Resolution 2017-2018-7 Faculty Senate Bylaw Change, University Promotion and Tenure Committee and Procedures

Whereas, the university has, in recent years, markedly increased the number of tenure-line faculty hired, resulting in an increase from 43 to 79 applications reviewed by the University Promotion and Tenure committee between 2015-2016 and 2016-2017; and

Whereas, Faculty Excellence projects the University Promotion and Tenure committee’s caseload to steadily increase to over 120 applications by 2020-2021; and

Whereas, the University Promotion and Tenure Committee estimates the maximum number of applications to review to be around 50 for a reasonable caseload; and

Whereas, one of the primary roles of the University Promotion and Tenure Committee is to advise the Provost about applications that have received conflicting evaluations and votes at earlier steps of the review process; and

Whereas, applications forwarded to the University Promotion and Tenure Committee having received unanimous positive votes at all previous levels comprise a substantial percentage of the University and Promotion Committee’s caseload (38 out of 79 in 2016-2017) and would not need this committee’s evaluation of conflicting evaluations; and

Whereas, all applications between 2013-2017 that received unanimous positive votes at all levels before the University Promotion and Tenure Committee review were approved by the Provost and UCF BOT; and

Whereas, bypassing the University Promotion and Tenure Committee for all applications that have received unanimous positive votes at all previous levels—that is, forwarding such cases directly from the Dean’s review to the Provost—would enable the University committee to maintain a reasonable workload and focus on applications that most need its evaluation; therefore

Be it resolved that, beginning in the 2018-2019 promotion and tenure cycle, all tenure-line promotion and tenure cases that receive unanimously positive votes at all levels before the University Promotion and Tenure Committee will bypass this committee and be forwarded directly from the Dean’s review to the Provost. The Provost may still ask the University Promotion and Tenure Committee to review any such tenure-line cases if he/she needs the committee’s advisement about them; and

Be it further resolved that the Bylaws of the Faculty Constitution be amended as follows:

Section VIII. Joint Committees and Councils

University Promotion and Tenure Committee

1. Duties and Responsibilities.
   a. To review and evaluate all assigned applications for promotion and tenure and make recommendations to the provost and executive vice president.

Approved by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee on November 2, 2017.