ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RANK AND TENURE COMMITTEE, 2014-2015

Committee Chair: William Abbott


Meetings: The Rank and Tenure Committee met nine times this academic year.

Dates of Meetings: 9/11, 12/11, 1/5, 1/7, 1/9, 1/12, 3/19, 3/24, 3/25.

Principal Topics Considered

1. Reviewed thirteen applications for promotion, tenure, or both
2. Reviewed four applications for professor emeritus
3. Considered motion to increase the size of the RTC by two additional members, one of whom would be from Engineering, and one from CAS.

Decisions Taken, and Anticipated Effects

- The Committee recommended five applications for tenure and promotion to Associate Professor.
- The Committee recommended five applications for promotion to Full Professor.
- All four applications for emeritus status received positive recommendations.
- The motion to increase the size of the RTC by two additional members, one of whom would be from Engineering and one from CAS, was passed and sent to the Academic Council for consideration. The Academic Council voted against this motion.
- The two outgoing members of the Rank and Tenure Committee will meet with interested faculty on Wednesday March 6th at 12:30 in Canisius 15.

Future Agenda Items

1. Inasmuch as many of the applicants’ outside letters from referees could provide more meaningful evaluation of the candidate’s scholarship, as opposed simply to making recommendations, the Committee will consider drafting language that all academic deans can use in their letters to outside reviewers, emphasizing more clearly the purpose of these letters.
2. Inasmuch as the University does not keep a complete record of the materials a candidate uses to seek tenure and promotion to Associate Professor, the Committee will consider a recommendation from Dean James Simon that henceforth all dossiers, though not all auxiliary materials, be scanned and placed in a digital file so that the Committee on Rank and Tenure can refer to them, if needed, when the faculty member applies for a future promotion.

3. Late this spring, after the deadline for the sending out of letters of confirmation as to the success or failure of tenure/promotion applications, the Rank and Tenure Committee was notified by several applicants that they had not received their final letter of confirmation from the SVPAA’s office. Although the Rank and Tenure Committee was not responsible for this lateness, it intends to work with the SVPAA’s office in future to ensure that the lateness does not recur.

The Chair wishes to thank the members of the Committee for their very hard work.

Respectfully submitted,

William Abbott, Chair
Rank and Tenure Committee