


The following was passed at the May 3, 2010, Faculty Senate Meeting #167:

MOTION:

The UAF Faculty Senate moves to reaffirm the Unit Criteria for Natural Sciences at the College of Natural Science and Mathematics.

EFFECTIVE: Fall 2010
Upon Chancellor's approval.

RATIONALE: The committee assessed the Natural Sciences unit criteria submitted for review by CNSM. With some minor revisions, the unit criteria were found

 5 May 2010
President, UAF Faculty Senate Date

APPROVAL: 
Chancellor's Office

DATE: 5/13/10

DISAPPROVED: _____
Chancellor's Office

DATE: _____

Minimum degree, experience and performance requirements are set forth in UAF Faculty Policies, Chapter IV. Exceptions to these requirements for initial placement in academic rank or special academic rank positions shall be submitted to the chancellor or chancellor's designee for approval prior to a final selection decision.

Academic titles must reflect the discipline in which the faculty are appointed and reside within a specific discipline.

Deans of schools and colleges, and directors when appropriate, in conjunction with the faculty in a unit shall observe procedures for advertisement, review and selection of candidates to fill any vacant faculty positions. These procedures are set by UAF Human Resources and the Campus Diversity and Compliance (AA/EEO) office and

A central function of the university is instruction of students in formal courses and supervised study. Teaching includes those activities directly related to the formal and informal transmission of appropriate skills and knowledge to students. The nature of instruction will vary for each faculty member, depending upon workload distribution and the particular teaching mission of the unit. Instruction includes actual contact in classroom, correspondence or electronic delivery methods, laboratory or field and preparatory activities, such as preparing for lectures, setting up demonstrations, and preparing for laboratory experiments, as well as individual/independent study, tutorial sessions, evaluations, correcting papers, and determining grades. Other aspects of teaching and instruction extend to undergraduate and graduate academic advising and counseling, training graduate students and serving on their graduate committees, particularly as their major advisor, curriculum development, and academic recruiting and retention activities.

Evidence of excellence in teaching may be demonstrated through, but not limited to, evidence of the various characteristics that define effective teachers.

Effective teachers

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- a. are highly organized, plan carefully, use class time efficiently, have clear objectives, have high expectations for students;
- b. express positive regard for students, develop good rapport with students, show interest/enthusiasm for the subject;
- c. emphasize and encourage student participation, ask questions, frequently monitor student participation for student learning and teacher effectiveness, are sensitive to student diversity;
- d. emphasize regular feedback to students and reward student learning success;
- e. demonstrate content mastery, discuss current information and divergent points of view, relate topics to other disciplines, deliver material at the appropriate level;
- f. regularly develop new courses, workshops and seminars and use a variety of methods of instructional delivery and instructional design;

Inquiry and originality are central functions of a land grant/sea grant/space grant university and all faculty with a research component in their assignment must remain active as scholars. Consequently, faculty are expected to conduct research or engage in other scholarly or creative pursuits that are appropriate to the mission of their unit, and equally important, results of their work must be disseminated through media appropriate to their discipline. Furthermore, it is important to emphasize the distinction between routine production and creative excellence as evaluated by an individual's peers at the University of Alaska and elsewhere.

Whatever the contribution, research, scholarly or creative activities must have one or more of the following characteristics:

- a. They must occur in a public forum,
- b. They must be evaluated by appropriate peers,
- c. They must be evaluated by peers external to this institution so as to allow an objective judgment,
- d. They must be judged to make a contribution.

Evidence of excellence in research, scholarly, and creative activity may be demonstrated through, but not limited to:

- a. Books, reviews, monographs, bulletins, articles, proceedings, and other scholarly works published by reputable journals, scholarly presses, and publishing houses that accept works only after rigorous review and approval by peers in the discipline.
- b. Competitive grants and contracts to finance the development of ideas; these grants and contracts being subject to rigorous peer review and approval.
- c. Presentation of research papers before learned societies that accept papers only after rigorous review and approval by peers.
- d. Exhibitions of art works at galleries; selection for these exhibitions being based on rigorous review and approval by juries, recognized artists, or critics.
- e. Performance in recitals or productions, selection for these performances being based on stringent auditions and approval by appropriate judges;
- f.
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- g. Scholarly reviews of publications, art works and performance of the candidate.
- h. Citations of research in scholarly publications.
- i. Published abstracts of research papers.
- j. Reprints or quotations of publications, reproductions of art works, and descriptions of interpretations in the performing arts, these materials appearing in reputable works of the discipline.
- k. Prizes and awards for excellence of scholarship.
- l. Awards of special fellowships for research or artistic activities or selection of tours of duty at special institutes for advanced study.
- m. Development of processes or instruments useful in solving problems, such as computer programs, and systems for the processing of data,

genetic plant and animal material, and where appropriate obtaining patents and/or copyrights for said development.

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Public service is intrinsic to the land grant/sea grant/space grant tradition, and is a fundamental part of the university's obligation to the people of its state. In this tradition, faculty providing their professional expertise for the benefit of the

- k. Judging and similar educational assistance at science fairs, state fairs, and speech, drama, literary, and similar competitions.

University service includes those activities involving faculty members in the governance, administration, and other internal affairs of the university, its colleges, schools, and institutes. It includes non-instructional work with students and their organizations. Examples of such activities include, but are not limited to:

- a. Service on university, college, school, institute, or departmental committees or governing bodies.
- b. Consultative work in support of university functions, such as expert assistance for specific projects.
- c. Service as department chair or term-limited and part-time assignment as assistant/associate dean in a college/school.
- d. Participation in accrediting reviews.
- e. Service on collective bargaining unit committees or elected office.
- f. Service in support of student organizations and activities.
- g. Academic support services such as library and museum programs.
- h. Assisting other faculty or units with curriculum planning and delivery of instruction, such as serving as guest lecturer.
- i. Mentoring
- j. Prizes and awards for excellence in university service.

3.

- a. Editing or refereeing articles or proposals for professional journals or organizations ().
- b. Active participation in professional organizations;
- c. Active participation in discipline-oriented service organizations.
- d. Committee chair or officer of professional organizations.
- e. Organizer, session organizer, or moderator for professional meetings

- f. Service on a national or international review panel or committee.

Each faculty member's proportionate responsibility in service shall be reflected in annual workload agreements. In formulating criteria, standards and indices for evaluation, promotion, and tenure, individual units should include examples of service activities and measures for evaluation appropriate for that unit. Excellence in public, university, and service may be demonstrated through, e.g., appropriate letters of commendation, recommendation, and/or appreciation, certificates and awards, and other public means of recognition for services rendered.

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