Renewal, Tenure & Promotion
Part 1: Process and Procedures

- When to apply
- Process overview
- Deadlines
### Timing for Contract Renewal & Tenure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hired without Tenure</th>
<th>Contract length</th>
<th>Contract renewal (apply in previous May)</th>
<th>Tenure (apply in previous May) (prev. April for early tenure)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td></td>
<td>4th year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td></td>
<td>4th year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant</td>
<td>4 years + 3 years</td>
<td>3rd year</td>
<td>6th year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructor</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>Apply for Assistant Prof. on completion of PhD Completion deadline: end of 3rd year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**See contract letter for renewal and tenure dates.**
## Timetable: Contract Renewal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Notice from Chair to submit application for contract renewal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Application deadline for contract renewal (<strong>no external referees required</strong>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 15</td>
<td>Deadline to submit materials to support application to TPC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td>TPC draft assessment (2 weeks to respond)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>Recommendation from TPC to Dean (2 weeks to respond)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 15</td>
<td>Positive recommendation from Dean to President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Negative or split recommendation: Dean to VPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– 2 weeks to respond/appeal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Faculty Review Committee (FRC) will be formed; opportunity to meet with committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 30</td>
<td>Recommendation from FRC to President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– response to President within 2 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>President makes decision</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Timetable: Tenure and Promotion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr 15</td>
<td><strong>Early Tenure:</strong> Written submission and full CV to Dean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Dean’s decision on early tenure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chair sends notice to submit application for tenure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Submit application for tenure and/or promotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>TPC provides list of at least 4 suggested external referees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Submit at least 3 examples of published work to TPC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 15</td>
<td>Submit rank-ordered list of 8 referees to TPC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 30</td>
<td>Rank-ordered list of referees finalized by faculty member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 15</td>
<td>Submit all materials to support application to TPC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td>TPC Draft assessment to member – 2 weeks to respond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– can request copies of anonymized external referee letters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>Recommendation from TPC to Dean – 2 weeks to respond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 15</td>
<td>Recommendation from Dean to President or VPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 30</td>
<td>Recommendation from FRC to President (if required; if negative or split recommendation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>President makes decision</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contract Renewal, Tenure, Promotion Overview: Recommendation Flow Chart

TPC — Faculty Member

Dean — Faculty Member

(pos - pos)

(neg-neg, split)

FRC

President

Notes: Early promotion process starts with an application to the Dean
FRC = Faculty Review Committee
Early Tenure: Minimum Eligibility

- Associate or Professor with prior university experience & 1 year at SFU
- Assistant with 2 years tenure-track at SFU and 5 years since PhD or equivalent
- Assistant with 3-years limited term at SFU immediately before tenure-track appointment and 1 year in tenure-track appointment
Early Tenure: Process

- Written submission with CV outlining reasons for request to Dean copied to Chair of TPC

- Dean must consult with Chair of TPC prior to making decision

- Dean accepts or rejects request and writes to faculty member by May 1 copied to TPC with recommendations

- Rejected request not relevant in future consideration

- If accepted, follow regular tenure and promotion process
Part 2: Criteria

• University and Departmental Criteria
  ➢ Contract Renewal
  ➢ Tenure
  ➢ Promotion to Associate Professor
  ➢ Promotion to Full Professor
Criteria for Contract Renewal: Expectations of an Assistant Professor

• Evidence of growth as a researcher/scholar and research/scholarly achievement
  – peer-reviewed publications, grants, graduate supervision

• Demonstrated ability as a teacher
  – Range of courses
  – If teaching assessed as weak from salary review, need to already be seeking help

• Evidence of service
  – to department, Faculty, university, academic community, society – *departmental service may be most significant*
University Criteria for Contract Renewal

A 11.05 (3.1) Requirements for Assistant Professor

- Appointment to the rank of Assistant Professor presumes a strong academic record and completion of academic or professional training. There should be clear indications that the individual has:
  - the aptitudes of a successful teacher
  - the potential to grow in stature as a scholar
  - a willingness to play an active role in the University.

Goal: to present a positive trajectory for tenure.
University Criteria for Tenure  
(based on record at SFU only)

• Continued growth as an established scholar as evidenced by the development of a significant program of research and publication record

• Sustained commitment to undergraduate and/or graduate teaching and supervision

• A responsible and contributing member of the University and academic community
University Criteria for Tenure and Promotion: Associate Professor

- Record of successful teaching
- Scholarly achievement and demonstrated professional growth
- Demonstrated recognition as an established scholar
- Record of service (to department, Faculty, University, scholarly community, society)
- Only accomplishment while at SFU count for tenure (includes publication record), but full record reviewed for promotion

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University Criteria for Promotion: Associate Professor

A11.05 (3.2) Requirements for Associate Professor

• Promotion to the rank of Associate Professor is based on a record of successful teaching, scholarly achievement, and participation in service to the University and the community. An important criterion is the demonstration of continued professional growth of the individual in his/her field(s) including recognition as an established scholar. External referees of high academic stature must assess the individual's research contributions.
University Criteria for Appointment or Promotion: Full Professor

• Total overall career contributions considered for teaching, research, and service

• Excellence in research and teaching

• Evidence of national and/or international reputation, as appropriate, in area of expertise
University Criteria for Appointment or Promotion: Full Professor

A 11.05 (3.3) Requirements for Professors

• The total overall career contributions of the faculty member in areas of teaching, research and service to the University and the community shall be taken into consideration. The rank of Professor is designed for those who have excelled in teaching and research. Appointment or promotion to this rank requires evidence of national or international reputation in their area of expertise, supported by letters from external referees of high academic stature.
General University Criteria for Evaluation: Teaching Effectiveness

- Mastery of subject
- Generation of enthusiasm
- Maintenance of standards
- Dedication to involvement in one’s field
- Openness to innovation
- Graduate supervision
- Development of academic programs
- Ability & willingness to teach a range of subject matter at various levels
Methods for Assessment of Teaching Effectiveness

Teaching effectiveness should be measured or assessed through a combination of methods:

– student questionnaires/evaluations
– the observations of faculty colleagues
– teaching dossiers or teaching portfolios
– the caliber of supervised dissertations and theses
– the success of students/student outcomes
– provision of services to students over and above formal teaching
General University Criteria for Evaluation: Scholarly Activity

- Research published; subjected to peer evaluation; quality of journals & publishers
- Emphasis on quality as well as quantity
- Recognition by national and/or international professional societies and granting agencies
- Dissemination of research at conferences, etc.
- Record of securing support for research
General University Criteria for Evaluation: Service

- Contributions to all levels of administration of the University and to academic field
- Initiating and participating in seminars, public lectures, or similar activities on campus
- Help provided to other faculty members of the University
- Public service contributions with strong focus on academic content

**Service to SFUFA should be acknowledged**
Departmental Criteria

- Departmental criteria, standards, and methods of assessment for tenure & promotion approved by tenure-track faculty and Dean
- Criteria reviewed and reaffirmed or revised at least every three years
- Must be consistent with general university requirements for tenure and promotion
- Tenure-track faculty receive copy of departmental criteria when hired
- Original criteria to be used for renewal, tenure and promotion to Associate Professor unless member opts for most recent criteria
- Most recent criteria used for promotion to Professor
Most Common Problems

TPC incorrectly counting/evaluating publications
• Clearly identify peer-reviewed publications
• Separate peer-reviewed from other publications and conference presentations
• Create sub-sections for different kinds of publications
• Include citation data and journal impact factors if appropriate

TPC over emphasizing negatives in student evaluations
• Include a teaching dossier or equivalent
• Draw attention to full range of teaching activities, development and accomplishments
Issues for Multidisciplinary Departments

Do departmental criteria provide clear guidelines for judging colleagues from different disciplinary backgrounds?

– Publications
  • What’s on the “A” list?

– Authorship
  • Is single authorship privileged?
  • Is giving grad students first authorship accepted?
  • etc., etc.
Part 3: Support

• If you have questions or concerns, contact SFUFA or Academic Relations
• Don’t hesitate to ask for help or advice
• SFUFA is here to assist, including:
  • explaining policies
  • working out strategies and providing reality checks
  • preparing submissions and responses
  • helping you revise documentation and draft responses
  • accompanying members to meetings with Deans and FRCs
Tenure-Track Policies

A11.01 Appointments
http://www.sfu.ca/policies/academic/a11-01_new.htm

A 11.02 Promotions
http://www.sfu.ca/policies/academic/a11-02_new.htm

A11.03 Procedures
http://www.sfu.ca/policies/academic/a11-03_new.htm

A11.04 Review
http://www.sfu.ca/policies/academic/a11-04.htm

A11.05 Criteria
http://www.sfu.ca/policies/academic/a11-05.htm

A11.06 Appeals
http://www.sfu.ca/policies/academic/a11-06.htm

A11.07 Joint Appointments
http://www.sfu.ca/policies/academic/a11-07.htm
Key Times to Seek Advice

Whenever you have a question

As early as possible

– submitting documentation

– meeting with TPC if it has questions

– responding to TPC statement of case, TPC recommendation to Dean, and/or Dean’s recommendation to VPA

– preparing a submission for and/or meeting with the FRC
In the Rare Case of Denial of Tenure

- Seek assistance of Faculty Association (should already be involved)
- Generally, no appeal if all decisions negative, but has been allowed
- Appeal on grounds of procedural irregularities, personal bias, prejudice, or academic freedom
- SFUFA may provide legal assistance
- Success means tenure reconsideration & one-year contract extension