

The UAF Faculty Senate passed the following at Meeting #191, May 6, 2013:

RESOLUTION:

The UAF Faculty Senate recommends that the process of post-tenure performance review of UNAC-represented faculty be modified to eliminate levels of review above that of the dean in cases where both the unit peer committee and the dean have judged the performance to be satisfactory. Review by a university-wide committee and by the Provost should be required if either the unit peer committee or the dean rates performance as unsatisfactory in two of the three areas (teaching, research, service), or if either rates performance as unsatisfactory in one area if that area is the main part of the faculty member's workload.

RATIONALE: According to the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the University of Alaska and United Academics, in effect between January 01, 2011 - December 31, 2013: "The post-tenure review process is generally intended to be a formative rather than a summative process of faculty evaluation, focused on faculty development. It is not intended to be the equivalent of the probationary evaluation of tenure track faculty. At the same time the process should review and encourage progress toward promotion where applicable, ongoing development, scholarship and productivity." The post-tenure reviews also serve to identify faculty whose performance is unsatisfactory. The CBA states that "Unit members who receive an unsatisfactory comprehensive post-tenure review shall be ineligible for market and merit salary adjustments until they receive a satisfactory outcome in a subsequent post-tenure review."

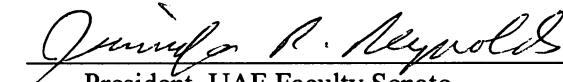
The current system of full university-wide review of post-tenure files by a committee of full professors is costly in terms of effort, yet for several reasons these university-wide reviews are useful in only a small number of cases. First, approximately 35 post-tenure reviews are conducted each year at UAF and typically just 0-3 are rated unsatisfactory overall. This low number is expected in light of the fact that tenured faculty have already undergone rigorous review for tenure and promotion, and nearly all continue a high level of performance after tenure. Second, for the stated purpose of faculty development, the portions of the post-tenure reviews that are most useful to the faculty are the reviews at unit peer and dean levels. Third, the need for a university-wide review committee composed of full professors draws experienced faculty away from the university-wide committees on 4th Year Reviews and Promotion & Tenure, where their advice would be more effective.

To fulfill the purpose of post-tenure review, in most cases review by a unit peer committee and the dean will be sufficient. Review by a university-wide committee and the Provost can be reserved for cases in which the results at those levels indicate a possible unsatisfactory rating overall, without compromising the goal of post-tenure review. Results at the unit peer and dean rankings can be used to identify these files. The recommended trigger of an unsatisfactory rating in two of three areas (teaching,

research, service) or an unsatisfactory rating in the main area of the faculty member's workload, by either the unit peer committee or the dean, is based on UAF experience. Focusing on these files would be a more productive use of university resources and would not compromise the purpose of post-tenure review.

Modification of the post-tenure review process will require a change in the CBA because the current CBA requires that comprehensive post-tenure review must include review by MAU Peer Review Committees (at UAF, the university-wide review committees).

The Faculty Senate resolution will be forwarded to the UAF administration and to United Academics. We will request that Labor Relations negotiate an MOA to permit this change under the current CBA, and also request that the change be incorporated into the next CBA.



President, UAF Faculty Senate