Procedure Summary

Periodic evaluation of tenured faculty is required by Texas Education Code Section 51.942 and system policy 12.06, Post-Tenure Review of Faculty and Teaching Effectiveness, both of which establish that the overriding purpose for faculty evaluation is to support tenure and promote faculty development. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is recognized for the outstanding quality of its faculty; therefore, it is expected that the vast majority of faculty will be found to meet or exceed expectations as a result of comprehensive review. Comprehensive periodic review of tenured faculty is intended to enhance and protect, not diminish, the important guarantees of tenure and academic freedom through a positive, thorough, fair, and transparent process.

Procedure

1. General

   1.1. The following guidelines are to be used for post-tenure reviews of all tenured faculty at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Faculty members with administrative assignments, such as department chairs, assistant/associate deans, and directors of programs, shall be evaluated on the basis of the faculty portion of their appointments only.

   1.2. Individuals returning to tenured faculty roles from a fully administrative position will undergo post-tenure review no sooner than three (3) years and no later than five (5) years after entering the new role as determined by the individual in consultation with the dean.

   1.3. Nothing in these guidelines shall be interpreted or applied to infringe on the tenure system, academic freedom, due process, or other protected rights, nor to establish new term-tenure systems or to require faculty to reestablish their credentials for tenure.

2. Purpose

   The purpose of comprehensive evaluation is to:
(a) Assess whether the individual is making a contribution consistent with that expected of a tenured faculty member.
(b) Provide guidance for continual and meaningful faculty development,
(c) Assist faculty to enhance professional skills and goals,
(d) Refocus academic and professional efforts, when appropriate,
(e) Provide assurance that faculty members are meeting their responsibilities to the university and the State of Texas

3. Responsibility and Scope

3.1. Each college will submit its post-tenure review process to the Office of the Provost for review and approval. The process will include a description of the process for naming peer committees, college-specific criteria agreed upon by the faculty, a description of responsibilities of those involved in the process, and a schedule for review of the process. College-specific criteria, responsibilities, and processes must augment, not replace or contradict, the processes outlined in this procedure.

3.2. The evaluation shall be conducted by a peer committee of tenured faculty at the departmental or college level, as determined by the college. Unsatisfactory reviews are subject to further evaluation and recommendation by the dean and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (Provost).

3.3. For joint positions, the primary department will be the locus of the evaluation.

3.4. Every tenured member of the faculty will undergo a comprehensive review every six (6) years or following the second Unsatisfactory comprehensive annual evaluation in any 6-year evaluation cycle. The post-tenure evaluation may not be waived for any active faculty member but may be deferred in rare circumstances when the review period coincides with approved leave or based on significant extenuating circumstances. A deferral request must be submitted by the faculty member to the Office of the Provost through the department chair (if applicable) and dean and be for a period of no more than one year from the scheduled review. Subsequent extensions as necessary will require separate application and approval. A successful comprehensive review for promotion to professor may serve in place of this post-tenure review process.

3.5. The six-year period starts with the first full academic year appointment in a tenured position. The period restarts at the time of promotion to full professor.

3.6. Except for leaves occurring in the sixth year, periods when a faculty member is on leave will still count towards the six-year requirement.

3.7. Faculty due for a six-year evaluation shall be provided notice no later than October 15th that the review will be conducted the following spring. All faculty in the sixth full year of service since their last review or promotion must be notified unless a deferral has been requested and approved by the Office of the Provost.
3.8. The basis of the review is the record of teaching, scholarship and creative activity, and service. The following materials for the six (6) years under review are to be assessed:

- Current curriculum vitae
- Annual performance evaluations
- Annual Faculty Activity Reports as determined by each college

Results of previous post-tenure reviews will not be included as part of the evaluation.

3.9. Faculty members will receive an evaluation for each category of responsibility (teaching, scholarship and creative activity, and service) as well as a comprehensive evaluation. Evaluations shall focus on individual performance relative to assigned responsibilities and contributions consistent with that of a tenured faculty member of comparable rank and workload.

4. Review Categories

- **Satisfactory** – meets or exceeds expectations for assigned responsibilities and provides contributions that always meet or exceed those expected of a tenured faculty member of comparable rank and workload.

- **Unsatisfactory** – does not meet minimum expectations for assigned responsibilities and contributions are not consistent with those expected of a tenured faculty member of comparable rank and workload. Evaluations may reflect disregard of previous advice or development efforts and/or professional misconduct, dereliction of duty, or incompetence.

5. Evaluation Process

5.1. The tenured faculty member is notified that they will undergo a comprehensive periodic review during the following spring semester. Notification occurs by October 15th.

5.2. The faculty member submits their current curriculum vitae as well as the faculty activity report to the dean or the dean’s designee by January 20th. Department chairs submit copies of the faculty member’s annual evaluations for the past six (6) years and an evaluation summary not to exceed one page to the dean or the dean’s designee by January 20th. If a faculty member has written a response to any annual evaluation during the review period, the response letter(s) will be included.

5.3. By February 1st, the dean or dean’s designee provides the peer-review committee with a copy of the submitted documents. The peer-review committee shall be formed at either the department or college level, as determined jointly by the faculty
and dean of each college. The peer-review committee shall consist of at least three (3) tenured faculty members, elected annually by the faculty.

5.4. By March 1st, the peer-review committee will submit an evaluation report for each faculty member undergoing post-tenure review to the Office of the Dean. The report shall state the rating for each category of responsibility, the comprehensive evaluation rating, and the basis for that determination.

5.4.1. If the peer-review evaluation is Unsatisfactory in any category, the peer-review committee evaluation report shall contain sufficient documentation to identify the area(s) and particulars of the unsatisfactory performance and the basis for the committee’s decision. The report shall refrain from speculating on the reasons why the performance is unsatisfactory.

5.5. The dean will review the evaluation reports and attach a copy of the college post-tenure review process for submission to the Office of the Provost by April 1st.

5.5.1. If the peer-review evaluation is Satisfactory in all categories, the dean will forward the unaltered report from the peer-review committee along with a copy of the college post-tenure review process to the Office of the Provost.

5.5.2. If the peer-review evaluation is Unsatisfactory in any category, the dean shall review the submitted documents and prepare a separate report and recommendations. The dean’s and peer-committee’s reports and recommendations shall be forwarded along with a copy of the college post-tenure review process to the Office of the Provost.

5.6. The Provost will review the provided documentation and prepare a final decision regarding each faculty member’s post-tenure review rating by April 15th.

5.7. By April 30th, the Provost will notify, in writing, the dean, the department chair, and the peer-review committee of the final post-tenure review rating for each faculty member undergoing post-tenure review. The peer-review committee will forward the Provost’s final post-tenure review rating to the appropriate faculty member.

6. The Professional Development Plan

6.1. For all faculty ultimately receiving an Unsatisfactory rating from the Provost, the faculty member, peer-review committee, and department chair (or dean if the faculty member has administrative assignments of 50% or greater) shall establish a professional development plan within 30 days of receiving the final decision. This plan shall be subject to review and approval by the dean. Should the 30-day period end after the conclusion of the spring semester the deadline will be extended until September 15th.
6.2. The plan will:

(a) Indicate the university resources available to provide appropriate support for the faculty member in achieving the goals of the plan;
(b) Indicate who will monitor the implementation of the plan and support the faculty member through the process (e.g., a faculty mentor or the department chair/dean); and
(c) Include a follow-up schedule with specific dates, benchmarks, and tangible goals for evaluating improved performance.

6.3. The original written evaluation and development plan shall be submitted to the Office of the Provost with a copy maintained in the college.

6.4. Normally, the development plan period will be for two (2) years. The department chair/dean, with input from the peer-review committee, will assess evidence of improvement after one year. A one-year status report and a final report will be submitted to the dean and Office of the Provost by May 15th of ensuing years.

6.5. The successful completion of the professional development plan is the positive outcome to which all faculty and administrators involved in the process must be committed. However, if the faculty member is deemed to have made insufficient progress by the end of the plan period, the department chair/dean, in conjunction with the dean, will take appropriate administrative action up to and including recommendation for dismissal.

7. Disciplinary Action

If incompetence, neglect of duty, or other good cause is determined to be present, appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including review for termination, may be initiated in accordance with due process described in university procedure 12.01.99.C0.05, Faculty Dismissals, Administrative Leave, Non-Reappointments and Terminal Appointments and system policy 12.01, Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure.

8. Periodic Review

Periodic reviews will be conducted by the University Promotion and Tenure Committee to provide feedback on college post-tenure review committees’ adherence to their established standards and processes.

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Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

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System Policy 12.01, Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure
System Policy 12.06, Post-Tenure Review of Faculty and Teaching Effectiveness
University Rule 12.01.01.C1, Tenure

12.06.99.C0.01 Post-Tenure Review
University Procedure 12.01.99.C0.02, Academic Freedom
University Procedure 12.01.99.C0.03, Responsibilities of Faculty Members
University Procedure 12.01.99.C0.05, Faculty Dismissals, Administrative Leave, Non-Reappointments and Terminal Appointments
University Procedure 12.99.99.C0.03, Designation of Graduate Faculty
University Procedure 33.99.99.C0.02, Performance Reviews of Full-Time Faculty Members
Texas Education Code 51.942 Performance Evaluation of Tenured Faculty

This procedure supersedes:

- 12.06.99.C1, Post-Tenure Review

Contact Office

Office for clarification or interpretation: Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
(361) 825-2722