

Program Standards for Political Science

This policy covers all members of the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences faculty, including tenure-track faculty, non-tenure track faculty, and part-time faculty.

The faculty of the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences support the University standards and intend for the elements of this document to further elucidate the areas of teaching, scholarship, and service from the perspective of the social and behavioral sciences.

to help students understand the full range of human possibilities and to provide training in the essential academic skills necessary to pursue some of those possibilities.

5.1 Specifically, the University recognizes five scenarios:

5.1.1 Faculty who are hired under the full-time, Tenure-Track Instructor Lines MOA earn Tenure at the rank of instructor. The emphasis of their work is expected to be on teaching and service. Scholarship and/or creative activities is not required for the achievement of tenure. However, those seeking promotion to a higher rank must meet the applicable School and Program standards for that rank. It is sometimes advisable to appoint, as tenure-track faculty, individuals who have excellent credentials as practitioners or clinicians in an applied field but have not previously had the need to develop a scholarly program. Typically, these individuals will have terminal degrees that are not research-based degrees. Such individuals should be identified no later than year three in their evaluation cycle. They may be considered for tenure without concurrent promotion to Assistant Professor or Associate Professor, provided that they have demonstrated a particularly high level of excellence in teaching and service and that they are deemed likely to meet the standards for promotion in the area of scholarship/creative activity after attaining tenure.

5.1.2 Candidates who successfully pursue early promotion will be evaluated for tenure based

them to distinguish themselves. Consistent accomplishment over time will be evaluated positively, while recognizing that a candidate's relative contributions to the campus community in terms of teaching/librarianship, scholarly/creative/professional activity, and service normally will vary over time. Therefore, short periods of relatively less activity in one area should be complemented by greater activity in the others, producing balance and a consistently high level of accomplishment overall.

6.0 ELABORATION OF UNIVERSITY STANDARDS FOR TEACHING FACULTY

6.1 Teaching

- 6.1.1 Educating students, both inside and outside the classroom, studio, or laboratory is the University's primary purpose. Therefore, performance in teaching carries the greatest weight in the evaluation of faculty. All aspects of teaching, including preceptorial teaching as applicable, will be evaluated in order to gain a clear understanding of each

evaluations, peer evaluations, course syllabi, sample assignments, and other recognitions of pedagogical impact as valuable evidence of teaching effectiveness.

6.1.2 In broad terms excellence in teaching is characterized by:

- 6.1.2.1 A thorough and current command of the subject matter, teaching techniques, and methodologies of the disciplines one teaches. *In Political Science, teaching is particularly vital and challenging given the constantly changing nature of the subject. As a result, it is vital for one's teaching to emphasize emerging research findings, societal implications, and often contentious nature of the issues, as well as the direct and important policy and other implications of the knowledge and understanding we foster. The Political Science Program recognizes the additional demands placed on faculty to remain current with developments in the discipline. The Political Science Program generally recognizes the substantial demand on faculty to develop and implement new teaching techniques as a result of the necessary changes to course modalities, AI, and other technological challenges.*
- 6.1.2.2 Sound course design and delivery in all teaching assignments—whether program or General Studies, introductory or advanced offerings—as evident in clear learning goals and expectations, content reflecting the best available scholarship or artistic practices, and teaching techniques aimed at student learning. *The Political Science Program values sound course design and delivery in all teaching modalities—in-person, hybrid, online (asynchronous/synchronous), etc. The Program further acknowledges the additional work required to: 1) effectively design and deliver online courses; 2) apply for, and secure, the necessary training, resources, and support to learn best practices for student learning; and, 3) support students who face challenges with specific modalities or types of learning.*
- 6.1.2.3 The ability to organize course material and to communicate this information effectively. The development of a comprehensive syllabus for each course taught, including expectations, grading, and attendance policies and the timely provision of copies to students. *The Political Science Program recognizes that from time to time, disruptions to the University's curriculum, the field, and/or technology may require faculty to adapt class policies and expectations of students.*
- 6.1.2.4 Demonstration of respect for students as members of the academic community through timely feedback and responses to student communications *The Political Science Program recognizes and values the efforts of faculty to adopt new methods of communication to provide feedback and answer student questions in a timely manner.*

6.1.3 Where appropriate, additional measures of teaching excellence are:

- 6.1.3.1 Ability to use technology in teaching. *The Political Science Program recognizes that disruptions may require immediate changes to teaching modalities and pedagogies. The Program values the extraordinary efforts of faculty to learn and adjust to online and other learning environments to achieve their teaching*

objectives.

6.1.3.2 The capacity to relate the subject matter to other fields of knowledge.

6.1.3.3 Seeking opportunities outside the classroom to enhance student learning of the subject matter. *In Political Science, these opportunities might include: The*

6.2.3 The University recognizes a wide variety of scholarly vehicles: disciplinary or interdisciplinary research, pedagogical research, applied research, integrative scholarship, community engagement and service-learning, artistic or creative activity, and grant writing. Scholarly or creative activities may take many forms and use different vehicles to communicate with the broader academic community.

6.2.3.1 The University recognizes that the time and effort required to complete scholarly or artistic projects may vary markedly among disciplines and sub-disciplines. Such variance is addressed in approved School and Program standards.

In Political Science, great value is placed on innovative, original, disciplinary, and interdisciplinary scholarship. In the area of scholarship and creative activity, we will evaluate the amount and quality of a faculty member's performance in the following areas: (1) Published scholarship – disciplinary or interdisciplinary, print or electronic – in the areas of Political Science (including, but not limited to, recognized subfields in Political Science such as American Politics, Constitutional and/or Public Law, International and Comparative Politics, Race and Politics, Political Behavior, Political Theory, Public Policy, and more), Social Science, General Education, Civic Education, and Pedagogy. (2) The scholarship necessary to prepare course offerings on new topics or new approaches to established topics – in all the areas just delineated. (3) The scholarship and professional activities necessary to support the development of Political Science as a discipline and to further the aims of the program. It is important to recognize that in all the above circumstances, where the intended process of peer review is not in place, a faculty member should find alternative methods to demonstrate the quality and impact of their scholarship. Scholarly work accepted for publication is synonymous with “publication.”

In Political Science, a variety of forms of engagement with academic research in the field are valued. This includes published books, edited volumes, book chapters, and peer-reviewed articles as well as other forms of original research that are indicators of ongoing contributions to one's discipline. This might include book reviews, conference papers, presentations, contributions to collected works, and similar engagement with research in the field or the advancement of public understanding of vital issues and the policy process. The Program also values new ways of engaging through research, including virtual conferences, recorded webinars or talks, and other venues to advance the public's understanding of important issues.

6.2.4 The burden is always on the candidate to document the excellence of one's work. In cases of shared or multiple authorship, clarification of the degree of one's participation is expected. In cases of conference presentations or proceedings, clarification should be provided with regard to the selectivity of the review process. *In Political Science, faculty members are expected to clearly define the nature and scope of their contribution to co-authored works. When described as such, all authors are considered equal contributors to co-authored work.* Typically, central to judgments regarding scholarly and creative activity are:

- 6.2.4.1 The capacity to bring scholarly or creative projects to completion. *In Political Science, book manuscripts that are under advanced contract with a publisher are given considerable weight in the evaluation process. The Political Science Program recognizes alternative measures of progress as adequate evidence of a capacity to bring projects to completion, including but not limited to, partial or completed manuscripts, (in)formal peer reviews of draft manuscripts, and correspondence with publishers or journals indicating interest in, or progress of, the project.*
- 6.2.4.2 A mix of scholarly activities appropriate to one's appointment e.g., in some cases scholarly activity will be primary, in others creative activity.
- 6.2.4.3 Judgments of the worth and significance of the work by those qualified to make such judgments. These may include disciplinary peers, professional organizations, ad hoc groups, such as evaluation, judging, or refereeing panels. *In Political Science, these may include peer reviewers for journals, peer reviews provided at the request of book presses, reviews provided by journal editors of invited submissions that are not blind reviewed. The Political Science Program welcomes alternative forms of review that demonstrate the value of research, including but not limited to informal peer reviews or feedback on research or engagement with a faculty's research in public forums or other venues.*
- 6.2.4.4 Documentation of the impact of one's work
- x with students.
 - x within the scholarly area.
 - x within higher education generally.
 - x on documented standards of best practices in pedagogy.
 - x in the application of one's work.
 - x as evident in citations of one's work.
 - x on public policy or institutions.
 - x in the artistic/cultural realm.
 - x or in educational settings.
 - x *In Political Science, scholarship, and professional activities necessary to support the development of Political Science as a discipline are valued.*
 - x *In Political Science, documentation of impact can be shown through scholarship that enhances the public understanding of political issues, social issues, and pressing policy matters, or which has an influence on public policy or the policy making process.*
- 6.2.4.5 Just as in the case of traditional scholarship involving the discovery of new knowledge, when one's work consists of pedagogical, integrative, or applied scholarship, its significance may be documented by demonstration of clear goals, adequate preparation, appropriate methods, significant results, effective presentation, and reflective critique. Presentation before peers and colleagues and advancing the discipline are also expectations of alternate forms of scholarship.

In Political Science applied and pure/theoretical research are equally valued. Thus, presentations before and activities with peer groups, community members, and policymakers that apply scholarly knowledge to “real-world” problems and issues are greatly valued. The contributions faculty members make to the organizational life of institutions of civil society (e.g. nonprofit, community-based organizations), and the use of these contributions in the development of an applied research agenda that is disseminated in both academic and non-academic forums is valued by the program.

6.2.4.6 The University understands excellence in a variety of scholarly or creative activities to embody the following:

6.2.4.6.1 Books should be published by reputable academic or trade presses and reviewed in appropriate journals.

6.2.4.6.2 Articles, essays, reviews, and creative writing should be published in appropriate scholarly/creative journals or venues, whether print or electronic. Some assessment should be made as to the quality of the journal in which the piece appears, in particular, its scholarly/creative reputation and whether or not the journal or proceedings are peer-reviewed. In Political Science we value both disciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarship. Consequently, research published in journals outside of political science and on topics outside of political science is valued equally with publications in political science journals.

and/or innovative.

- 6.2.4.6.8 Professional activities undertaken as a practitioner or consultant are considered scholarly activity when they go beyond the routine application of knowledge to the creation of new knowledge and the development of new standards for practice. Such qualities distinguish between scholarship and professional service. Those making the judgments regarding the standards for applied research necessarily involve more than clients and include academic peers familiar with the area of practice under consideration.
- 6.2.4.6.9 In those disciplines with strong expectations of practice to maintain current competency, appropriate standards for determining the significance of this work will be developed at the Program level and approved through the standard procedure.
- 6.2.4.6.10 Grants or monetary awards that are funded or reviewed as fundable from governmental or nongovernmental organizations are considered examples of scholarship if those grants and awards are subject to external peer review.
- 6.2.4.6.11 Faculty engaged in community outreach can make a difference in the communities and beyond by defining or resolving relevant social Tf()

concentrations. The Political Science Program also highly values all forms of additional service commitments due to the pandemic, at the university, within the discipline, and outside the university at the local, state, national, and international level. The Program recognizes and values the service obligations faculty assumed as part of the broader institutional response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including, among others, service on the University Restart Operations Committee, shared governance committees, and negotiations of workplace protections.

- 6.3.2 Faculty may also contribute in broader arenas such as state, regional, national or international organizations and disciplinary/professional associations. In addition, faculty may contribute to the University's public mission, including its commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, through service to our community, region, state or country. Per the Carnegie definition, community engagement and service-learning that enriches scholarship, research, and creative acse aS.e1enrace c(e)-16l(r)- (B (i)4 e

substantial records in this area, as demonstrated by achievements in leadership on campus, in the community, to their disciplines, and to professional organizations.

- 6.3.4 Evaluation of achievements in this area focuses on the significance of participation, the impact of service, the scope of responsibilities, the effectiveness of participation, and contributions to the functioning, administration, and development of the University and other entities. Clear goals, adequate preparation and appropriate methods of providing service, significant results of the service, and reflection on the contribution and its use to improve the quality of future service are all aspects of documenting achievement in campus or community service. Sustained service is expected to meet the minimum requirement of this responsibility. Compensated service is generally not sufficient to meet the minimum requirements. However, e. Seveenib5 (fu)

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