

# Policy and Procedures for Promotion, Tenure, Evaluations, Dismissals, Terminations, and Nonrenewals

College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources (CAFSNR)  
North Dakota State University

Approved by CAFSNR Promotion, Tenure, and Evaluation (PTE) Committee on March 23, 2017. Approved by CAFSNR Faculty on March 21, 2017. Approved by CAFSNR Dean/Director of NDAES on April 26, 2017. Approved by NDSU Extension Director on April 26, 2017. Approved by Provost on June 2, 2017 and February 20, 2018. Updates made to conform with appropriate university policies on June 22, 2023. Approved by Provost on July 6, 2023. Updates on July 12, 2024 reflect removal of paper version requirement.

## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Abbreviations used in this document include:

North Dakota State University (NDSU)  
North Dakota State Board of Higher Education (SBHE)  
College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources (CAFSNR)  
North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station (NDAES)  
Research and Extension Center (REC)  
North Dakota State University Extension (NDSU Ext)  
Vice President for Agriculture; Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources; Director of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station; and Director of NDSU Extension (VPAg)  
Promotion, Tenure, and Evaluation Committee (PTE Committee)  
Promotion, Tenure, and Evaluation (PTE)  
Post Tenure Review (PTR)  
Remedial Activities Committee (RAC)

1.2 This document describes CAFSNR policy and procedures for promotion, tenure, evaluations, dismissals, terminations, and nonrenewals.

1.3 Promoting faculty and awarding tenure, and the prerequisite processes of evaluation and review of faculty, are of fundamental importance to the long-term ability of the university to carry out its mission. Promotion recognizes the quality and acknowledges the increasing value of a faculty member's scholarship and contributions in the areas of teaching, research, and service. Tenure assures academic freedom and enhances economic security for faculty members who show promise of sustained contributions. Tenure also recognizes a candidate's potential long-term value to the institution as evidenced by professional performance and growth, and indicates the expectation of continued employment. (NDSU Policy 352.1).

1.4 The CAFSNR believes every employee deserves regular evaluation of his/her professional duties as they relate to a formal job description and the college and university's needs. This process should be honest, open, and forthright; an acknowledgment of the employee's achievements, as well as an assessment of her/his ability to match the university's expectations, and a determination of areas needing improvement.

- 1.5 This document provides policy and procedures for implementing NDSU policy for dismissals, terminations, and nonrenewals of faculty in the CAFSNR. It also specifies the mission, membership, policy, and procedures of the CAFSNR Promotion, Tenure, and Evaluation (PTE) Committee. It notes the role of department/school PTE committees and the approval process for department/school PTE policies.

## 2.0 References

- 2.1 The information in this document describes the CAFSNR policies and procedures for implementing the following NDSU policies, which deal with promotion, tenure, evaluation, dismissal, termination, and nonrenewal of faculty, academic staff, and administrators:

- 2.2 NDSU Policies:

[www.ndsu.edu/policy/section\\_3\\_non\\_banded\\_staff\\_employment\\_faculty\\_and\\_other/](http://www.ndsu.edu/policy/section_3_non_banded_staff_employment_faculty_and_other/)

- 350.1 Board Regulations on Academic Freedom and Tenure, Academic Appointments
- 350.3 Board Regulations on Nonrenewal, Termination or Dismissal of Academic Staff
- 352 Promotion, Tenure, and Evaluation

Additional information on university policies affecting faculty rights, hearings, and appeals, grievances, and mediation options can be found in the following sections of the NDSU policies:

- 350.2 Board Regulations on Standing Committee on Faculty Rights; Special Review
- 350.4 Board Regulations on Hearings and Appeals 353 -Grievances -Faculty

- 2.3 Related North Dakota State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) Policies:

<https://ndus.edu/sbhe-overview/sbhe-policies/>

- 605.1 Academic Freedom and Tenure; Academic Appointments
- 605.2 Standing Committee on Faculty Rights
- 605.3 Nonrenewal, Termination, or Dismissal of Faculty
- 605.4 Hearings and Appeals
- 605.5 Mediation

- 2.4 Guidelines for Promotion and Tenure Portfolio Preparation

Guidelines for Promotion and Tenure Portfolio Preparation are available on the website of the Office of the NDSU Provost. Candidates should access and use the most recent (calendar year) guidelines in compiling their packet. The guidelines are available at [www.ndsu.edu/facultyaffairs/pte](http://www.ndsu.edu/facultyaffairs/pte)

## 3.0 Evaluation Philosophy

- 3.1 Faculty and administrative evaluations are important and necessary for NDSU to carry out its mission. Both formal and informal evaluations provide important feedback to faculty and administrators on their performance. Formal, periodic, and comprehensive evaluations are used for administrative decisions such as pay increases, workload adjustments, promotion, and tenure. The CAFSNR uses formal evaluations to document the accountability expected by stakeholders, taxpayers, students, administrators, and faculty. Formal performance evaluations can be useful in prioritizing efforts, maintaining focus, monitoring progress, relating assignment expectations with performance expectations, and recognizing superior achievements. This process should be honest, open, and forthright, with an acknowledgment of the employee's achievements and a determination of areas needing improvement.

- 3.2 To accomplish its mission, the CAFSNR has assembled a faculty that is exceptionally diverse in academic disciplines, roles, and functions. Faculty are evaluated for their accomplishments relative to their assignments, which are stated in their job descriptions. Departments/schools are expected to provide clarifying and amplifying components to their PTE documents to ensure that the unique talents, capabilities, and accomplishments of individuals within the unit are properly acknowledged.
- 3.3 Whereas CAFSNR provides format and guidance for the evaluation process, it is the judgment of peers within departmental/school PTE Committees, the CAFSNR PTE Committee, administrative evaluation Committees, and administrators that determines how well an individual has performed. It is critical to the entire process that integrity and fairness are applied rigorously at all levels.

**4.0 Procedures for Periodic Reviews of Faculty (NDSU Policy Manual 352.4) and Administrators (NDSU Policy Manual 327)**

**4.1 Tenure Track Probationary Faculty Reviews**

Annual reviews of non-tenured faculty must be completed according to the guidelines in NDSU Policy 352. Table 1 provides timelines for the annual reviews of probationary faculty, the third year review process, and the promotion and tenure application process. For review purposes, a year is July 1 to June 30. Evaluations due each “tenure year” are actually conducted during the indicated year. Because the tenure clock for new faculty members generally starts on July 1 subsequent to their hire, “Tenure Year 1” may actually span a period of as many as 24 months and as few as 12 months. Faculty members hired after July 1 and before March 1 receive an annual review for the period that is not included within their tenure clock. (See section 5.1)

Table 1. Timeline for annual reviews of tenure track probationary faculty, the third year review process, and the promotion and tenure application process (shaded areas indicate no participation by the CAFSNR PTE Committee).

<b>Date reviews must be completed or results submitted to following locations*</b>					
<b>Tenure year (July 1-June 30)</b>	<b>Completed by Department/School Chair/Head</b>	<b>Completed by Department/School PTE Committee</b>	<b>Submitted to VPag</b>	<b>VPag provide application packets to CAFSNR PTE Committee**</b>	<b>Submitted to Provost</b>
1	Feb. 1	At discretion of department/school	Feb. 8		
2	Feb. 1	At discretion of department/school	Feb. 8		
3	At discretion of dept./school	At discretion of department/school	Feb. 1	Feb. 2	~May 1
4	Feb. 1	At discretion of department/school	Feb. 8		
5	Feb. 1	At discretion of department/school	Feb. 8		
6	At discretion of dept./school	At discretion of department/school	Oct. 25	Oct. 25	Dec. 27

\*Effective as of July 12, 2024. Check for current dates at [www.ndsu.edu/facultyaffairs/pte](http://www.ndsu.edu/facultyaffairs/pte).

\*\*The VPAG will provide application packets to the CAFSNR Committee following the 14 calendar day period allocated to the candidate for review of department recommendations. Any response from the candidate will be included in the packet.

#### 4.1.1 Annual reviews

- 4.1.1.1 Annual reviews for probationary faculty must be written and contain: 1) an overall recommendation for renewal, or nonrenewal without cause; 2) a statement on progress toward tenure/promotion; 3) a separate evaluation of each job component, which, at a minimum addresses performance in i) teaching, research (and grantsmanship), and/or extension (as applicable) and ii) service to the academic discipline, stakeholders, and the university; 4) goals and expectations for the upcoming review period; and 5) signatures of faculty member, Chair/Head and VPAG indicating that the review has been transmitted (which does not necessarily imply agreement).
- 4.1.1.2 Faculty will receive copies of their performance reviews. Faculty members have the right to submit a letter of comment, rebuttal, or amplification to the VPAG with a copy to the Department/School Chair/Head within 14 calendar days following receipt of the review.
- 4.1.1.3 Faculty members who receive extensions of their probationary period (see Policy 350.1 paragraph 3.c) will be reviewed annually for those years that are extended, and may request an appropriate adjustment to their tenure clock to allow for third year review and for application for tenure/promotion.

#### 4.1.2 Third year reviews

- 4.1.2.1 The primary function of the third year review is to provide guidance. The format for the third year review document will be that of the current NDSU Guidelines for Promotion and Tenure Portfolio Preparation with the exception that letters of evaluation are not needed. An electronic version (pdf format) of the third year review document should be provided to the VPAG by February 1.
- 4.1.2.2 CAFSNR administrators and the PTE Committee will perform separate evaluations and write independent recommendations. The VPAG will provide an evaluation in conjunction with the Associate Directors of NDSU Extension and NDAES, and Associate Dean of CAFSNR as appropriate based on the appointment of the candidate. The VPAG in conjunction with the Associate Director of Extension will provide an evaluation of faculty with Extension appointments. The VPAG in conjunction with the Associate Dean of CAFSNR will provide an evaluation of faculty with College appointments. The VPAG in conjunction with the Associate Director of NDAES will provide an evaluation of faculty with NDAES appointments. The independent evaluation reports from the VPAG administrators and CAFSNR PTE Committee will be forwarded to the Office of the Provost typically by May 1. Copies of the CAFSNR PTE Committee evaluation reports will be forwarded to the VPAG, Department/School Chair/Head and candidate being evaluated. Copies of the

VPAg evaluation report will be forwarded to the PTE Committee, Department/School Chair/Head and candidate being evaluated.

4.1.2.3 For faculty granted credit toward tenure, the third year review will be based on years toward tenure including the years of credit. For example, if a faculty member is granted two years toward tenure, the review will be conducted after one year at NDSU. Faculty granted three years toward tenure will be reviewed at the next opportunity. Please refer to the section on special circumstances for more information (5.2.1).

#### 4.1.3 Mentoring

Each department/school shall have senior faculty serve as mentors to aid the professional development of new faculty. Mentors, however, will not be held responsible for the performance of new faculty. Mentoring can be considered service to the department/school and noted in annual reports.

### 4.2 Tenured Faculty

4.2.1 Annual reviews of tenured faculty will be done by the department/school Chair/Head or designee, and will be completed by March 1 of each year. If the faculty member is applying for promotion, the faculty member would submit the promotion portfolio according to the timeline for the PTE process (Table 1).

4.2.2 Reviews of faculty should contain sufficient detail relative to performance that the faculty member has an honest and realistic appraisal of his/her progress or standing. Annual reviews will be based on the current approved job description. Faculty will receive copies of their performance reviews, and faculty members have the right to submit a letter of comment, rebuttal, or amplification to the VPAg and Department/school Chair/Head within 10 business days following receipt of the review. Reviews of tenured faculty should contain at least: 1) separate evaluations for each job component; 2) goals and expectations for the upcoming year; 3) descriptions of significant changes in assignment, responsibility, or research/teaching/service direction; 4) a statement on progress toward promotion if appropriate; and 5) signatures of the faculty member, Chair/Head and VPAg indicating that the review has been transmitted (does not necessarily imply agreement). If a review indicates unsatisfactory performance, a recommended plan for improvement must be included.

#### 4.2.3 Post Tenure Reviews

4.2.3.1 There is an expectation that tenured faculty will continue to develop professionally and be productive within the scope of their unique job description. The primary goal of the post-tenure review (PTR) is to formally recognize the continued excellence of faculty members through a process that includes several levels of administrative- and peer-review. Secondly, PTR is in formal recognition of the need for some faculty to remediate areas of unsatisfactory performance. The post-tenure review process begins with the award of tenure, and the first PTR occurs five years after the faculty member is tenured (in the 6<sup>th</sup> year) and is repeated every five years unless a promotion review takes place. A promotion will re-start the PTR clock.

- 4.2.3.2 The PTR will consist of the last five annual reviews as described in section 4.2.2 and a 5-yr summary review document developed by the faculty member's department/school chair/head with emphasis on continued excellence. If any area of performance was deemed unsatisfactory, the progress achieved within the plan for improvement is specified in the annual review. The PTR document will also include any responses to any of the annual reviews by the faculty member. The department/school chair/head will provide a "satisfactory" or "unsatisfactory" evaluation of the faculty member's performance in each PTR. If the chair/head provides a "satisfactory" review, the PTR is concluded with the signatures of both the chair and the faculty member. A copy is retained by the chair and the faculty member, and a copy of the signed PTR is forwarded to the VPAG and the Provost.
- 4.2.3.3 If the department/school chair provides an "unsatisfactory" evaluation, both the chair and the faculty member shall sign the review to acknowledge that the document has been reviewed by each party. The faculty member has 14 calendar days to submit a formal written response to the 5-yr summary review and the response will be included in the PTR document for subsequent evaluation. The response should be addressed to the VPAG. The PTR document is then forwarded to the VPAG. The VPAG will distribute the PTR document with any associated faculty member responses to the CAFSNR PTE Committee. The CAFSNR PTE Committee and the VPAG will each make an independent review. If the VPAG or CAFSNR PTE Committee disagrees with the department/school chair and provides a "satisfactory" evaluation, the review is concluded, and the PTR, with the VPAG and CAFSNR PTE Committee evaluations, is signed by the VPAG, CAFSNR PTE members, and the faculty member, who will not be reviewed again for five years. Copies of the signed PTR are then forwarded to the Provost, the department/school chair and the faculty member.
- 4.2.3.4 If the evaluations by VPAG and CAFSNR PTE Committee are unsatisfactory, a letter is written detailing the reasons and the amended PTR, with the VPAG and CAFSNR PTE Committee evaluations, is forwarded to the Provost. If the Provost determines that the faculty member performance is satisfactory, the review is complete for another five years and the department/school chair/head, the faculty member, and the VPAG receive a copy of the final PTR review with the Provost's comments. If the Provost agrees that the performance of the faculty member is "unsatisfactory," a letter with the review comments is distributed to the department/school chair/head, faculty member, and VPAG.
- 4.2.3.5 A final review determination of "unsatisfactory" triggers the formation of a CAFSNR faculty member Remedial Activities Committee (RAC). The RAC, consisting of the department/school chair and CAFSNR faculty members selected by the VPAG in consultation with the CAFSNR PTE Committee, constructs a 24-month remedial plan to bring the faculty member back to satisfactory performance. Performance will be reviewed by the RAC at 12-months, and adjustments in the schedule of remedial

activities may be made at that time. At the end of 24 months, the faculty member will provide a report demonstrating accomplishments in the remedial plan that will be reviewed by the RAC. If no improvements have been made and the remedial activity plan for the faculty member has not been followed, a letter detailing the continued unsatisfactory performance is written by the RAC and forwarded to the VPAG and the Provost. Any further action by the VPAG or the Provost should be in consultation with the RAC.

- 4.2.3.6 If progress has been made by the faculty member, but satisfactory performance has not yet been fully achieved, the RAC may determine to extend the remedial activities for a third year. If, at the end of the third year the RAC still determines that the performance is unsatisfactory, the RAC will provide the VPAG and the Provost with a letter detailing the circumstances for continued unsatisfactory performance. Again, any further action by the VPAG or the Provost should be in consultation with the RAC.
- 4.2.3.7 If at any point during the PTR process the faculty member believes that the provisions of the rules are being unfairly applied, or that the reviews are defective, a grievance may be filed under NDSU policy 353.

#### 4.3 Procedures for Evaluation of Administrators (NDSU Policy Manual 327)

[www.ndsu.edu/fileadmin/policy/327.pdf](http://www.ndsu.edu/fileadmin/policy/327.pdf)

- 4.3.1.1 All administrators covered under policy 327 will undergo comprehensive review. The first comprehensive review will be completed by the end of the administrator's third year of appointment.
- 4.3.1.2 CAFSNR administrators will annually prepare and share with their faculty by April 1 a written annual report that summarizes the administrator's accomplishments and goals.
- 4.3.1.3 It is expected that administrators will be evaluated formally at least every five years. The Provost initiates evaluations of deans and directors who directly report to the Provost. The college or departmental/school PTE Committee, supervising administrator, or the employee may request an evaluation. Faculty can petition the VPAG for a special review of an administrator by a simple majority vote of the faculty of the unit.
- 4.3.1.4 In the CAFSNR, the VPAG has responsibility for conducting periodic and special reviews of administrators including chair/heads and REC Directors in the CAFSNR, Agricultural Experiment Station, NDSU Extension, and other units, in a manner that provides for a fair and comprehensive evaluation by those they serve and to whom they report. Evaluation of administrators will include input from an appropriate sampling of external constituency groups.
- 4.3.1.5 Administrative reviews are to be based on the administrator's job description, and administrators should ensure that their current approved job descriptions are submitted to the VPAG and are available to faculty/staff.

- 4.3.1.6 Whereas performance standards may vary among administrators, the following considerations are designed to help guide evaluation committees in conducting their evaluations: Leadership, planning, administration and management, affirmative action, instruction, outreach, development, personnel development, and assessment. These considerations are more thoroughly explained in NDSU Policy 327.
- 4.3.2 Department/School Chairs/Heads and Research Extension Center Directors
- 4.3.2.1 The VPAG will initiate the formal evaluation process by the end of the third year of service and thereafter at least every five years. The VPAG, in conjunction with the departmental/school faculty, will form an ad hoc evaluation committee consisting of at least three faculty members. The evaluation committee will propose a written evaluation form based upon the administrator's current job description, statement of goals and accomplishments, and a statement of self-assessment. A draft of this proposed evaluation form will be provided to the administrator, who will be invited to offer input before the document is finalized. The final evaluation form will be used to solicit responses from faculty, peer administrators, and others, including classified staff, students, recent graduates, and an appropriate sampling of external constituents.
- 4.3.2.2 The evaluation committee will analyze the completed evaluation forms and prepare a summary report of the findings for the VPAG. Evaluation Committee members who do not agree with the majority report may append a dissenting report. If the evaluation committee believes that the needs of the department/school or unit have changed, it may recommend that the position description be changed.
- 4.3.2.3 Upon receipt of the report from the evaluation committee, the VPAG will analyze and summarize the data. The VPAG will meet with the ad hoc committee to determine the consensus views and discuss differences. A draft report will be sent to the Chair/Head or REC Director. The VPAG will meet with the Chair/Head or REC Director to complete the evaluation. Following the meeting, a final report will be written, which will become a public document. To ensure that the process remains open and positive, it is strongly suggested that the Chair/Head and REC Directors discuss the evaluation at a subsequent departmental/school or center meeting.
- 4.3.2.4 At any time, faculty or staff not on the committee may contact the VPAG directly with comments relating to the person being evaluated.
- 4.3.2.5 The VPAG will evaluate Research Extension Center (REC) Directors.
- 4.3.3 Dean/Associate Deans/Assistant Deans/Extension Director/Agricultural Experiment Station Director/Associate Agricultural Experiment Station Director/Extension Ag Program Leaders
- 4.3.3.1 The Provost will initiate the formal evaluation process of the Dean consistent with Policy 327. Other CAFSNR administrators will be evaluated after the third year of their initial appointment and every five years thereafter. For this process, the VPAG, in conjunction with the



CAFSNR PTE Committee, will form an ad hoc evaluation committee consisting of at least five full-time, non-administrative faculty or other staff served by the administrator for the VPAG. Members of the CAFSNR PTE Committee cannot serve on the evaluation committee. Evaluation committee members should decide at an initial meeting the number of members constituting a quorum.

- 4.3.3.2 The evaluation committee will propose a written evaluation form based upon the administrator's current job description, statement of goals and accomplishments, and a statement of self-assessment. A draft of this proposed evaluation form will be provided to the administrator, who will be invited to offer input before the document is finalized. The final evaluation form will be used to solicit responses from faculty, administrators, and others including classified staff, and appropriate sampling of external constituents.
- 4.3.3.3 The evaluation committee will analyze the completed evaluation forms and prepare a report summarizing the findings. This report will be provided to the VPAG. Evaluation Committee members who do not agree with the majority report may append a dissenting report. If the evaluation committee believes that the needs of the unit have changed, it may recommend to the VPAG that the position description be changed.
- 4.3.3.4 Upon receipt of the report from the evaluation committee, the VPAG will also analyze and summarize the data. The VPAG will then meet with the Evaluation Committee to determine consensus and discuss differences. The VPAG will prepare a draft report and provide it to the administrator prior to the evaluation meeting. Following the meeting, a final report will be written, which will become a public document. To ensure that the process remains open and positive, it is strongly suggested that the administrator discuss the evaluation with the appropriate Chairs/Heads and REC Directors.
- 4.3.3.5 At any time, faculty or staff not on the committee may contact the VPAG directly with comments relating to the person being evaluated.

#### 4.3.4 Vice President for Agriculture

- 4.3.4.1 The NDSU President will annually evaluate the performance of the VPAG in a manner similar to the other President's cabinet members.
- 4.3.4.2 At any time, faculty or staff may contact the President directly with comments relating to the person being evaluated.

## **5.0 Promotion and Tenure Process (NDSU Policy Manual 350.1 & 352)**

### 5.1 Time Accounting

- 5.1.1 Time toward tenure is counted on a July 1 to June 30 year basis or as stated in the appointment agreement. The first probationary year starts on the first July 1 of employment. For example, the tenure clock will start on July 1, 2021 for a faculty member with a start date occurring during the period July 2, 2020 to July 1, 2021 unless otherwise specified in the letter of offer. For faculty granted credit for

previous service, the tenure clock with credit granted starts on July 1 following the appointment date. For example, for a faculty member hired on October 1, 2020, with credit given for two years previous service, the tenure clock will have started on July 1, 2019. Therefore, on July 1, 2022, the faculty will have three years of tenure credit.

## 5.2 Special Circumstances

5.2.1 In agreement with NDSU Policy Section 352, a new faculty member with relevant previous professional experience may be given credit toward tenure and promotion for this experience in an amount not to exceed three years. This credit is negotiated and must be specified as part of the initial hiring contract issued by the Provost. The Department PTE Committee recommends to the Department Chair/Head the maximum number of years of tenure credit offered. If years-toward-tenure is authorized by the Provost and the President, contributions, experience, and credentials of the candidate gained prior to employment at NDSU will be considered as service to the department/school and college, and will be evaluated as if the individual were a faculty member of NDSU during that time period. For example, if two years of credit is granted, the contributions during the previous two years will be considered and evaluated. Two options are available: 1) a faculty member may deduct approved credit years-toward-tenure from the six-year probationary period; or 2) the faculty member may be given the 6-year probationary period with the option of applying for tenure anytime the years-toward-tenure plus years in service in the academic unit equals or exceeds six but does not exceed the six-year probationary period initiated at the time of hire. For either option, failure to achieve tenure will lead to a terminal contract. Any exceptions to 5.2.1 must be approved by the President. If credit is not granted, contributions prior to NDSU employment will not be evaluated as part of the evaluation period. Prior professional experience is noted, but is not considered as part of the specific evaluation period. Any changes to the time toward tenure must be approved by the VPAG, the Provost, and the President, and copies of the authorization must be included with promotion and/or tenure portfolio materials.

5.2.2 Tenure recommendations and recommendations for appointment at the rank of Associate Professor or Professor for new hires (administrators or faculty with prior experience) are made by the respective department/school and the CAFSNR PTE Committee. The process of review is initiated by the department/school Chair/Head.

The candidate must document their record of outstanding achievement and consistent excellence in a discipline or profession gained through teaching, research, scholarly or professional activities, or service. This documentation should include a current job description, CV, and a Statement of Context and Accomplishment as described in the Guidelines for Promotion and Tenure Portfolio Preparation. This statement should provide a succinct context statement for academic record (maximum of three pages) describing philosophy, accomplishments, and other comments about major achievements in the areas of teaching, research, and service. A candidate coming from an administration background should address leadership, planning, administration and management, affirmative action, instruction, outreach, development, personnel development, and assessment as described in 4.3.1.5 of Policy and Procedures for Promotion, Tenure, Evaluations, Dismissals, Terminations, and Nonrenewals College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources (CAFSNR).

- 5.2.3 A faculty member desiring an extension of the six-year probationary period or a waiver of the continuous service requirement, will submit a written request for an extension or waiver to the Provost (review and chair/dean approval is not required) prior to the sixth year or prior to the year in which the portfolio is due. A faculty member may request an extension of the probationary period not to exceed a total of three years based on institutional, personal or family (pertaining to a child, spouse/partner or parent, as described in NDSU Policy 320) circumstances, personal illness or disability, which, according to reasonable expectations, impede satisfactory progress towards promotion and tenure. Faculty given promotion and tenure credit are also eligible for this extension. Please refer to NDSU Policy 352.3.6. While faculty are encouraged to request probationary period extension as soon as they recognize the need for extension, according to policy 352, notification to the Provost must be submitted within one year of the beginning of the event for which the extension is requested and approved prior to July 1 of the year in which the tenure/promotion portfolio is due. A faculty member who submits an extension request during the academic year in which they are to undergo third year review must successfully undergo third-year review and renewal before any extension can take effect. The request must be in writing and will be submitted to the Provost who will review the request and will approve or deny the request. Denial of an extension may be appealed under NDSU Policy 350.4; however, appeals will not be granted for requests that are submitted outside the required timeline for extension.
- 5.2.4 A faculty member who demonstrates exceptional achievement and consistent excellence that satisfies the criteria for promotion to Associate Professor may be granted promotion prior to the completion of the probationary six years. The CAFSNR follows NDSU Policy 352, Section 3.4 “For a faculty member without previous academic-relevant experience, eligibility for tenure requires a probationary period of six years. Evaluations for promotion to Associate Professor and granting of tenure will ordinarily be conducted concurrently. However, exceptional academic accomplishments may warrant early promotion prior to the completion of the six years of the probationary period. Petitions for early promotion shall be initiated by department/school heads/chairs, and not by faculty members themselves.”
- 5.2.5 If the initial hiring contract provides an opportunity to apply for promotion or tenure after three years (or longer period), the application will not be considered early tenure or promotion.
- 5.3 Timeline for the Promotion and Tenure Application Process (NDSU Policy Manual Section 352.6)
- 5.3.1 Probationary Assistant Professors are normally eligible to apply for promotion to Associate Professor and for tenure in their sixth year. Successful applicants generally will receive tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at the same time. However, exceptional academic accomplishments may warrant early promotion prior to the completion of the six years of the probationary period. Petitions for early promotion shall be initiated by department heads/chairs, and not by faculty members themselves. A statement of department/school support for early promotion and evidence of a candidate’s exceptional achievement and consistent excellence should be included in the letter(s) of recommendation from the department/school administrator and/or the department/school PTE Committee. Promotion to Professor

will be considered after the completion of five years of service in rank as Associate Professor. The application is made during their sixth year at the rank of Associate Professor or later. The faculty member has the option of waiting and seeking promotion to Professor any time after the sixth year. The application process and timelines for the application are the same for the application for tenure and promotion to Associate Professor or Professor. An electronic version (pdf format) of the candidate’s application is forwarded to the VPAg.

Table 2. Example timeline for the promotion and tenure application process.

Deadline*	Action
October 11 <i>or as directed by VPAg</i>	Department/School Chair/Head and Departmental/School PTE Committee recommendations are made, candidate is informed in writing, and packet is forwarded to the VPAg. Candidate has 14 calendar days to respond.
October 25 <i>or as directed by VPAg</i>	Written recommendations, and candidate responses are added to the portfolio. Portfolios are then made available to the CAFSNR PTE Committee.
December 13	VPAg’s recommendations are made and candidates are informed in writing. Candidate has 14 calendar days to respond. CAFSNR PTE Committee’s recommendations are made and candidate is informed in writing. Candidate has 14 calendar days to respond.
December 27	VPAg and CAFSNR PTE Committee written recommendations, and candidate responses (addressed to the Provost) are added to portfolios and sent to the Office of the Provost.
early January	Office of the Provost/Faculty Affairs makes promotion and tenure files available for review by the Provost’s PTE Advisory Committee (Policy 352.6.10).
mid to late January	Provost’s PTE Advisory Committee meets with the Provost.
January 24	Recommendations for senior lecturer promotions submitted to the Office of the Provost/Faculty Affairs.
by mid-February	Provost’s recommendations are made and Office of the Provost/Faculty Affairs informs candidates in writing of Provost’s recommendations. Candidate has 14 calendar days to respond.
late February	Provost’s written recommendations, candidate responses (addressed to the President), and promotion and tenure materials sent to the Office of the President.
mid to late March (based on NDUS/SBHE deadlines)	President’s decisions on promotion and recommendations for tenure are made and candidates are informed in writing. See Policy 350.3 for appeals. President’s positive recommendations on tenure are forwarded to SBHE in time for action at its spring meeting.
Summer	Promotion and tenure decision becomes effective on July 1 for 12-month faculty and on August 16 for 9-month faculty.

\*Specific dates effective as of July 12, 2024. Check for current dates at [www.ndsu.edu/facultyaffairs/pte](http://www.ndsu.edu/facultyaffairs/pte).

## 5.4 Promotion and Tenure Application and Review Process

- 5.4.1 Candidates will be evaluated for tenure and promotion under the approved PTE documents at each level of consideration at the time of their hire. Candidates have the option to be evaluated under the PTE documents currently approved at the time of their application for tenure and/or promotion. Including the appropriate department/school and college PTE documents in the application packet is the responsibility of the candidate.
- 5.4.2 Each faculty member is responsible for understanding the processes, elements, and contributions that demonstrate productivity. Also, each faculty member should record and explain contributions in ways that convey value and impact. Portfolios may be returned to the candidate if they do not follow the specified format.
- 5.4.3 The department/school Chair/Head and departmental/school PTE committee will conduct separate evaluations and formulate independent written recommendations. The CAFSNR PTE Committee and the VPAG will perform separate evaluations and formulate independent written recommendations.
- 5.4.4 The VPAG in conjunction with the Associate Director of Extension will provide an evaluation of faculty with Extension appointments. The VPAG in conjunction with the Associate Dean of CAFSNR will provide an evaluation of faculty with College appointments. The VPAG in conjunction with the Associate Director of NDAES will provide an evaluation of faculty with NDAES appointments. The VPAG and the Associate Directors and/or Associate Dean will confer in the evaluation recommendation for faculty with joint appointments.
- 5.4.5 The candidate will have 14 calendar days to append a response to each recommendation (addressed to the Provost), or to any new material added to the portfolio during the review process.
- 5.4.6 The portfolio and administrative recommendation will be forwarded by the VPAG to the Provost by the date specified.
- 5.4.7 The CAFSNR PTE Committee will separately forward its recommendation to the Provost by the date specified. The Provost's recommendation will be forwarded to the President by the date specified.
- 5.4.8 Procedures for the appeal of non-promotion decisions are outlined in Sections 350.3 and 352 of the NDSU Policy Manual. The Provost's Office oversees the appeals process for any candidate who wishes to appeal a negative decision. Within 20 calendar days, the candidate may request review of the President's decision and hearing by Standing Committee on Faculty Rights. The President considers the appeal, makes the final decision and informs the candidate in writing.
- 5.4.9 Added Materials

“Materials collected as part of the evaluation process must be added to the portfolio before being sent forward to the next level of review. At the time that any written materials are added to the candidate's portfolio, copies of the added material must be sent to the candidate for review. The candidate shall have 14 calendar days to respond in writing to the additional materials.” Policy 352.6.4.

#### 5.4.10 Allegations of Misconduct - Policy 352.6.5.

When an allegation of misconduct is made against a candidate, the PTE process is suspended until such allegation is resolved.

### 5.5 Promotion and Tenure Criteria

- 5.5.1 The evaluation of a candidate's performance will be based on the individual's job description. The job description which amplifies general duties and responsibilities outlined in the position description and in the hiring contract comprises the tenure plan. Weights assigned to contributions are generally in line with appointment distribution among the College, NDAES, and NDSU Ext with consideration for supplemental duties such as administration. Job descriptions may also contain additional weights or priorities that assist the candidate in establishing realistic expectations of performance. For faculty with split appointments, the predominant appointment will determine the review track. Generally, job descriptions are congruent with departmental/school missions and University guidelines for promotion. Whenever inconsistencies occur, those university guidelines and policies in effect at the time of hire will govern the evaluation.
- 5.5.2 Departments/schools are responsible for developing specific promotion and tenure criteria. Because each department/school is unique, specific criteria should reflect the unit mission, goals, and responsibilities. Faculty assignments within the unit may also be unique, so the criteria should be sufficiently robust to accommodate the diversity of activity expected of faculty as expressed in their job descriptions. In making assessments, faculty performance should be weighted relative to expectations in their job description or other assignment/responsibility documents. If an individual's job description has been changed, dated copies of all pertinent descriptions should be included in portfolios or with evaluation reports.
- 5.5.3 Promotion and tenure are recognitions of productivity and sustained, quality scholarship, as reflected in the areas of responsibility in a faculty member's job description. The general scholarship and professional growth of the candidate, as specified in their job description, will be the primary criteria for promotion and tenure. Consideration may be given to professional background, experience, and time in rank. Consideration may also be given to the faculty member's "responsibility to create and/or maintain an ethical, respectful, and professional work climate for oneself, one's colleagues, one's students, and others with whom one relates professionally" (Policy 352 paragraph 1.1).
- 5.5.4 Each faculty member is expected to make contributions of high quality to the areas of teaching, research, and service. Teaching includes all forms of instruction both on-and off-campus. Extension educational activities are considered teaching. Research includes basic and applied research and other creative activities. Service includes: public service; service to the university, college, and department/school; and service to the profession. These categories are further defined in Section 5.6, Criteria Indicators. The quality and quantity of contributions in all three areas will be considered at the time of promotion and tenure. Because of variations among faculty in strengths and/or responsibilities, faculty members are not expected to exhibit equal levels of accomplishment in all areas. Moreover, disciplines will vary with respect to the kinds of evidence produced in support of contributions.

- 5.5.5 In the areas of teaching, research, and service, the following criteria will serve as a general guide for evaluation of contributions by a candidate for promotion, tenure, and post-tenure review. A candidate demonstrates quality of teaching (encompassing both instruction and advising) by providing evidence of the following: the effective delivery of instruction to, and the stimulation of learning by, students and/or clients; the continuous improvement of courses or instructional programs; effective advising and mentoring of undergraduate and/or graduate students; and achievement of program impacts with clients. A candidate demonstrates quality of research by providing evidence of furthering of, or original contributions to, knowledge, either by discovery or application, resulting from the candidate's research, and/or creative activities that are related to the candidate's discipline. Publication of research results and communication to stakeholders are expected. A candidate demonstrates quality of service by providing evidence of contributions to the welfare of the department/school, college, university, profession, and/or contributions to the public that make use of the faculty member's academic or professional expertise.
- 5.5.6 Tenure-track Assistant Professors and non-tenured Associate Professors who have demonstrated productivity and scholarship and show potential for sustained productivity, scholarship, and professional growth are eligible for promotion to Associate Professor with tenure. Assistant Professors generally will receive tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at the same time.
- 5.5.7 Associate Professors who demonstrate sustained productivity, scholarship, and contributions to the university and academic communities are eligible for promotion to Professor. For promotion to Professor, the candidate is expected to demonstrate an increase in assumed and designated responsibilities, growth in expertise and capability, evidence of regional and/or national scope of activities and scholarship, and demonstrated competence in leadership, management, and supervising.
- 5.5.8 Indicators accompanying each criterion for promotion, tenure, and evaluation should clarify, amplify, and provide opportunity to show accomplishment in the individual areas. Indicators will be established at the department/school level and indicated in departmental/school guidelines. Indicators should be selected to show how individuals in the department/school could meet or exceed the minimum criteria established by the department/school and college. Whereas criteria for promotion and/or tenure are the patterns of performance given to faculty for guidance in attaining appropriate quality levels in their work, indicators are not criteria in and of themselves. Rather, these indicators help evaluators categorize and judge the quality of faculty accomplishment. In determining whether a criterion is met, data related to these indicators will be considered as well as job description and other appropriate information. Other information not directly related to indicators but germane to the criteria may be provided. It is possible for criteria to be met without addressing each indicator. The CAFSNR acknowledges that missions and roles of individuals, units, and even the university may change over time. The CAFSNR and units must periodically review and update criteria and indicators. In accord with NDSU Policy 352. 3.3, "For probationary faculty, the basis for review of the candidate's portfolio and any recommendations on promotion and/or tenure shall be the promotion and tenure guidelines and criteria of the academic unit which were provided to the candidate at the time of the candidate's appointment to the position. The dean or director of the college or equivalent unit has the responsibility to provide to the appointee these documents, as well as a position description, contract, or other document that constitutes a tenure or work plan."

Tenured candidates for promotion to Professor “may choose to be evaluated by the criteria in effect at the time of the previous promotion, if the application is made within eight years of the previous promotion. Thereafter, candidates shall be evaluated by the criteria in effect at the time of application. Candidates applying for promotion to the rank of full professor more than eight years after the previous promotion may choose to be evaluated based on work completed in the eight years immediately prior to applying rather than on their entire post-promotion record.”

## 5.6 Criteria Indicators

- 5.6.1 Specific criteria for promotion or tenure are established by the department/school.
- 5.6.2 The evaluation of a candidate’s performance will be based on the individual’s assigned responsibilities in teaching, research, and service, on-or off-campus, in regional, national, or international areas. Judgments will be based on evidence of both the quality and significance of the candidate’s work. The following indicators are not exhaustive, and other forms of information and evidence might be produced in support of the quality and significance of the candidate’s work.
- 5.6.3 Teaching indicators may include the following, but specific criteria are established by the department/school: honors, awards, and recognition for teaching excellence; participation in workshops, seminars, or other training to improve teaching; active membership in professional teaching organizations; activities in curriculum/program/course development; student/participant evaluations; peer evaluations; results of curriculum/program reviews; success in advising; success in directing graduate student academic programs; recruitment/retention activities; success in work with student organizations; and success in providing enhanced educational opportunities for individuals at remote locations. Extension educational programming is considered teaching and may include indicators such as: success in advising clientele; use and development of educational materials; development of in-service teaching materials; development of workshops and schools for clientele training; client evaluations of educational programs, and client adoption of recommended practices. Candidates are encouraged to document scholarship in teaching with peer reviews, pre-and post-tests, and other assessment techniques.
- 5.6.4 Research/Creative Activity indicators may include the following, but specific criteria are established by the department/school: accepted Experiment Station Project (Hatch, State, etc.); publications including refereed, peer reviewed and other edited publications; cooperative and collaborative research; presentations of research results; activities in research program development; new variety or cultivar development, or registration of germplasm; new technology development; success in project management; honors, awards, recognition for research; peer evaluations; results of program reviews; success in directing graduate student research; supervising assistants; and success in work with supportive organizations. Faculty members are expected to solicit and gain extramural and intramural funds (and other resources) to support their research efforts. Grantsmanship indicators may include the following, but specific criteria are established by the department/school: a list of grants obtained with indication of the portion available to the faculty member; list of submitted, but unfunded proposals; attracting research students (graduate and/or under-graduate students) with scholarships, fellowships, or self-funded; list of in-kind services solicited and gained for research purposes; post-doctoral research fellows, review/statement of grant-fund management; and indications of how grants are leveraged to pursue larger research goals.



- 5.6.5 Service to stakeholders indicators may include the following, but specific criteria are established by the department/school: advice to service units (Soil Testing, Vet Diagnostic, Pest Diagnostic Lab, other labs); responses to individuals and industry; responses to commodity groups and/or organizations; service to commodity/agricultural organizations; informational presentations to groups; disciplinary service to schools or youth organizations (4-H, FFA, etc.). Service to discipline indicators may include the following, but specific criteria are established by the department/school: Active participation in professional disciplines and societies; work on professional society committees; contributions to joint works (compendia, regional publications, etc.); participation in multi-state projects (Hatch, others); referee for journals; referee for granting agencies; and editor/reviewer for disciplinary publications. Service to the university indicators may include the following, but specific criteria are established by the department/school: membership and active participation on departmental/school, college, university, inter-university committees; nominations for honors or awards; assigned or assumed institutional responsibilities; participation in events that showcase the department/school, college and/or university; contributions to efforts or events that encourage or require inter-unit collaboration; leadership/participation in “all-campus” events; and representation of the department/school, college, or university to the public.
- 5.7 Promotion and Evaluation for Special Appointments (see NDSU Policy Section 350.5.7).

Two categories for consideration include:

Research Professorships: Research Assistant Professor, Research Associate Professor, and Research Professor

Professor of Practice: Assistant Professor of Practice, Associate Professor of Practice, Professor of Practice

5.7.1 Years of Credit

A new faculty member with relevant previous professional experience may be given credit toward promotion for this experience in an amount not to exceed three years. This credit is negotiated and must be specified as part of the initial hiring contract issued by the Provost. If years-toward-promotion is authorized by the Provost and the President, experience, and credentials of the candidate gained prior to employment at NDSU will be considered as service to the department/school and college, and will be evaluated as if the individual were a faculty member of NDSU during that time period.

5.7.2 Rank at Hiring

Recommendations for new appointments at a higher rank than Assistant (administrators or faculty with prior experience) are made by the respective department/school and the CAFSNR PTE Committee. The process of review is initiated by the department/school Chair/Head.

5.7.3 Guidelines for Promotion

Each faculty member has the option of waiting and seeking promotion any time after a period of service of not less than five years at the previous rank. A faculty member who demonstrates outstanding exceptional achievement and consistent excellence

that satisfies the criteria for promotion to Associate Professor may be granted promotion prior to the completion of the probationary six years. The application process and timelines for the application are the same for the application for promotion of tenure-track or tenured faculty.

Each faculty member is expected to make contributions of high quality to the areas of teaching or research, depending on their job description. Teaching includes all forms of instruction both on- and off-campus. Research includes basic and applied research and other creative activities. These categories are further defined in Section 5.6, Criteria Indicators. The quality and quantity of contributions (in all three areas) based on their job description will be considered at the time of promotion. Because of variations among faculty in strengths and/or responsibilities, faculty members are not expected to exhibit equal levels of accomplishment in all areas. Moreover, disciplines will vary with respect to the kinds of evidence produced in support of contributions.

#### 5.7.4 Research Professorships

In the area of research, the following criteria will serve as a general guide for evaluation of contributions by a candidate for promotion. A candidate demonstrates quality of research by providing evidence of furthering of, or original contributions to, knowledge, either by discovery or application, resulting from the candidate's research, and/or creative activities that are related to the candidate's discipline. Publication of research results and communication to stakeholders are expected. Professional service (e.g., reviewing submissions; presenting at conferences) is expected since it is an inherent responsibility of the position.

##### Promotion of Research Professors

Promotion is initiated via a departmental/school recommendation. Typically, promotion cannot be achieved until the candidate has spent a minimum of five years in rank. A faculty member who demonstrates exceptional achievement and consistent excellence that satisfies the criteria for promotion to Associate Research Professor or Research Professor may be granted promotion prior to the completion of five years of service in rank. Promotion shall be based primarily on demonstrated success in research, publications and extramural funding (i.e., demonstration of knowledge dissemination in his/her field, supervision of graduate researchers, and/or continued funding support).

Research Assistant Professors who have demonstrated productivity and scholarship in research and show potential for sustained productivity, scholarship, and professional growth are eligible for promotion to Research Associate Professor.

Associate Research Professors who have demonstrated sustained productivity and scholarship in research are eligible for promotion to Research Professor. For promotion to Professor, the candidate is expected to demonstrate an increase in assumed and designated responsibilities, growth in expertise and capability, evidence of regional and/or national scope of activities and scholarship, and demonstrated competence in leadership, management, and supervising.

#### 5.7.5 Professor of Practice

In the area of teaching the following criteria will serve as a general guide for evaluation of contributions by a candidate for promotion. A candidate with a professional teaching appointment must demonstrate quality of teaching (encompassing both instruction and advising) by providing evidence of the following: the effective delivery of instruction to, and the stimulation of learning by, students and/or clients; the continuous improvement of courses or instructional programs; and the effective advising and mentoring of undergraduate and/or graduate students.

### Promotion of Professors of Practice

The positions of Assistant and Associate Professor of Practice are eligible for promotion through ranks, based on time in rank and satisfactory evaluation of assigned responsibilities. Promotion is initiated via a departmental/school recommendation. Typically, the promotion cannot be achieved until the candidate has spent a minimum of five years in rank. A faculty member who demonstrates exceptional achievement and consistent excellence that satisfies the criteria for promotion to Associate Professor of Practice or Professor of Practice may be granted promotion prior to the completion of five years of service in rank. Promotion shall be based primarily on demonstrated success in instructional activities and other assigned responsibilities.

Assistant Professors of Practice who have demonstrated productivity and scholarship in teaching and show potential for sustained productivity, scholarship, and professional growth are eligible for promotion to Associate Professor of Practice.

Associate Professors of Practice who demonstrated sustained productivity and scholarship in teaching are eligible for promotion to Professor of Practice. For promotion to Professor, the candidate is expected to demonstrate an increase in assumed and designated responsibilities, growth in expertise and capability, evidence of regional and/or national scope of activities and scholarship, and demonstrated competence in leadership, management, and supervising.

## 5.8 Inclusion of Materials in Promotion and Tenure Portfolios

- 5.8.1 The format prescribed by the University, outlined in the current NDSU guidelines for promotion and tenure portfolio preparation, is located at [www.ndsu.edu/facultyaffairs/pte](http://www.ndsu.edu/facultyaffairs/pte). It serves as the official guideline to prepare the application for promotion/tenure. This standard format is intended to expedite the review process. Some categories within the format may not be applicable to all portfolios and blanks are not necessarily considered deficiencies. When entries could justifiably be listed in any of several categories, applicants should exercise judgement, but record the accomplishment only once. The candidate's entire record at NDSU should be included in the Portfolio, but the primary focus of the evaluation will be on the period of review. Because of the unique relationship among faculty in the CAFSNR and clientele (commodity groups, agribusiness, and others), candidates should identify and maintain clear records of these service/extension activities. Internal letters of support from peer scientists and/or clientele are required for promotion to Associate Professor and Professor. External letters are not required for tenure or promotion from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor but two external letters are required for promotion from Associate Professor to Professor. A "peer scientist" that provides a support letter should have a rank similar to or higher than

the rank being sought by the candidate, have a focus in scholarship similar to the candidate, and should not have a conflict of interest with the candidate (e.g., advisee, advisor, co-author, co-investigator). The letters are solicited by the department/school Chair/Head and the candidate may suggest persons to provide letters. A minimum of two letters should be included. Applicants are encouraged to annotate, expand, or explain any portion to increase clarity, justify inclusion, or in some other way help reviewers evaluate the portfolio.

- 5.8.2 Applicants are entrusted to prepare accurate and concise representations and/or summaries of activities. Candidates must have available, if requested, a copy, or parts thereof, of supplemental materials that illustrate the candidate's achievements in teaching, research, and service referred to in the portfolio. Submitting such documents in an appendix is necessary only if requested.
- 5.8.3 Additions to the portfolio subsequent to October 28 will be written and be limited to 1) evaluations and recommendations by the CAFSNR PTE Committee and VPAG, 2) the candidate's responses to those evaluations (if desired), and 3) materials requested by the CAFSNR PTE Committee and VPAG. Note: Items in 2 and 3 will be reciprocally shared so the PTE committee and VPAG will review identical portfolios. The candidate may respond to these additions in writing within 14 calendar days after receipt. In addition, the candidate may petition the Dean/Directors and the CAFSNR PTE Committee for inclusion of materials, but these materials will be allowed only if both the Dean/Directors and the PTE committee agree to the inclusion, and if the inclusion pertains to materials already in the portfolio such as pending publications or grant proposals.

## **6.0 Policy on Nonrenewals and Terminations of Probationary Faculty Prior to the Sixth Year (NDSU Policy Manual 350.3)**

- 6.1 A probationary appointment may be terminated, without cause, with notice to the faculty member that the appointment will not be renewed. (NDSU Policy Manual 350.3.1)
- 6.2 In accord with NDSU Policy 350.3(1)(b), nonrenewal recommendations of a probationary faculty prior to the final probationary year will be made by the Chair/Head of the academic unit and the VPAG to the Provost for recommendation to the President. Nonrenewals of probationary faculty may be initiated at any time.
- 6.3 The department/school Chair/Head may request the department/school PTE committee complete an evaluation, which becomes part of the official file. The faculty member will have 10 calendar days after receipt of the Committee's evaluation to provide a written response.
- 6.4 The department/school Chair/Head will review appropriate administrative procedures, then meet with the faculty member, discuss the proposed nonrenewal recommendation, and give the faculty member 10 calendar days to respond, in writing, to the proposed nonrenewal recommendation. This meeting should be summarized by the Chair/Head in writing and given to the faculty member with acknowledgment of receipt. A neutral third person should be invited to be present at the meeting.
- 6.5 The Chair/Head will prepare the formal letter of nonrenewal recommendation. The faculty member's written responses and any additional material the faculty member wishes to include will accompany the recommendation. The department/school Chair/Head will

include all periodic reviews and any other materials from the faculty member's official personnel file that he/she deems relevant. The timelines and procedures of NDSU Policy 352.6 (promotion and tenure application timelines) do not apply to nonrenewals prior to the sixth year. The Chair/Head's letter of recommendation for nonrenewal is forwarded to the VPAG.

- 6.6 The VPAG will formulate a recommendation and forward it to the Provost. Copies of the recommendation will be provided to the faculty member and department/school Chair/Head. The faculty member or Chair/Head will have 10 calendar days after receipt to respond to the recommendation with responses sent directly to the Provost and copies to the affected parties such as the faculty member, department/school Chair/Head, and directors.
- 6.7 The decision for non-renewal will be made by the University President. Upon receipt of the non-renewal decision, the faculty member may within 10 calendar days request in writing reconsideration, or incorporated within the request, seek mediation. The University has 10 calendar days to respond to the request(s).
- 6.8 If a CAFSNR non-renewed faculty member is in her/his first year of probationary service, termination will be effective at the end of 90 days following determination of nonrenewal. If a faculty member is in his/her second year of probationary service, termination will be effective at the end of 180 days, and if a faculty member is in the third to sixth year, termination will be effective at the end of one year following nonrenewal. Department/School Chair/Heads can petition the VPAG for delayed termination provided the rationale is for the good of the department/school and the college.

## **7.0 Dismissal of Tenured Faculty (NDSU Policy Manual 350.3)**

- 7.1 Appointments of tenured faculty may be terminated following a determination that a financial exigency exists which requires such action at NDSU or upon determination by NDSU that such action is necessary because of loss of legislative appropriations, loss of institutional or program enrollment, consolidation of academic units or program areas, or elimination of a course or courses. In such cases, significant consideration shall be given to length of service and tenure status in the retention of faculty members within the affected academic unit or program area, curriculum requirements, professional achievements, breadth of competence, and equal employment opportunity. A tenured faculty member terminated pursuant to this subsection shall be given written notice of termination, including the reason(s) for the action, at least twelve months prior to the date of termination.
  - 7.1.1 A tenured faculty member given notice of termination under a financial exigency may request that the institution circulate his or her vita to other academic units or program areas within NDSU. In addition, NDSU shall ensure that fair consideration is given to the faculty member, during the period of the terminal appointment, for vacant academic positions in the employing institution for which the faculty member is qualified. If a tenured faculty member accepts an appointment in a different academic unit or program area, the faculty member shall retain his or her tenure status, subject to approval of the Board.
  - 7.1.2 A position terminated under a financial exigency shall not be filled by a replacement within two years, unless the released faculty member has been offered appointment with tenure and a reasonable time within which to accept or decline it.

- 7.1.3 The faculty member may, within twenty calendar days of receipt of notice of termination, file a request for review under processes established at NDSU for that purpose.
- 7.2 The faculty governance structure at NDSU shall adopt procedures by which faculty participation is solicited before notice of termination is given any tenured faculty member under a financial exigency. Faculty participation shall be solicited concerning:
  - 7.2.1 The extent to which there are grounds for termination of the tenured appointments;
  - 7.2.2 Judgments determining where within the overall academic program, termination of appointments may occur; and
  - 7.2.3 The procedure and criteria for identifying the individuals whose appointments are to be terminated.
- 7.3 An administrative decision to terminate a tenured faculty member under a financial exigency shall be preceded by the following steps:
  - 7.3.1 Consultation with the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate regarding the extent to which there are grounds for termination of tenured appointments.
  - 7.3.2 Consultation with the Faculty Affairs and Faculty Rights committees of the Faculty Senate regarding the justification for terminating tenured appointments, if that is consequence of the decisions; and
  - 7.3.3 Consultation with the Academic Affairs Committee, or the equivalent, of the college or equivalent unit involved regarding the justification for terminating tenured appointments.
  - 7.3.4 Consultation with the faculty in an academic unit or program regarding the consequences of the decision.
  - 7.3.5 Once the administration decision is finalized following these consultations, the identification of faculty members for termination shall be made by the President of NDSU.
- 7.4 A faculty member may be dismissed for adequate cause. Adequate cause means: (a) demonstrated incompetence or dishonesty in teaching, research, or other professional activity related to institutional responsibilities, (b) substantial and manifest neglect of duty, (c) conduct which substantially impairs the individual's fulfillment of his or her institutional responsibilities or the institutional responsibilities of others, (d) a physical or mental inability to perform assigned duties, provided that such action is consistent with laws prohibiting discrimination based upon disability, or (e) significant or continued violation of Board policy or NDSU policy, provided that, for violations of NDSU policy, NDSU must notify the faculty member in advance in writing that violation would constitute grounds for dismissal, or the NDSU policy must provide specifically for dismissal as a sanction.
  - 7.4.1 Prior to a dismissal recommendation based on adequate cause other than the PTR review for which procedures for dismissal have been detailed previously, the department/school Chair/Head or head of the academic unit will review appropriate administrative procedures, and meet with the faculty member to discuss a proposed dismissal. At the same time, the department/school Chair/Head will request the

department/school PTE Committee complete an evaluation of the faculty member within 10 business days, which becomes part of the official personnel file.

- 7.4.2 The department/school Chair/Head will subsequently meet with the faculty member and determine if the problems that led to the proposed dismissal for adequate cause can be corrected or overcome. If the Chair/Head determines that the dismissal process will continue, the Chair/Head will provide the faculty member with a written notice of intent to dismiss and the department/school PTE committee evaluation. The notice shall state that the faculty member has 20 calendar days after receipt of the notice to request a hearing before the NDSU Standing Committee on Faculty Rights. The notice of intent to dismiss and the department/school PTE Committee evaluation shall be sent to the VPAG at the same time that they are given to the faculty member. The faculty member must notify the department/school Chair/Head and the VPAG of intent to request a hearing with the NDSU Standing Committee on Faculty Rights. The faculty member will have 10 business days after receipt of the notice of intent to dismiss and the department/school PTE Committee evaluation to add a written response to the department/school Chair/Head and the VPAG.
- 7.4.3 The VPAG will request that CAFSNR PTE Committee complete an evaluation of the proposed dismissal for adequate cause within 10 business days. The VPAG will formulate a recommendation within 10 business days after receiving the proposed dismissal for adequate cause and related materials. Copies of all materials relating to the proposed dismissal shall be sent to the Provost. The CAFSNR PTE Committee report and the recommendation from the VPAG will be sent to the faculty member and to the department/school Chair/Head.
- 7.4.4 The written notice of termination or dismissal from the President must in any event be given within 60 days of the initial written notice of intent to terminate or dismiss.
- 7.4.5 Pending a final decision on dismissal for adequate cause, the faculty member may be suspended by the President of NDSU, or assigned to other duties in lieu of suspension. The faculty member's salary and fringe benefits shall continue during a period of suspension. Salary and benefits shall be terminated upon a final decision by the President of NDSU to dismiss the faculty member following conclusion of proceedings at NDSU.

## **8.0 College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources PTE Committee**

- 8.0.1 The mission of the CAFSNR PTE Committee is to promote uniformity in the PTE processes across the College. This will be accomplished by: 1) reviewing and approving academic unit (department/school) PTE criteria and standards; 2) providing a generic PTE portfolio format for the College; 3) helping to identify and characterize the many forms that scholarship may take across the College; 4) serving as a clearinghouse for PTE information within the College and between the College and University administration; 5) drafting revisions to CAFSNR policies regarding promotion, tenure, and evaluation; 6) reviewing tenure and promotion applications and making recommendations to the Provost; 7) conducting third-year reviews of probationary College faculty, 8) assisting with administrative evaluations; and 9) completing other evaluations requested by CAFSNR administrators including promotion recommendations for Professors of Practice and for Research Professorships.

8.0.2 The job description, departmental/school PTE criteria, performance documentation, and evaluations shall be used by the CAFSNR PTE Committee in evaluating candidates for promotion and/or tenure.

#### 8.1 PTE Committee Membership and Elections

8.1.1 The PTE committee should be as reflective as possible of the college's breadth of disciplines and fields of expertise. Usually no more than one member of the same department/school may serve on the committee at one time unless one member has a predominate appointment in Extension and the other member has a predominate appointment in the AES or in teaching (College). The PTE Committee will consist of seven faculty members elected by the faculty of the college. Each member will be elected for a term of three (3) years and may be re-elected. Two members of the committee will have primary appointments in NDSU Extension. Only tenured faculty members who have completed three years of full-time appointment with the University and who have attained the rank of Professor are eligible for election. The PTE committee is part of a peer review process. Thus, faculty holding administrative appointments including interim positions are not eligible; (administrative appointment includes appointments as Vice President, Dean and Associate or Assistant Dean, Director of NDSU Extension, Director AES, Associate Directors, and Department/School Chairs/Heads and REC Directors.)

8.1.2 Committee members will be elected by CAFSNR faculty holding academic rank at a CAFSNR faculty meeting with the election announced at least 10 business days in advance of the meeting. To provide continuity, no more than three faculty are normally elected to full terms at any one time. Nominations will be made from the floor. The nominator must assure that the nominee accepts the nomination and will serve if elected. The nominee(s) with the greatest number of votes will be elected, provided that guidelines on composition of the committee are not violated. Paper ballots or a secure electronic voting system will be used and the votes will be kept for at least one year. Tallies of the election will be kept in record by the VPAG. The term of office starts on May 1 of the calendar year elected. Vacancies on the committee shall be filled by a special election held at a CAFSNR faculty meeting or an election held by mail or electronic ballot. Individuals who fail to perform adequate service to the committee will be asked to resign by the committee; and should this fail, may be removed from the committee by vote of the college faculty at a regular or special meeting.

8.1.3 The Chair/Head of the Committee will be elected annually by the Committee.

#### 8.2 Election Meeting Quorum, Proxy, and Notification:

8.2.1 The quorum for regular and special meetings of the CAFSNR faculty at which elections are held will be determined by the CAFSNR faculty holding rank that are present at the meeting. A list of members in attendance will be kept as part of the minutes. Individuals absent, but participating through proxy, will be identified and counted as part of the quorum. Eligible faculty may carry proxy authority for another eligible faculty member provided that the signed proxy is in writing, submitted to the meeting Chair/Head prior to the meeting, and that the proxy is approved by the members in attendance. CAFSNR faculty will hold a regular meeting prior to March 31 of each year to hold elections and conduct business. Each faculty member in the CAFSNR will be notified of the date, time, and location of meetings in which



elections will be held at least ten (10) business days prior to the meeting. Public notifications will be made in accordance with open meeting requirements.

### 8.3 Procedures

8.3.1 Under NDSU Policy 352.5.4., a college PTE committee member who has voted on the promotion/tenure of a candidate in the department/school PTE committee shall be recused from the vote by the college PTE committee. A member of the CAFSNR PTE committee who serves on and/or has voted as a member of their department/school PTE committee may deliberate with the committee on the candidate.

## 9.0 Departmental/School PTE Committees

9.1 Because academic units in the CAFSNR vary considerably in faculty size and composition, the CAFSNR does not prescribe departmental/school PTE committee guidelines beyond those in NDSU Policy. Departments/schools are to describe the composition of their PTE committees and the methods of operation of that committee in their approved departmental/school PTE Guidelines. Department/School PTE committees are referred to the NDSU and CAFSNR guidelines for minimal components of their evaluation and recommendation report.

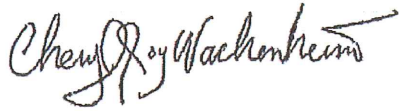
## 10.0 Department/School PTE Policy

10.1 The faculty of each department/school also will develop a statement of criteria for promotion, tenure, post-tenure, and evaluation that will be reviewed and approved by the college PTE committee and the VPAG to assure consistency with the college promotion, tenure, post-tenure, and evaluation criteria. The college and departmental/school statements, and any subsequent changes, will be reviewed and approved by the Provost to assure consistency with NDSU and SBHE policies.

## 11.0 Changes to CAFSNR PTE Policy and Procedures for Promotion, Tenure, Evaluations, Dismissals, Terminations, and Nonrenewals

11.1 Periodically, the CAFSNR Policy and Procedures for Promotion, Tenure, Evaluations, Dismissals, Terminations, and Nonrenewals must be modified to comply with SBHE and/or NDSU policies, to correct errors, to edit for clarity, and to respond to issues that are not well addressed. To provide greater responsiveness, the faculty of the CAFSNR grant to the elected representatives on the CAFSNR PTE Committee the authority to make editorial changes, correct errors, inconsistencies, or format, and to make those changes that bring our policies in line with NDSU and SBHE policies, and place those changes into effect without a vote of the CAFSNR faculty, but subject to ratification if called for at the next CAFSNR faculty meeting. CAFSNR faculty will vote on substantive changes during a CAFSNR faculty meeting, or by mail or electronic ballot, after the proposed changes have been shared with faculty at least ten (10) business days prior to the vote. A majority vote is required to amend previously adopted policies and procedures, provided previous notice has been given. A summary of the corrections/edits will be forwarded to the VPAG and Provost, for their approval and signature. Upon approval, faculty will be informed of the changes to the policy. The CAFSNR Policy and Procedures for Promotion, Tenure, Evaluations, Dismissals, Terminations, and Nonrenewals will be placed on the College website by the VPAG.

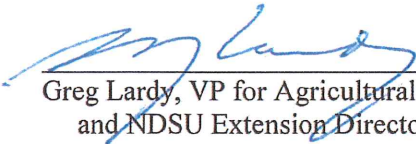
Approval/Acknowledgement Page:



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Cheryl Wachenheim, Chair CAFSNR PTE Committee

June 22, 2023

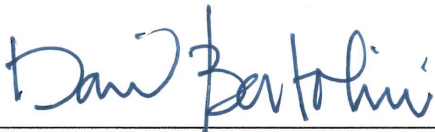
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Greg Lardy, VP for Agricultural Affairs, CAFSNR Dean, NDAES Director  
and NDSU Extension Director

6/27/2023

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Date



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David Bertolini, Provost

7.6.23

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Date

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7/5/2023