

## **APPENDIX U**

### **Proposed changes to *The Code* to Implement The Report of the University of North Carolina Task Force on Faculty Dispute Resolution dated November 26, 2002**

301 D. The Committee on Personnel and Tenure shall consist of seven voting members. Upon recommendation of the president, it shall review and make recommendations to the board with respect to the appointment and compensation of all vice chancellors, senior academic and administrative officers, and persons with permanent tenure. Notwithstanding the provision above, the committee shall not review or recommend the appointment and compensation of vice chancellors, senior academic and administrative officers, and persons with permanent tenure for those campuses delegated the authority to appoint and set compensation for such employees so long as the boards of trustees act consistently with the policy and compensation ranges established by the Board of Governors. Further, the committee shall advise and assist the president in the review and evaluation of tenure policies and regulations which the president shall periodically conduct, and it shall review all appeals from faculty members of the constituent institutions which involve an institution's decision to not to reappoint a faculty member, to deny tenure, to discharge a tenured faculty member, or to impose a serious sanction pursuant to the provisions of Chapter VI of this *Code*.

301 E. The Committee on University Governance shall consist of seven voting members. It shall keep under continuous review the application and interpretation of *The Code of the University of North Carolina* and all delegations of authority under that code, and it shall make such recommendations to the Board of Governors for the amending of *The Code* or delegations of authority as may seem appropriate for the effective and efficient operation of the University of North Carolina and its constituent institutions. The committee shall make nominations to the Board of Governors for elections to the boards of trustees of the constituent institutions. The committee shall receive all requests from students of the constituent institutions for appellate review by the Board of Governors pursuant to Section 502 D(3) of this *Code* and from non-faculty employees of the University who are exempt from the State Personnel Act pursuant to Section 609 C of this *Code*.

#### **SECTION 604.           APPOINTMENT, NONREAPPOINTMENT AND REQUIREMENTS OF NOTICE AND REVIEW.**

##### **604 A. Notice of Reappointment or Nonreappointment.**

(1) The decision not to reappoint a faculty member at the expiration of a fixed term of service shall be made by the appropriate institutional faculty and administrative officers early enough to permit timely notice to be given. For full-time faculty at the rank of instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, or professor, the minimum requirement for timely notice shall be as follows:

- (a) during the first year of service at the institution, the faculty member shall be given not less than 90 calendar days' notice before the employment contract expires;
- (b) during the second year of continuous service at the institution, the faculty member shall be given not less than 180 calendar days' notice before the employment contract expires; and
- (c) after two or more years of continuous service at the institution, the faculty member shall be given not less than 12 months' notice before

the employment contract expires.

(2) Notice of reappointment or nonreappointment shall be written. If the decision is not to reappoint, then failure to give timely notice of nonreappointment will oblige the chancellor thereafter to offer a terminal appointment of one academic year.

#### **604 B. Impermissible Reasons for Nonreappointment.**

In no event shall a decision not to reappoint a faculty member be based upon (a) the exercise by the faculty member of rights guaranteed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, or by Article I of the North Carolina Constitution, or (b) the faculty member's race, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, or honorable service in the armed services of the United States, or (c) personal malice.

#### **604 C. Special Faculty Appointments.**

All appointments of visiting faculty, adjunct faculty, or other special categories of faculty such as lecturers, artists-in-residence, or writers-in-residence shall be for only a specified term of service. That term shall be set forth in writing when the appointment is made, and the specification of the length of the appointment shall be deemed to constitute full and timely notice of nonreappointment when that term expires. The provisions of Sections 602 (4) and 604 A shall not apply in these instances.

**604 D.** Subject to limitations contained in the Policies of the Board of Governors, a faculty member who is subject to Code section 604A may appeal to the Board of Governors the decision of a chancellor not to reappoint the faculty member.

### **SECTION 605.**

### **TERMINATION OF FACULTY EMPLOYMENT.**

#### **605 A. Definition.**

The tenure policies and regulations of each institution shall provide that the employment of faculty members with permanent tenure or of faculty members appointed to a fixed term may be terminated by the institution because of (1) demonstrable, bona fide institutional financial exigency or (2) major curtailment or elimination of a teaching, research, or public-service program. "Financial exigency" is defined as a significant decline in the financial resources of the institution that is brought about by decline in institutional enrollment or by other action or events that compel a reduction in the institution's current operations budget. The determination of whether a condition of financial exigency exists or whether there shall be a major curtailment or elimination of a teaching, research, or public-service program shall be made by the chancellor, after consulting with the academic administrative officers and faculties as required by Section 605 C(1), subject to the concurrence by the President and then approval by the Board of Governors. If the financial exigency or curtailment or elimination of program is such that the institution's contractual obligation to a faculty member may not be met, the employment of the faculty member may be terminated in accordance with institutional procedures that afford the faculty member a fair hearing on that decision.

#### **605 B. Timely Notice of Termination.**

(1) When a faculty member's employment is to be terminated because of major curtailment or elimination of a teaching, research, or public-service program and such curtailment or elimination of program is not founded upon financial exigency, the faculty member shall be given timely notice as follows:

- (a) one who has permanent tenure shall be given not less than 12 months' notice; and
- (b) one who was appointed to a fixed term and does not have permanent tenure shall be given notice in accordance with the requirements specified in Section 604 A(1).

(2) When a faculty member's employment is to be terminated because of financial exigency, the institution will make every reasonable effort, consistent with the need to maintain sound educational programs and within the limits of available resources, to give the same notice as set forth in Section 605 B(1).

(3) For a period of two years after the effective date of termination of a faculty member's contract for any of the reasons specified in Section 605 A, the institution shall not replace the faculty member without first offering the position to the person whose employment was terminated. The offer shall be made by a method of delivery that requires a signature for delivery, and the faculty member will be given 30 calendar days after attempted delivery of the notice to accept or reject the offer.

#### **605 C. Institutional Procedures.**

The institution shall establish regulations governing termination procedures. These regulations shall include provisions incorporating the following requirements:

(1) If it appears that the institution will experience an institutional financial exigency or needs seriously to consider a major curtailment or elimination of a teaching, research, or public-service program, the chancellor or chancellor's delegate shall first seek the advice and recommendations of the academic administrative officers and faculties of the departments or other units that might be affected.

(2) In determining which faculty member's employment is to be terminated for reasons set forth in Section 605 A, the chancellor shall give consideration to tenure status, to years of service to the institution, and to other factors deemed relevant, but the primary consideration shall be the maintenance of a sound and balanced educational program that is consistent with the functions and responsibilities of the institution.

(3) An individual faculty member whose employment is to be terminated shall be notified of this fact in writing. This notice shall include a statement of the conditions requiring termination of employment, a general description of the procedures followed in making the decision, and a disclosure of pertinent financial or other data upon which the decision was based.

(4) A reconsideration procedure shall be provided that affords the faculty member whose employment is to be terminated a fair hearing on the termination if the faculty member alleges that the decision to terminate was arbitrary or capricious.

(5) The institution, when requested by the faculty member, shall give reasonable assistance in finding other employment for a faculty member whose employment has been terminated.

(6) A faculty member whose employment is terminated pursuant to this Section 605 may appeal the reconsideration decision to the board of trustees of the constituent institution.

#### **SECTION 607. FACULTY GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE FOR CONSTITUENT**

## **INSTITUTIONS.**

(1) The chancellor of each constituent institution shall provide for the establishment of a faculty grievance committee. The faculty grievance committee shall be elected by the faculty with members elected from each professorial rank. No officer of administration shall serve on the committee. For purposes of this section, "officer of administration" shall be deemed to include department chairs and department heads.

(2) The committee shall be authorized to hear and advise with respect to the adjustment of grievances of members of the faculty. The power of the committee shall be solely to hear representations by the persons directly involved in a grievance, to facilitate voluntary adjustment by the parties, and to advise adjustment by the administration when appropriate. Advice for adjustment in favor of an aggrieved faculty member may be given to the chancellor only after the dean, department head, or other administrative official most directly empowered to adjust it has been given similar advice and has not acted upon it within a reasonable time.

(3) "Grievances" within the province of the committee's power shall include matters directly related to a faculty member's employment status and institutional relationships within the constituent institution. However, no grievance that grows out of or involves matters related to a formal proceeding for the suspension, discharge or termination of a faculty member, or that is within the jurisdiction of another standing faculty committee, may be considered by the committee.

(4) If any faculty member has a grievance, the faculty member may petition the faculty grievance committee for redress. The petition shall be written and shall set forth in detail the nature of the grievance and against whom the grievance is directed. It shall contain any information that the petitioner considers pertinent to the case. The committee shall decide whether the facts merit a detailed investigation so that submission of a petition shall not result automatically in an investigation or detailed consideration of the petition.

(5) If, before this section is established, the faculty of an institution has adopted a faculty grievance procedure that in its judgment is adequate to its needs, it may retain that procedure in place of the one specified above.<sup>1</sup>

(6) If neither the relevant administrative official nor the chancellor makes an adjustment that is advised by the faculty grievance committee in favor of the aggrieved faculty member, then the faculty member may appeal to the board of trustees of the constituent institution. The decision of the board of trustees is final.

## **SECTION 609. APPELLATE JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS.**

### **609 A. Discretionary Review.**

Nothing contained in Chapter VI, or any other chapter of the *Code*, shall be construed to limit the right of the Board of Governors to make such inquiry and review into personnel actions as it may from time to time deem appropriate.

### **609 B. Hearings.**

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The Board of Governors may in its sole discretion conduct hearings. Any hearing, whether before the full board or a designated standing or special committee of the board, shall be limited to such matters as the Board of Governors shall deem appropriate.

#### **609 C. Appeals by Non-Faculty Exempt Employees**

A non-faculty employee who is exempt from the State Personnel Act whose employment is terminated and who alleges that the termination was illegal or violated a Policy of the Board of Governors may appeal the decision in accordance with procedures established by the constituent institution. If the employee is a professional member of the president's staff, as provided for in Section 500 A(2) of this *Code*, then the employee may appeal to the president. Subject to limitations contained in the Policies of the Board of Governors, an employee who alleges that the termination of the employee's employment was illegal or in violation of Board of Governors Policy may appeal the final decision of the constituent institution, or the decision of the president, to terminate the employment to the Board of Governors.

#### **609 D. Transmission of Appeals**

All appeals addressed to or requests for hearings by the Board of Governors, from whatever source, shall be transmitted through the president.