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Faculty Senate Resolution to Amend Faculty Handbook Procedures for Collegiate Tenure and Promotion Review Committee

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Resolution to Amend Faculty Handbook Procedures for Collegiate Tenure & Promotion Review Committee

WHEREAS, the AAUP 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure states that "freedom of teaching and research and of extramural activities ... [and] hence, tenure, are indispensable to the success of an institution in fulfilling its obligations to its students and to society", and

WHEREAS, the University of South Alabama incorporates this Statement in its Faculty Handbook, and

WHEREAS, the academic tenure process must reflect the importance of tenure to the obligations of the University by upholding the freedom of teaching, research and extramural activities essentially connected with it, and

WHEREAS, the importance of such freedoms extend to academic promotion, and

WHEREAS, a fair and impartial tenure and academic promotion review process must insure the free, open, and independent deliberation by those collegiate committees which are charged with reviewing departmental tenure and promotion recommendations,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that section 3.11.4.3, part 1, of the Faculty Handbook Tenure Procedures shall be revised, in its first paragraph, to read as follows:

1. Departmental Procedures

The departmental tenure committee shall be notified by the department chair to consider a faculty member who is in the final year of probationary service. The departmental tenure committee is normally composed of all tenured faculty members in the department except the chair. The committee shall have an opportunity to examine whatever supporting information and materials the candidate may have submitted in support of his/her candidacy.

Faculty members who serve on both the departmental tenure committee, and on the collegiate tenure committee, shall vote concerning the candidate at the departmental tenure committee only, and must abstain from voting at the collegiate tenure committee. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that section 3.11.4.3, part 2, of the Faculty Handbook Tenure Procedures shall be revised, in its first paragraph, to read as follows:

2. Collegiate Procedures

Each year, the dean (or director) of each college, school and division shall appoint a collegiate tenure committee of at least seven (7) members

. Membership on this committee shall be limited to tenured associate and full professors. Chairs of departments will not serve as members.

(Given the above exclusions, some academic units may find it difficult or impossible to constitute such a committee. In that event, the dean will appoint an appropriate committee, following the spirit of the review process.)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that section 3.10.3, part 1, of the Faculty Handbook Promotion Procedures shall be revised, in its second paragraph, to read as follows:

1. Departmental Procedures

For the purposes of dealing with the recommendations for promotion, the appropriate faculty consultative body consists of a committee composed of all those members of the department, except assistant professors, senior in rank to the candidate. Some academic units may find it difficult or impossible to constitute a committee, given the above exclusions. In that event, the chair appoints an appropriate committee, following the spirit of the review process. All involved faculty must have an opportunity to examine whatever supporting information and materials the candidate may have submitted in support of his/her candidacy.

Faculty members who serve on both the departmental promotion committee, and on the collegiate Promotion Evaluation and Review Committee, shall vote concerning the candidate at the departmental promotion committee only, and must abstain from voting at the collegiate Promotion Evaluation and Review Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that section 3.10.3, part 2, of the Faculty Handbook Promotion Procedures shall be revised, in its first paragraph, to read as follows:

2. Collegiate Procedures

The dean (or director) of each college, school, and division will appoint each year a Promotion Evaluation and Review Committee (PERC). Membership on this committee is limited to tenured associate and full professors.

Additionally, chairs of departments may not serve as members. (Some academic units may find it difficult or impossible to constitute such a committee and will follow the spirit of the review process in the constitution of the committee.)