



ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY STATEMENT

Policy Title: Mentoring for Tenure-Track ~~and Tenure-Eligible~~ Faculty

APS Number: 1021

APS Functional Area: **ACADEMIC/RESEARCH**

Brief Description: Outlines expectations for faculty mentoring.

Effective: July 1, ~~2017~~2020¹

Approved by: President Bruce D. Benson (Pending)

Responsible University Officer: Vice President for Academic Affairs

Responsible Office: Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs

Policy Contact: Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, 303-860-5623

Supersedes: Mentoring for Tenure-Track and Tenure-Eligible Faculty, July 1, 2017. (Pending) Faculty Development and Mentoring, April 1, 2012

Last Reviewed/Updated: July 1, ~~2017~~2020² (Pending)

Applies to: Faculty

Reason for Policy: To outline expectations for faculty mentoring.

I. INTRODUCTION

Departments and schools/colleges invest considerable time and resources hiring tenure-track ~~and tenure-eligible~~ faculty and thus have a significant stake in the retention of these new hires and share a responsibility to nurture the talents of their faculty members by providing relevant information and advice. However, it is the individual faculty member's responsibility to develop the teaching and research skills and a work plan that produces the quality and quantity of professional activity needed to warrant reappointment, tenure and/or promotion.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

A. Faculty Members in a Probationary Period

Individual faculty members hired into positions for which there is a mandatory evaluation period followed by a decision to continue or terminate the appointment shall be provided with *mentoring opportunities* relative to the standards of performance required for reappointment, tenure and/or promotion.

1. Criteria for Tenure and/or Promotion

At the time of hire, faculty members must be provided with the university's standards and procedures for tenure and/or promotion, including the primary unit's published criteria for tenure and promotion and a timeline for the review process. In addition to published policies and guidelines, schools and colleges shall provide their faculty members reasonable opportunities for training and information sessions on the tenure and promotion process.

¹ Revised July 1, 2020. Updated to reflect Regent-approved changes to Article 5: Faculty. A full review was not completed at that time.
² Last full review November 1, 2013; Non-substantive updates made July 1, 2020.

40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87

2. Mentoring

Primary units shall ensure that reasonable *mentoring opportunities* are available for faculty members during their probationary period. However, in some cases, it may make more sense for the campus’s faculty development office or a school or college to take responsibility for providing mentoring opportunities. Together, the dean and faculty of each school/college shall determine whether to have unit-based mentoring or campus/school/college-based mentoring.

Department chairs/unit heads have the responsibility to assist any faculty member who requests a *mentor* during his/her probationary period to locate an appropriate mentor on the campus. In some units, it may be helpful to identify an external mentor from another CU campus or from outside the university. External assistance, however, cannot be assured. If the mentoring program is formal, the frequency and general subjects of the mentoring sessions should be documented.

While the primary unit (or school/college, if not the primary unit) has a responsibility to provide reasonable mentoring opportunities, faculty members should proactively seek mentoring assistance.

Faculty members who believe they are not getting adequate mentoring are responsible for bringing their situation to the attention of the unit head. If they are not satisfied with the mentoring opportunities the unit head provides, they should bring this concern to the attention of the dean or the provost’s office.

Faculty members who serve as mentors should be able to count mentoring activities in the annual merit evaluation process.

3. Advising on Progress toward Reappointment, Tenure and/or Promotion

Faculty members receive specific feedback on their progress toward tenure and/or promotion at the Comprehensive Review (leading to reappointment, usually in the fourth year). They may also request additional feedback from the primary unit head in the second and any subsequent year prior to the tenure and/or promotion decision (except the academic year in which the Comprehensive Review is undertaken). In this additional feedback process, the primary unit head shall examine evidence provided by the candidate of the candidate's teaching, research/creative work, clinical activity, and leadership and service and make suggestions for improvement in those areas where the record should be stronger. These suggestions are not intended to provide the level of specific formal feedback that is provided through the Comprehensive Review. The primary unit head may recommend that the candidate work with senior faculty members and/or with a campus office of faculty development. If the candidate elects these advising sessions, the candidate shall report this fact in the annual report of professional activity (FRPA), but the content of these consultations shall remain confidential unless the faculty member elects otherwise.

B. Other Instructional, Research, and Clinical Faculty Members

Units are encouraged, but not required, to extend mentoring opportunities to other faculty as resources allow.

III. **DEFINITIONS**

A *mentor* is an individual who provides career development counseling, either formally or informally, to assist a faculty member.

Mentoring opportunity(ies) refers to a range of professional assistance provided to faculty on such subjects as the tenure and promotion process, teaching, publishing, creative work, research, grants, etc.

IV. **HISTORY**

This policy was developed from recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Tenure Related Processes in 2005-06.

- Initial APS approved October 1, 2006.
- Revised April 1, 2012.
- The term “service” was replaced with the term “leadership and service” effective April 30, 2014, per resolution of the CU Board of Regents.
- Faculty Development and Mentoring, April 1, 2012, was revised and renamed July 1, 2017.
- Revised July 1, 2020. Updated to reflect Regent-approved changes to Article 5: Faculty. A full review was not completed at this time. (Pending)