) shall include two undergraduate students as voting members. The student members shall be selected by the Student Government Association. The students will serve as liaison between the Undergraduate Academic Policies and Procedures Committee and the Student Government Association. The faculty voting members of Undergraduate AP&P shall include at least one faculty member from each college or school (with the exception of the Graduate School and University College), and the Library, with additional faculty members based on the current proportions of full-time equivalent (FTE) faculty. The ex-officio non-voting membership of Undergraduate AP&P shall include one person from each of the following areas: dean’s office in each college/school, one member from the Faculty Senate’s Academic Policy Committee, one member from the provost and executive vice chancellor’s office, Registrar, Distance Education, Academic Advising, and General Education. The provost and executive vice chancellor, or his/her designee, will convene the first meeting and facilitate the selection of a chair, or co-chairs, from among the voting members of the committee;
- (b) the Undergraduate AP&P Committee will send out its agenda to all faculty at least six working days prior to a meeting;
- (c) report to: the provost and executive vice chancellor;
- (d) areas of responsibility: The major area of responsibility shall be the curriculum. Other areas are: academic policies, advanced placement; graduation requirements; hearing appeals concerning academic matters from any college/school, department, member of the faculty, or students and matters referred to it by the provost and executive vice chancellor or the chancellor.

#### **7.3.4.15 University Bookstore Committee**

- (a) Members on Committee: 9 – 5 faculty to serve three-year terms, one of whom is a faculty senator, 3 student members, two of whom are undergraduate students appointed by the Student Government Association, and one graduate student appointed by the Graduate Student Association Senate. The manager of the University Bookstore shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member of the committee, will convene the first meeting, and will facilitate the selection of a chair, or co-chairs, from among the voting members of the committee;

- (b) report to: the provost and executive vice chancellor;
- (c) areas of responsibility: to recommend policies regarding textbooks and other educational materials;
- (d) meets twice each fall and spring semester.

#### **7.3.4.16 University Forum Committee**

(a) Members on Committee: 7 faculty. The vice-provost for undergraduate education shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member and shall convene the first meeting, at which the voting membership shall elect a chair;

(b) report to: the provost and executive vice-chancellor;

(c) areas of responsibility: select and arrange for campus appearances of a variety of distinguished speakers for the purpose of enlightening and educating the campus community on issues of current interest; administer the External Scholars Grant Program, which brings distinguished academics and scholars from across all disciplinary areas to enhance the scholarship and/or pedagogy of the faculty.

#### **7.3.4.17 University Scholarships Selection Committee (USSC)**

Members on Committee: 22 members consisting of 14 faculty (at least two from each of the five degree-granting colleges and at least one each from the School of Music and the Library), 4 staff (engaged in student development) and 4 graduate students. Each member will serve a three-year term. The Director of University Scholarships shall serve as ex officio non-voting member. The Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management will convene the first meeting and facilitate the selection of a chair, or co-chairs, from among the voting members of the committee. The committee reports to the provost and executive vice chancellor.

Areas of Responsibility: Define assessment criteria, review scholarship applications and identify award recipients for selected academic scholarships administered by the office of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management.

### **7.4 Faculty Committees**

**7.4.1 Faculty Grievance Assistance Committee** (see) exists to advise the faculty member about the preparation of the case for hearing by the Faculty Due Process Committee or the Faculty Grievance Hearing Committee, to answer the faculty member's questions about the process of grievance, or to be available as a source of information for the faculty member during the grievance process.

The Faculty Grievance Assistance Committee shall consist of four members who each shall have served on a Faculty Due Process Committee or a Faculty Grievance Hearing Committee, but are not currently members of the Faculty Due Process Committee or the Faculty Grievance Hearing Committee. The term of membership shall be three years; provided that the first committee members shall have staggered terms. The committee members shall be elected from among a list of interested and eligible faculty.

**7.4.2 Faculty Due Process Committee** (see [4.10.2.1](#)) conducts formal, adversarial hearings in which parties to a dispute may present evidence designed to establish their respective positions, to the end that the committee may make findings of fact and attendant recommendations for proper

resolution of the dispute. Cases heard by the FDPC include those regarding a faculty member who is to be disciplined, as through discharge from employment, suspension, demotion in rank, diminishment in pay, or deprivation of some other substantial interest.

The Faculty Due Process Committee shall be composed of five members and an alternate, all to be elected by the faculty. Nomination and election shall follow procedures for other at-large faculty elections. Membership of the Faculty Due Process Committee shall be composed of faculty with permanent tenure, regardless of rank. The term of office of a member of the Faculty Due Process Committee shall be three years; provided that the first election shall be for staggered terms, with two persons to be elected to three-year terms, two persons to be elected to two-year terms, and one person to be elected to a one-year term; the alternate shall be elected to a three-year term; as the respective terms of the first class of committee members expire, their successors shall be elected to regular three-year terms.

**7.4.3 Faculty Grievance Hearing Committee (FGHC)** (see [4.11.3.5](#)) is a committee constituted solely of faculty. Grievances within the province of the FGHC shall include matters directly related to a faculty member's institutional relationships and conditions of employment. However, no grievance that grows out of or involves matters related to a formal proceeding for the suspension, discharge, or termination of a faculty member, or that is within the jurisdiction of another standing faculty committee, may be considered by the FGHC.

The FGHC will be composed of nine (9) members elected by the faculty at-large: three (3) members from each of the ranks of professor, associate professor, and assistant professor. Five (5) members of the FGHC, with each rank represented on the hearing panel, will conduct hearings. At least two (2) members must be of the same rank as the grievant; the other members of the hearing panel may be apportioned in any manner consistent with the foregoing requirements of this section. If the grievant is from any rank other than those specified by [3.8.5](#), [3.8.6](#) and [3.8.7](#), or holds a part-time faculty appointment, all professorial ranks must be represented on the hearing panel.

Nomination and election shall follow procedures for other at-large faculty elections. The term of office of a member of the FGHC shall be three years; members shall have staggered terms.

## **7.5 University Councils**

Councils are appointed by the administrative officer to whom they are responsible and to whom they report. The administrative officer listed in parentheses is the one to whom the council is responsible and to whom it reports. The administrative officer serves as chair or designates the chair of the council. On some councils, the members serve on a staggered term basis. Listed below are the university councils and their duties and responsibilities.

### **7.5.1 Administrative Cabinet**

The Administrative (or Chancellor's) Cabinet provides information for the chancellor on various operations of the University and makes recommendations to the chancellor concerning policies, decisions, plans, and programs of the University. See [2.4.1](#). (Chancellor)

### **7.5.2 Administrative Council of the Reich College of Education**

The Administrative Council of the Reich College of Education formulates and recommends policies related to its college. (Dean of the Reich College of Education)

### **7.5.3 Athletics Council**

The Athletics Council advises the chancellor and the Athletics director regarding policies governing Appalachian's program of intercollegiate athletics. It monitors the academic progress of student athletes, assists in long range planning, provides advice concerning financial matters, promotes a proper balance between men's and women's sports, and gives advice on other relevant matters. (Chancellor)

### **7.5.4 Conflicts of Interest/Commitment Appeals Council**

The chancellor will appoint a standing Conflicts of Interest/Commitment Appeals Council. The council shall consist of: three members appointed by the chancellor, at least one of whom shall be chosen from EPA administrative personnel; three faculty members appointed by the chair of the Faculty Senate, at least one of whom shall be chosen from EPA administrative personnel who are members of the general faculty or who hold any faculty rank; and one member appointed jointly by the chancellor and the chair of the Faculty Senate. The chancellor shall appoint the chair of the council. The council will be responsible for reviewing cases brought to its attention by any dean or vice chancellor or by the chancellor. It will conduct a thorough review of each case and will make recommendations for conflict resolution to the official who referred the matter to it. (Chancellor)

### **7.5.5 Council of Chairs**

The Council of Chairs is composed of all academic departmental chairs, the dean of the Library or associate dean of the Library, the assistant or associate dean of Music, the director of Appalachian Studies, and, on an ex-officio and non-voting basis, the chair of the Faculty Senate. The function of the council is to gather and exchange information and make recommendations on behalf of the departmental chairs of Appalachian State University. (Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor)

### **7.5.6 Council of the College of Arts and Sciences**

The Council of the College of Arts and Sciences receives and acts on recommendations originating within the various departments of the college. It therefore formulates and recommends policies governing the administration of its college. (Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences)

### **7.5.7 Council of the College of Fine and Applied Arts**

The Council of the College of Fine and Applied Arts serves as an advisory board, helping to establish policies on all matters that concern the various departments, which comprise the college. (Dean of the College of Fine and Applied Arts)

### **7.5.8 Council on Teacher Education**

The Council on Teacher Education has as its main function the role of analyzing and evaluating teacher education curricula and of recommending policies and procedures for strengthening the teacher education programs. Its composition is interdepartmental. (Dean of the Reich College of Education)

### **7.5.9 Deans' Council**

The Deans' Council advises the provost and executive vice chancellor on matters relating to the administration of the area of academic affairs. (Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor)

#### **7.5.10 Financial Aid Advisory Council**

The Financial Aid Advisory Council serves in an advisory capacity and offers input and guidance to the director of Financial Aid on matters relative to University-wide practices and policies for the distribution of federal and state financial aid. (Director of Financial Aid)

#### **7.5.11 Information Technology Advisory Council**

The Information Technology Advisory Council reviews the total academic computer needs and then sets policy and determines the timing criteria necessary to meet those needs. (Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor)

#### **7.5.12 International Education Council**

The International Education Council is responsible for fostering the internationalization of Appalachian State University. The council promotes and enhances the University's international mission by initiating and developing policy recommendations concerning international issues; helping to develop curricula and programs with international emphases; supporting international students, educators, visiting scholars, alumni, guests and friends; and engaging in other activities pertinent to the international character of Appalachian State University. The council consists of faculty members, staff, and students recommended by the associate vice chancellor for International Education and Development and appointed by the provost and executive vice chancellor. (Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor)

#### **7.5.13 Learning Communities Council**

The Learning Communities Council encourages communication and collaboration among the various learning communities at Appalachian State University. The council promotes to-student academic experiences. (Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs)

#### **7.5.14 Library Administrative Cabinet**

The Library Administrative Cabinet provides to the Dean of Libraries information and recommendations concerning the policies, decisions, plans, and programs relating to the operation of the Carol G. Belk Library and Information Commons. (Dean of Libraries)

#### **7.5.15 Off-Campus Resident Facilities Advisory Board**

The Off-Campus Resident Facilities Advisory Board advises the associate vice chancellor for Academic Affairs on matters concerning the Appalachian House in Washington, D.C. and the Appalachian Loft in New York, N.Y. (Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Services)

#### **7.5.16 Strategic Planning Advisory Council**

The Strategic Planning Advisory Council oversees the planning process, organizes the macro and micro strategic planning activities, studies the important issues facing the University, assigns tasks to the Strategic Planning Commission and to campus staff, establishes timelines, collects information, and generates planning materials and products. (Chancellor)

#### **7.5.17 Student Health Advisory Council**

The Student Health Advisory Council provides students an opportunity to learn about the operation of health services and to have input in the decision-making process regarding health services practices. (Vice Chancellor for Student Development)

### **7.5.18 Summer Sessions Advisory Council**

The Summer Sessions Advisory Council serves in an advisory capacity offering guidance and recommendations for policies that govern summer programs. The council is chaired by the director of Summer Sessions, and meets on a routine basis. (Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs)

### **7.5.19 University Council on the Safety of the Campus Community**

The University Council on the Safety of the Campus Community manages the University safety plan. The members of this council have direct input into policy changes and implementations that are needed for existing policies and procedures, educational programs, and resources to meet any identified threats to safety. Representation on this council includes faculty, staff, and undergraduate and graduate students. (Dean of Students and Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Development)

### **7.5.20 University Conduct Board**

The University Conduct Board is made up of faculty, staff, and students that determine if an accused student is responsible for violating the Code of Student Conduct. A student may elect to have their case heard by a Conduct Board. The Director of Student Conduct determines if it is a University Conduct Board or a Student Conduct Board. The Director of Student Conduct may also refer a case to a board rather than giving a student the choice of an administrative resolution with a Conduct Review Officer. (Director of Student Conduct).

### **7.5.21 University Research Council**

The University Research Council formulates and recommends policies governing research administration at Appalachian State University to the Vice Provost for Research. The council will also: seek and recommend ways to secure internal and external financial support for faculty engaged in research and creative activities; work to create an environment (e.g., reduced teaching load, recognition of work done, etc.) in which the faculty may be encouraged to do research within their specialties; support faculty publications; and develop and recommend University policy related to such research issues as the use of human subjects, care and protection of research animals, and scholarly ethics. Specific duties may include: serve as liaison between Office of Research and the academic colleges/ schools for the purpose of encouraging research and grants activity; recommend the University's competitive research awards (elected members of the council will serve as the committee to recommend these awards to the full council); review and monitor as needed research involving human and animal subjects, as well as issues of scholarly ethics; insure that University research policy is consistent with state and federal regulations; and develop incentive programs for research and grants activity. (Vice Provost for Research).

**7.5.21.1** The University Research Council shall consist of both appointed and elected members. The Chairperson of the University Research Council shall be responsible for choosing the appointed members. The Faculty Senate Elections officer will conduct an annual election for the elected members of the University Research Council at the same time as other University elections, such as the election of members to Faculty Senate, to the Faculty Grievance Committee, etc. All members of the URC must understand external funding and research compliance.

**7.5.21.2** The nomination process is open to faculty who are eligible to vote.

**7.5.21.3** The elected members of the University Research Council shall be composed of twelve (12) faculty members:

College of Arts and Sciences: one Arts and Humanities member, one Social Sciences member, and one STEM member;

College of Business: one member;

College of Education: two members representing different departments;

College of Fine and Applied Arts: two members representing different departments;

College of Health Sciences: two members representing different departments;

School of Music: one member;

University Library: one member.

### **7.5.22 Walker College of Business Dean's Advisory Council**

The Walker College of Business Dean's Advisory Council formulates and recommends policies governing administration of its college. (Dean of the Walker College of Business)

### **7.5.23 Intellectual Property Development Advisory Council**

- (a) Members on Council: 11-13 – Seven faculty will be recommended by the appropriate deans and will be appointed by the provost and executive vice chancellor as follows: one (1) faculty representative from each of the following University entities: College of Arts and Sciences, Walker College of Business, Reich College of Education, College of Fine and Applied Arts, Hayes School of Music, College of Health Sciences, and Belk Library and Information Commons. The Faculty Senate will appoint one additional voting member. All faculty will be voting members and will serve 3-year terms. One (1) representative each from Research and Graduate Studies and the Small Business and Technology Development Center will be voting members. A representative from the Office of General Counsel will advise the council upon request. The provost and executive vice chancellor may at her/his discretion appoint up to three (3) additional non-voting members, which may include non-ASU affiliated individuals. All members should be appointed based on her/his area of expertise and commitment to furthering the intellectual property development efforts of both the faculty and University;
- (b) report to: chief research officer;
- (c) areas of responsibility:
  - (1) receive and review all intellectual property disclosures made by the faculty and staff to Appalachian State University;
  - (2) recommend such measures as are necessary to assure prompt and expeditious handling, evaluation, and prosecution of intellectual property opportunities in accordance with approved University procedures;
  - (3) other duties consistent with the [Appalachian State University Intellectual Property Transfer Policy](#); and
  - (4) direct questions of intellectual property ownership to the committee charged with hearing faculty grievances.

## VIII. Employee Benefits and Services

Detailed information about many of these services can be found in the [Appalachian State University Policy Manual](#), an administrative policies and procedures manual published by the Office of General Counsel. This chapter was updated for the 2015-2016 Faculty Handbook.

### 8.1 Salary Checks

Payroll information is gathered by the Office of Human Resource Services. Checks are written by the Controller's Office, amounts are electronically deposited to the employee's designated account, and payroll stubs are distributed to the departmental chairs on the last working day of the month by this same office. During the first year of employment, salaries are paid in twelve equal installments, three months (July, August, and September) being paid on the last working day of September; thereafter, one check per month, October through June. After the first year, checks continue one per month (July through June).

During the summer, prior to initial employment, new faculty members will receive information regarding new hire paperwork, and how and where to complete the paperwork. A new faculty benefit orientation date is established for the completion of all forms and allows new faculty the option of receiving two of the three pay installments at the end of August. Failure to complete all required new employee paperwork will cause the faculty member to receive three installments at the end of September. If a faculty member does not receive a packet, the faculty member should stop by the Office of Human Resource Services and ask for the necessary forms. For policy regarding an employee's debt owed to the University, see <http://policy.appstate.edu/Collection and Write-Off of University Accounts Receivable>.

### 8.2 Insurance

The University makes available several types of benefits through a group plan and payroll deduction:

- (a) Health coverage is available through the North Carolina State Health Plan. The state provides the majority cost of this coverage for the individual employee.
- (b) A disability salary continuation plan is provided by the state for all employees who have been employed for at least one year. Optional disability plans are available through Colonial Life and Accident, AFLAC, The Standard, or Liberty Mutual.
- (c) Group life insurance is available through the NCFlex Benefit Program or through AFLAC.
- (d) Other plans include Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance, Cancer Insurance, Prepaid Legal Service, Flexible Spending Accounts, Dental Insurance, Liability Insurance and a Deferred Compensation Plan of North Carolina.

Details of these plans may be obtained from the Office of Human Resource Services.

<http://hrs.appstate.edu/>

### 8.3 Retirement and Social Security

Three-quarter or full-time faculty and staff members are both eligible and required to contribute to the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System of North Carolina or the Optional



Retirement Program (ORP) and the Federal Social Security System. Retirement contributions are tax-sheltered and are regularly deducted from salary checks with the rate of contribution being six percent. Social Security contributions also are deducted regularly, and the rate fluctuates.

Faculty may retire in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 135 of the North Carolina General Statutes (“Retirement System of Teachers and State Employees”). When tenured members of the faculty retire, they relinquish all tenure rights; and any subsequent employment will be subject to post-retirement policies and procedures.

The University of North Carolina Phased Retirement Program is available for full-time tenured faculty members who have at least five years of full-time service at a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina, meet age requirements and are eligible to receive retirement benefits. The Phased Retirement Program is designed to provide an opportunity for eligible full-time tenured faculty members to make an orderly transition to retirement through half-time (or equivalent) service. The goals of the Program are to promote renewal of the professorate in order to ensure institutional vitality and to provide additional flexibility and support for individual faculty members who are nearing retirement. See UNC Policy Manual 300.7.2 and 300.7.2.1 [G] and ASU Policy Manual 604.3. Any questions regarding your retirement plan should be directed to the Office of Human Resource Services. <http://hrs.appstate.edu/>

## **8.4 Tax-Sheltered Annuity Programs**

Tax-sheltered annuity programs, which provide for the investment of a designated amount of the employee’s salary, are available. The amount of salary withheld for investment is done on a pre-tax of post-tax basis. Plans available include 457, 401(k), and 403(b) plans. The employee may deduct up to all IRS allowable amounts. As this is a supplemental retirement plan, there is no employer match with these plans. Further information on these plans is available in the Office of Human Resource Services. <http://hrs.appstate.edu/>

## **8.5 Auxiliary Services**

Auxillary Services is in Business Affairs.

### **8.5.1 AppCard Office**

The AppCard Office (828-262-6141), located in Trivette Hall and part of Appalachian Food Services, issues AppCards to all faculty and staff on their first day of employment upon completion of all appropriate forms and documents. New employees are issued an AppCard at no additional charge. There is a nominal fee for replacement cards.

The AppCard provides access to:

- Belk Library and Information Commons
- Gated parking lots across campus
- Recreation fitness facilities on campus (with sign-up and payroll deduction)
- Faculty and Staff Express Accounts (with sign-up)

## Faculty & Staff Express Account

The Express Account is an optional account that may be set up for an employee's convenience. This account allows you to purchase goods and services all across campus with your AppCard. Locations include: all Food Services locations, Belk Library, Mountaineer Printing, University Bookstore, vending machines and more. Express Accounts cannot be used off campus and funds cannot be withdrawn as cash.

Two types of Express Accounts are available:

- Faculty/Staff Charge Account: This account is available to full-time permanent faculty or staff members. It acts like a credit card with balances being paid by way of simple payroll deduction.
- Faculty/Staff Debit Account: This account is available to all employees, including temporary employees. It works just like a debit card, and you can deposit additional funds at any time either in the AppCard Office or online.

There is no service charge to open a Faculty/Staff Appreciation Express Account. For more information visit: [www.appcard.appstate.edu](http://www.appcard.appstate.edu).

### 8.5.2 University Bookstore

The University Bookstore, institutionally owned and operated, manages one of the most comprehensive undergraduate textbook rental programs in the nation. This fee-based program entitles main campus students to rent the primary textbook for most courses. In order for the textbook to be placed on the rental system, the book must be adopted for two years. Selected Topics and On Demand courses, workbooks, supplemental readings, notebooks and manuals are not included in the rental program and must be purchased by the student.

Rental textbooks must be returned by the deadline date at the end of each semester, or students will be billed the replacement cost of the book. Graduate students and Distance Education students are not eligible to participate in the rental program.

The University Bookstore is home to the largest general book store in the area. It has a large selection of faculty titles and regional books alongside New York Times bestsellers. A portion of revenues generated by the bookstore help support academic scholarships via the General Scholarship Fund. For more information about the bookstore please visit [www.bookstore.appstate.edu](http://www.bookstore.appstate.edu). The App Store offers educational prices on computer hardware and software.

## 8.6 Controller

The Controller's Office provides accountability for University resources and appropriate dissemination of financial information to maximize the use of University resources in compliance with legislation, Federal and State policies and procedures, Board of Governors, Appalachian State University, and external funding sources. Internally, the Controller's Office assists faculty, staff and students with payroll, post award grant compliance, travel and business expense reimbursements, in addition to other accounting or compliance functions. See <http://controller.appstate.edu/>.

The Cashiers Office is located on the second floor of John E. Thomas Hall. Services include receipting of departmental deposits, and account payments. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Controller, Assistant Controller for General Accounting, and Assistant Controller for Special Funds (Contracts and Grants) are located on the third floor of the B.B. Dougherty Administration Building, Suite 340. All financial records for federal grants and contracts are maintained in this area along with University financial statements.

The accounts payable, travel reimbursement, and payroll divisions are located on State Farm Road in the Administrative Annex along with Procurement Services. Payroll, travel reimbursements, and other payments made to faculty and staff by electronic direct deposit are processed and distributed from this area.

The Controller's Office is always available to assist faculty, staff, students, and others with questions they may have regarding accounting and related compliance issues. It is their goal to provide proactive advice and solutions within the regulatory framework that governs the University.

<http://controller.appstate.edu/>. See ASU Policy Manual 501.18

[http://policy.appstate.edu/501.18 Fund/Organization \(ORG\) Administration](http://policy.appstate.edu/501.18_Fund/Organization_(ORG)_Administration).

## **8.7 Telephone Services**

Local and long-distance telephone service is provided to the campus by AT&T through a CENTREX system via NCITS (NC Information Technology Services) state contract. To request service or to report telephone troubles, submit a Work Order in AiM (Physical Plant); do not contact AT&T directly. Refer any questions you may have concerning your telephone service to the Centrex Office at 2078. For Operator Assistance, dial 2000 or "0." To update individual listings in the Faculty/Staff section of the Campus Telephone Directory, faculty should contact Academic Affairs at 2070. For further information, see <http://centrex.appstate.edu/>. Also see ASU Policy Manual [http://policy.appstate.edu/Basic Spending Guidelines by Fund Source](http://policy.appstate.edu/Basic_Spending_Guidelines_by_Fund_Source).

## **8.8 Parking and Traffic**

The University Parking and Traffic Department is responsible for providing parking services and traffic control for all faculty, staff, students, and visitors to the campus. Individuals who wish to park a motor vehicle on University controlled property between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, must obtain a parking permit from the Parking and Traffic Department before doing so. Several types of permits are available, dependent upon the category of the registrant. The appropriate permit will be provided at the time of registration, subject to availability. Fees are charged for parking permits, as designated by the University's Board of Trustees.

For further information, please contact the [Parking and Traffic Department](#) at (828) 262-2878 or visit our office in the Rivers Street Parking Deck (461 Rivers Street, Suite A).

## **8.9 University Police**

The University Police Department is committed to providing a safe living, learning and working environment, through a community oriented policing philosophy that emphasizes crime prevention

and solving crime through partnerships, education and awareness programs, pro-active patrolling, and quality officer training. We provide general and emergency police services; enforce state laws and university policies on campus 24 hours a day – 7 days a week.

For any on-campus police emergency, simply dial 8000 from any on-campus phone. To report a crime or any other suspicious activity, call 262-2150 or use one of the over 80 Blue Light emergency telephones located throughout campus. To report a crime anonymously, go to [www.police.appstate.edu](http://www.police.appstate.edu) and click on Report a Crime or you may call “Crimestoppers” at 268-6959. For more detailed information about the Police Department, Crime Statistics, Programs and Services, visit the [University Police](http://University Police) website at [www.police.appstate.edu](http://www.police.appstate.edu). The office is located at 461 Rivers Street in the Parking Deck.

## 8.10 Campus Ambulance Service

In the event a fire or medical emergency arises call 911.

## 8.11 University Recreation

### 8.11.1 Informal & Fitness Recreation Intramural Sports, Club Sports, and Outdoor Programs

The University Recreation Program offers something for everyone, whether it’s informal recreation, structured activities, or outdoor trips and workshops. Faculty members are encouraged to utilize University Recreation Programs. University Recreation provides several ways faculty can get involved. Although primarily UREC programs and facilities are intended for the use of students, faculty and staff may use and take part in many of the programs and facilities. All current faculty who wish to use the fitness/recreation facilities are required to pay a fee. Those qualifying for access include spouses, domestic partners, children under 19 years of age living at home, and children 19 years or older who qualify as dependents for federal income tax purposes (specifically, this means that the child is currently enrolled as a full-time student). Dependents must have an official ASU dependent ID. Dependents under 16 years of age must be supervised by the parent and/or adult who is of 19 years or older. Temporary employees pay semester by semester and have no dependent privileges. Only dependents of permanent employees qualify for access. For more information visit our website <http://urec.appstate.edu/>

### 8.11.2 Fitness Centers & Recreational Facilities

**Dwight W. Quinn Recreation Center** is a 48,000 square-foot facility equipped with state-of-the-art fitness equipment. *Weight Room:* Cable resistance training equipment, body shaping and free weights. *Cardiovascular area:* treadmills, elliptical trainers, bikes, rowing machines, and more. *Aerobics:* Classes are taught by qualified instructors in step, slide, toning, low impact, box aerobics, and much more. *Racquetball:* Eight courts for racquetball, handball, or walleyball. *Gymnasium:* Four courts designed for basketball or volleyball.

**Mt. Mitchell Fitness Centre:** is located on the third floor of the Plemmons Student Union. The center has resistance training equipment, treadmills, elliptical trainers, rowing machines, and bikes. A large multi-purpose area where a variety of multi-interest classes are held, such as yoga, self-defense, spinning, stretching, toning and aerobics.

### **The Student Recreation Center (SRC):**

The SRC is located on the corner of Bodenheimer Drive and Rivers Street. Features in the SRC include a smoothie bar, a 50-foot climbing wall, a cardio workout room, a weight room area, an indoor walking/running track, a 50M swimming pool, UREC Central Offices, and the Outdoor Outing Center. Two gymnasiums used for Intramural activities, Club Sports, as well as Informal use (free play). The SRC is home to Intramural Sports, Club Sports, Aquatics, Fitness, Outdoor Adventure Program, and Informal Recreation.

### **Broadstone:**

Broadstone is a thirty-six-acre park located in Valle Crucis. Broadstone offers various facilities to be utilized by the university community, including: retreat/group meeting space, pavilion/picnic shelters, informal recreation space, and group challenge courses offered through the Outdoor Adventure Program. Broadstone is a short six-mile drive from campus and easily accessible by taking Highway 105 South to Broadstone Road. For more information visit our website <http://broadstone.appstate.edu/>

### **Fitness:**

Fitness Recreation provides group fitness classes, clinics, seminars, and special activities throughout the year with a more personalized commitment on starting a fitness program. UREC's Personal Training Program provides students, faculty, staff, spouses and dependents the opportunity to train under the supervision of skilled professionals. Not only are there benefits for the client, but also opportunities for the trainers to gain valuable experience by putting into practice what is learned in the classroom. Most trainers have been nationally certified through an accredited fitness organization such as ACE, NFPT or NASM. Other Trainers are scheduled to be certified within the semester. [fitness.appstate.edu](http://fitness.appstate.edu)

### **Outdoor Adventure Programs (OP):**

University Recreation's Outdoor Adventure Program offers a wide range of interesting, low-cost outdoor trips, outings, workshops, and seminars for faculty, as well as students and staff. Appalachian's setting provides superb opportunities for canoeing, rock climbing, hiking, white-water rafting, caving, and kayaking. OP also offers team building and trust exercises through the use of a 50-foot Alpine Tower, Group Interaction Course and a newly developed Team Development Course. OP maintains an extensive inventory of outdoor equipment available for rental at a low-cost. The rental of equipment includes tents, sleeping bags, backpacks, camping gear, and outdoor volleyball sets. [op.appstate.edu](http://op.appstate.edu)

### **8.11.3 Health Promotion**

Health Promotion for Faculty and Staff provides Appalachian State University faculty, staff, retirees, and their spouses/domestic partners with information, programs, and services that help to promote a healthier lifestyle and a better quality of life. Major components of the employee health program include health and fitness (group exercise classes, personal training, weight rooms and cardiovascular room, etc.), preventive care (blood work, immunizations, health screenings, etc.), outreach programs (ergonomic assessments, blood drives, CPR and First Aid Classes, etc.), and student development (practicum/internship opportunities for health and fitness-related majors). For more information see [www.healthpromotion.appstate.edu](http://www.healthpromotion.appstate.edu).

## **8.12 Equity, Diversity and Compliance**

The Office of Equity, Diversity and Compliance (EDC) is charged with ensuring that the dignity of students, employees, and campus visitors is upheld, that the University's commitment to equal access to education and employment is advanced, that respectful treatment is assured, and that an appreciation of differences is fostered for all members of the University community. Under the leadership of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity and Compliance (Chief Diversity Officer), the EDC staff members guide and monitor search and hiring procedures including affirmative action and equal opportunity compliance, Title IX investigations, harassment and discrimination prevention and investigations, and the exit interview process. EDC also includes the Office of Disability Services, which assists eligible individuals with documented disabilities in determining and coordinating reasonable academic or workplace accommodations. Additionally, the EDC staff provides workshops in harassment prevention and responsible human relations to any on- or off-campus classes, organizations, departments, or units. See <http://edc.appstate.edu/>.

## **8.13 William C. Hubbard Programs for Faculty Excellence**

The William C. Hubbard Programs for Faculty Excellence provide professional support to faculty and staff through three interrelated programs: Faculty and Academic Development; Learning Technology Services; and Diversity and Quality Enhancement.

**8.13.1 Faculty and Academic Development** promotes success in faculty professional responsibilities—student engagement, scholarly accomplishment, and academic leadership. It supports all faculty (tenured, tenure-track, non-tenure-track, and administrative faculty) in all career stages (from newly hired to retirement) by offering a broad range of programs, resources, and services in a variety of formats. Programs include on-campus workshops and seminars, summer institutes, faculty learning communities, mentoring, analysis of teaching for improvement, special support for new faculty, and web resources. More information can be found at <HTTP://FAD.APPSTATE.EDU>.

**8.13.2 Learning Technology Services** is a campus unit that provides training, consulting, and technology services to faculty and staff for the effective use of technologies in the academic environment. LTS supports and advocates for appropriate integration of computer technologies into teaching and learning; provides computer training opportunities and services to Appalachian faculty, administration, and staff; maintains and manages the AsULearn learning management system; advocates for resource allocations necessary to effectively use and explore potential uses of computing in teaching and learning; promotes the integration of computer technologies with other available pedagogical tools; develops and improves specialized learning-related and learning assessment-related software and systems; provides quality enhancement and instructional design services for technology-enhanced courses; provides interactive videoconferencing and two-way video course capabilities and services for teaching and learning; produces instructional and departmentally relevant video materials; manages the University's world wide web presence in a sustainable and supported fashion; collects, analyzes and disseminates information relating to “best practices” in instructional technologies within the University; and provides a focal point for University efforts and initiatives relating to teaching and learning with technology. General and contact information for LTS is available at <http://lts.appstate.edu>, for Web Services at <http://webservices.appstate.edu>, and for Interactive Video Services at <http://ivs.appstate.edu>



## 8.14 Information Technology Services

Led by the Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Services (ITS) is Appalachian's central information technology unit. ITS develops, supports, and fosters the use of technology to enable essential innovation in research, learning, and administrative processes. ITS works closely with other campus units, including distributed information technology units to ensure our services, priorities, and policies are developed through strong governance and collaboration with the University community. For more information about our IT Governance, see: <http://cio.appstate.edu>

The University's technology applications and services are listed in the Technology Applications and Services Catalog (TASC), available at <http://support.appstate.edu/service-categories>. The TASC is intended to be a unified IT services and applications catalog that gives faculty, staff, and students a central location to access information about Appalachian's technology resources and expertise.

IT Support Services (ITSS) provides technical support for all campus software and institutionally owned computer systems, including classroom technology, computers in public labs and department offices, printing and copying, and test scoring. ITSS also supports faculty, staff, and student personal technology devices through the Technology Support Center. ITSS maintains a list of software available for ASU owned computers at <http://support.appstate.edu/services/software-services>. Software can also be accessed through the Software Center icon (Windows) or Self Service icon (Mac) on University computer desktops. For technology assistance or questions, contact the Help Desk at 828-262-6266 or enter a support request at <http://support.appstate.edu/help>. For a full listing of support options and service alerts, see: <http://support.appstate.edu>.

To support researchers, ITS provides a single point of contact for researchers with IT needs, including database design, development, and hosting, storage of research data, web application development, and high performance computing. For more information, see: <http://its.appstate.edu/research>.

To manage the risks related to campus information resources and foster a resilient and safe computing environment, the ITS Office of Information Security (ITS-OIS) provides a range of services, including advising faculty on security topics and identifying security solutions. ITS-OIS achieves its mission through vision, innovation, strong partnerships and broad collaboration. For more information on security updates, services, and tips, please see: <http://security.appstate.edu>. See related policies at ASU Policy Manual [http://policy.appstate.edu/Category:Information Technology](http://policy.appstate.edu/Category:Information%20Technology).

## 8.15 International Education and Development

The Office of International Education and Development coordinates a variety of international programs, including services to students and faculty interested in study, research, and teaching abroad. This is carried out in support of Appalachian's institutional goals of providing a well-rounded education, and with the understanding that students of the University must be prepared for citizenship in an interdependent world. The Office of International Education and Development sponsors and coordinates various exchange programs for students and faculty.

### **8.15.1 Education Abroad**

Appalachian students have over 100 possible foreign study sites to consider for semester and year programs. The Office of International Education and Development maintains direct relationships with many institutions abroad, and Appalachian is a member of the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) and Academic Consortium of the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE). While many locations offer the opportunity to study in a foreign language, approximately one third of the foreign institutions offer classes in English. Although the programs vary widely in cost, many programs have costs equivalent to Appalachian's tuition and fees. Students who receive scholarships and financial aid can apply these benefits to the cost of studying abroad. Additionally, Appalachian offers students a wide selection of short-term study abroad programs. Students have the opportunity to earn up to nine credit hours, which are applied toward their degree programs while spending two to eight weeks abroad. With some exception of some language programs, short-term study abroad courses are taught in English by Appalachian faculty members. Financial aid also is available for short-term study abroad.

### **8.15.2 International Student Services**

Appalachian hosts a growing number of international students. The Office of International Education and Development provides administrative support services for visa processing and immigration regulation compliance, health insurance, taxation, travel planning and housing. International students also participate in programs and activities that enhance their overall positive educational experience at Appalachian. International Appalachian (INTAPP), a University-funded student organization, works with the Office of International Education and Development to help orient and acclimate international students to the Appalachian campus. iPALS matches new international students with current Appalachian State students for friendship and cultural exchange. iPALS is a great opportunity for both domestic and international students to create new friendships, learn about different cultures, and create memories that will last a lifetime. iPALS is led by Appalachian students interested in providing a welcoming environment for new international students and cultivating friendships with students from other cultures.

### **8.15.3 International Visiting Scholar and Faculty Services**

Appalachian hosts a number of international visiting scholars. These scholars teach or team-teach courses with Appalachian faculty members, conduct seminars, mentor students, and serve as guest speakers at various events at Appalachian. The Office of International Education and Development provides support services to international visiting scholars, including visa processing and housing, initial transportation to Boone, and assistance with a variety of other logistic and academic needs. In addition to visiting scholars, Appalachian seeks international faculty in tenure-track positions; the Office of International Education and Development also provides visa processing and immigration-related services to these faculty.

### **8.15.4 International Outreach**

International Outreach activities promote global awareness by providing programmatic and training resources to facilitate intercultural sharing, learning, and exchange opportunities. This involves international students, visiting scholars, and students with world culture experiences as peer educator resources for the campus, community, and local schools to learn about world cultures.



### **8.15.5 International Research and Development.**

The Office of International Education and Development facilitates international collaborative research and development activities by providing technical support and assistance to faculty and staff. It seeks and locates sources of funds to enable faculty, staff, and students to become involved in international collaborative research and development activities. The Office of International Education and Development coordinates the development of international project proposals and implements those projects once funded in collaboration with faculty and staff.

### **8.16 University Library**

The Carol G. Belk Library and Information Commons is centrally located on Appalachian's campus at 218 College Street. In addition to housing a vast variety of educational resources in print and online collections, the library offers instruction programs, a technical support center, electronic classrooms, a multimedia production suite, a lecture hall, a music lab, areas for individual and group study, and a 24-hour study area and cybercafé. The Music Library, located on the second floor of the Broyhill Music Center, contains the books, scores, and sound recordings, which support the curricula of the School of Music and other Appalachian programs. Our membership to the Western North Carolina Library Network (WNCLN) expands our resources by sharing an automated library system with Western Carolina University and the University of North Carolina at Asheville. This WNCLN's ABC Express allows faculty, as well as students and staff, at the three institutions to borrow library materials from each other. For items not held by the Network libraries, interlibrary loan services are provided to students and faculty at no cost. For additional information, see [www.library.appstate.edu](http://www.library.appstate.edu) or call (828) 262-2188.

### **8.17 Office of Student Research**

The Office of Student Research (OSR) works to promote and support research and creative endeavors of undergraduate and graduate students, specifically activities conducted in collaboration with members of the faculty at Appalachian State University. The primary functions of the OSR are: advocating student/faculty research; providing sources of internal support for research and travel to present results of research; seeking, collecting and disseminating information regarding student/faculty research opportunities; cooperating with other campus units to identify or create research opportunities; coordinating the University's Annual Celebration of Student Research and Creative Endeavors; contributing to the UNC General Administration Undergraduate Research Consortium; and participating in regional and national dialogues/meetings devoted to promoting student research. See <http://osr.appstate.edu/>.

### **8.18 Faculty Courtesy Fund**

A faculty courtesy fund is maintained for the purpose of sending flowers or memorial donations in case of death in the immediate family of a faculty member (father, mother, brother, sister, child, or spouse). Each member of the faculty is given an opportunity to contribute to the fund when it needs additional money.

## Appendices

A. Link to [UNC Code](#)

B. Link to [UNC Faculty Assembly](#)

C. Link to [ASU Policy Manual](#)

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