

The Faculty Senate of The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Outreach and Engagement Recognition Resolution

January 20, 2015

WHEREAS, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville is the preeminent research-based, land-grant university in the state, embodying “the spirit of excellence in teaching, research, scholarship, creative activity, outreach, and engagement attained by the nation’s finest public research institutions”; and

WHEREAS, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville’s Vision Statement specifies, “We lead an increasing number of academic and public service activities that involve and benefit the local community, the state of Tennessee, the United States, and ultimately the world;” and

WHEREAS, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville’s *Faculty Handbook* in section 2.21, The Importance of Scholarship states, “Successful faculty members maintain disciplinary expertise even when pursuing scholarship in learning, teaching, and outreach”; and

WHEREAS, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville’s *Faculty Handbook* in section 2.23, Research/Scholarship/Creative Activity states, “Some faculty members pursue the scholarship of application, which typically involves outreach to the community to co-develop successful practices to address problems to benefit individuals and organizations;” and

WHEREAS, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville’s *Faculty Handbook* in section 3.2, Criteria for Appointment to Faculty Rank, does not specifically recognize outreach and engagement;

WHEREAS, the omission in The University of Tennessee, Knoxville’s *Faculty Handbook* in section 3.2 of recognition and reward, in matters of promotion and tenure, of faculty outreach and engagement efforts, may constrain and attenuate faculty efforts in support of the university’s land-grant mission;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Section 3.2 of the *Faculty Handbook* for The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, be amended and restated as set forth below (with new language in bold and two associated footnotes):

3.2 Criteria for Appointment to Faculty Rank

Professors are expected to

1. hold the doctorate or other terminal degree of the discipline, or present equivalent training and experience appropriate to the particular appointment
2. be accomplished teachers
3. have achieved and to maintain a nationally recognized record in disciplinary research / scholarship / creative activity/**engaged scholarship**¹
4. have achieved and to maintain a record of significant institutional, disciplinary, and/or professional service **or outreach engagement**²
5. serve as mentors to junior colleagues
6. have normally served as an associate professor for at least five years
7. have shown beyond doubt that they work well with colleagues and students in performing their university responsibilities

Associate professors are expected to

1. hold the doctorate or other terminal degree of the discipline, or to present equivalent training and experience as appropriate to the particular appointment
2. be good teachers
3. have achieved and to maintain a recognized record in disciplinary research / scholarship / creative activity/ **engaged scholarship**
4. have achieved and to maintain a record of institutional, disciplinary, and/or professional service **or outreach engagement**
5. have normally served as an assistant professor for at least five years
6. have demonstrated that they work well with colleagues and students in performing their university responsibilities

¹ Outreach research, scholarship and creative activity extends faculty endeavors to serve the public. This may include: basic discovery research, applied or action research, original performances, and creative applied policy. These activities bring together faculty and community collaborators to address real world problems and opportunities. The best examples of outreach research and creative activities are those that engage faculty in advancing knowledge through the pursuit of their scholarly interests while simultaneously addressing specified community problems and issues, thereby benefiting the scholar, the discipline, the university, and society.

² Outreach service engages professional skills of faculty to benefit external communities and extends the intellectual resources of the university to seek solutions to problems.

Assistant professors are expected to

1. hold the doctorate or other terminal degree of the discipline, or to present equivalent training and experience as appropriate to the particular appointment
2. show promise as teachers
3. show promise of developing a program in disciplinary research / scholarship / creative/**engaged scholarship** activity that is gaining external recognition
4. have a developing record of institutional, disciplinary, and/or professional service **or outreach engagement**
5. show evidence that they work well with colleagues and students in performing their university responsibilities