

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Policy Manual

SUBJECT: Tenure and Continuing Appointments

NUMBER: 4.4.7

A. PURPOSE

To define the process, conditions and standards by which tenure and continuing appointments are awarded, as well as the procedures for non-renewal for tenure-track appointments.

B. DEFINITIONS

None

C. POLICY

1. Tenure and Continuing Appointments Generally

- 1.1. The major objectives of tenure and continuing appointments are to provide a faculty committed to excellence and to provide a substantial degree of security to those persons who have exhibited superior performance. The test is whether performance has been sufficiently superior to convince the Board that expected services and performances in the future justify the privileges afforded by tenure or continuing appointment.
- 1.2. A tenure or continuing appointment may be extended to a full-time faculty or research faculty member providing for re-employment from year to year until such time as the member resigns (BOR Policy 4.1.1 – General Terms and Appointments), or retires, is terminated for cause (BOR Policy 4.4.8 – Faculty Remediation), or is terminated pursuant to a reduction in personnel, (BOR Policy 4.4.10 – Reduction in Force – Faculty); provided further, in the case of continuing appointments to the research faculty, that the individual’s research work continues to generate sufficient grant or contract income to cover the costs of his or her direct salary and benefits. When research faculty members on a continuing appointment fail to generate sufficient grant or contract income to cover the costs of their direct salary and benefits, their employment will terminate automatically, provided that, where income would suffice to cover all benefits costs, they may elect to continue working at reduced salary rates.
- 1.3. The Board may grant a tenure appointment to a newly hired faculty member who had such tenure status previously. Candidates recommended for appointment with tenure appointment shall have a record at least equal to that expected for tenure or continuing appointment at the institution or research center. The administration shall engage the institutional promotion and tenure committee to review the new appointments academic and scholarly record and advance a recommendation from the committee as a portion

of the formal recommendation. The system Chief Academic Officer, in consultation with the Executive Director, may approve the campus recommendation for granting tenure and provide a report to the Board of Regents during their next scheduled meeting.

- 1.4. The Board may, at its discretion and upon the recommendation of the administration of the institution, reduce the number of years of tenure track or probationary service required. Although prior service credit toward tenure or continuing appointments may be awarded at any time, the Board strongly suggests that faculty members submit requests for prior service credit toward tenure only after the faculty member has assembled a complete portfolio for tenure review. Requests for prior service credit should be submitted on a form designated by the Board.
- 1.5. The tenure review period is extended automatically for one year to assist with family personnel consistent with definitions in the Family Medical Leave Act outlined in BOR Policy 4.5.3 – Medical Leave and Leaves of Absence – for each of the instances referenced in this section. Faculty members will file notification with the designated campus representative. Each faculty member is entitled to one automatic extension of either the retention or tenure review. If a faculty member wishes, they may opt-out of the automatic extension prior to formal notification to apply for tenure. Notification by the faculty member will be made in writing to the Provost and/or Human Resources office through institutional norms and practices. Should the need arise for additional time due to another occasion outside of the circumstances listed below, the faculty member may request additional time through the formal request process.
 - 1.5.1. Childbirth, adoption or placement of a foster child in the home (applicable to both parents); or
 - 1.5.2. Serious illness of the faculty member, his or her child, foster child, spouse, domestic partner, parent or other individual for whom the faculty member serves as a primary caregiver or legal guardian; or
 - 1.5.3. Death of a child, foster child, spouse, domestic partner or parent or other individual for whom the faculty member serves as a primary caregiver or legal guardian; or
 - 1.5.4. Full-time military service.

2. Conditions of Appointment for Tenure or Continuing Appointments

- 2.1. Not later than during the sixth year of tenure-track contract or probationary service at an institution and upon application of a faculty member, a faculty member shall be considered for a tenure or continuing appointment which would begin with the next academic year. Such consideration shall be initiated by the administration on or before such date as may be specified under institutional promotion and tenure procedures. Institutional deadlines of such notification should occur no later than October 5. The Board may, at its discretion and upon the recommendation of the administration of the institution, reduce the number of years of tenure track or probationary service required. Tenure track or probationary service credit is not earned during a period of sabbatical leave or leave of absence.
- 2.2. Special conditions and accreditation requirements of the Medical, Law, and some other professional schools and programs necessitate special guidelines for promotion, tenure,

minimum rank qualifications, minimum promotion eligibility criteria and in makeup of the campus Promotion and Tenure Committee. Specific guidelines for such schools and programs are published and available to faculty from the governing institution.

3. Tenure – Standards for Appointment

- 3.1. An appointment with tenure is a privilege that shall not be granted automatically.
- 3.2. To be granted the privileges of tenure, faculty members:
 - 3.2.1. shall demonstrate that they currently meet institutional performance expectations in teaching, scholarship and service for associate professors and
 - 3.2.2. shall demonstrate promise that they shall, in due course, meet institutional performance standards in teaching, scholarship and service for persons who hold the rank of professor.
- 3.3. Faculty members who apply for tenure have the burden of demonstrating that their performance has met these standards.
 - 3.3.1. Evidence that faculty members have developed, maintained and implemented well defined, administratively approved plans for their own professional development in the areas of teaching, scholarship and service is relevant to demonstrating promise that they shall in due course meet institutional performance standards in teaching, scholarship and service for persons who hold the rank of professor.
 - 3.3.2. At minimum, professional development plans must:
 - address institutional standards for faculty performance,
 - chart progress towards the performance exceeding expectations in all areas of professional activity, and
 - provide reasonable assurance that the applicant will achieve extramural recognition for ongoing scholarly accomplishment and leadership commensurate with holding the rank of professor.
 - 3.3.3. When reviewing applications for tenure, administrators and promotion and tenure committees shall consider the progress towards meeting the objectives of such approved plans, and they shall heed evidence that the faculty member is effectively pursuing approved objectives, but they shall exercise independent judgment as to the quality of results achieved by the faculty member.

When assessing the quality of performance, administrators and committee members shall be guided by the principles stated in BOR Policy No. 4.4.3 as complemented by institutional policy statements.

4. Continuing Appointment – Standards for Appointment

- 4.1. An appointment to a continuing appointment is a privilege that shall not be granted automatically.
- 4.2. Each institution shall establish performance standards in research achievement and productivity that compare to the highest standards in research observed nationwide.

- 4.3. To be granted the privileges of a continuing appointment, research faculty members:
 - 4.3.1. shall demonstrate that they currently meet performance expectations in research achievement and productivity for associate research professors and
 - 4.3.2. shall demonstrate promise that they shall, in due course, meet performance standards in research achievement and productivity for persons who hold the rank of research professor.
 - Evidence that research faculty members have developed, maintained and implemented well defined plans for their own professional development in the areas of research is relevant to demonstrating promise that they shall in due course meet performance standards in research achievement and productivity for persons who hold the rank of research professor.
- 4.4. The burden of demonstrating that these standards have been satisfied lies with research faculty members who apply for a continuing appointment.

5. Procedure for Awarding Tenure

- 5.1. Tenure review is separate from promotion review.
- 5.2. Each president shall establish tenure committees appropriate to the administrative organization of the respective institution. Such committees shall be composed of faculty members and administrative appointees. The president shall establish procedures at the institution for the selection of administrative tenure committee members.
- 5.3. Faculty members who wish to be considered for tenure will notify their immediate supervisor in writing on such date as may be specified under institutional promotion and tenure procedures. Institutional deadlines for such notification should occur no later than October 5 of the sixth year of tenure track service. Such notification will allow the promotion and tenure committees access to the faculty member's personnel file and individualized professional development plans. It is the responsibility of the faculty member to prepare and submit all favorable documentation appropriate to establish the implementation of their well-defined plans for development of teaching, scholarship, and service as required under Section C.3 (Tenure – Standards for Appointment) to, in due course, meet institutional performance standards for the rank of professor. Each institution may stipulate certain desired elements or format for the documentation, which shall be made available to faculty members in written form. This documentation must accompany the request to the immediate supervisor for consideration. The immediate supervisor, and any other administrators, including the president, who review the file in order to make independent recommendations, may supplement the material assembled by the faculty member with information obtained from other sources, and they may base their recommendations upon such additional information, provided that such additional information is included in the file together with the materials assembled by the faculty member. This documentation and the recommendations of the supervisor (and of the academic unit promotion and tenure committee, if any) will be forwarded to the administrator responsible for the process at the college/school level or institutional level according to institutional timelines.

- 5.4. The tenure committees shall review the qualifications of each faculty member to determine whether the applicant has satisfied the provisions of Section C.3 (Tenure – Standards for Appointment). The institutional tenure committee shall deliver its recommendation to the president according to institutional timelines. The work product of the tenure committees shall remain confidential.
- 5.5. The faculty member shall be notified according to institutional timelines, but not later than April 1 of the year in which the faculty member is being considered for tenure, of what the President shall recommend to the Board regarding the faculty member's tenure status. Such notice shall indicate the institutional tenure committee's recommendation. If the President intends to recommend that tenure be denied, the faculty member may request the President provide reasons for the recommendation provided the faculty member makes a written request by April 15. If the faculty member makes such a request, the President shall respond in writing within fifteen (15) working days.
- 5.6. The president shall make a recommendation to the Board not later than April 15 of the fiscal year in which the application for tenure appointment is made. This recommendation shall be based upon the provisions of Section C.3 (Tenure - Standards for Appointment), as well as upon the other provisions and requirements of this Chapter and upon an assessment of the candidate's past contributions and promise of future contributions to the goals and missions of the institution.
- 5.7. Successful applicants will receive a tenure contract the following year. Unsuccessful applicants and faculty members who complete their sixth year of tenure track service without applying for tenure will be offered a single term contract for the appointment year following that in which tenure is denied. This term contract is not subject to renewal, and the faculty member will be ineligible for reappointment after it expires.
- 5.8. The final decision whether to grant a tenure appointment to any applicant shall remain exclusively with the Board.

6. Procedure for Awarding a Continuing Appointment (Research Faculty)

- 6.1. The institution's chief research officer shall establish a promotion and continuing appointment review committee. Until such time as twelve or more research faculty members have been appointed to continuing appointments, the continuing appointment review committee membership shall comprise the chief research officers of other system institutions that host research centers, together with two additional representatives from the institution, designated by the institutional president.
- 6.2. Research faculty members who wish to be considered for a continuing appointment will notify their immediate supervisor in writing on such date as may be specified under institutional promotion and tenure procedures. Institutional deadlines for such notification should occur no later than October 5. Such notification will allow the continuing appointment review committee access to the faculty member's personnel file. It is the responsibility of the faculty member to prepare and submit all favorable documentation appropriate and specified under institutional promotion and tenure procedures. Each institution may stipulate certain desired elements or format for the documentation, which shall be made available to research faculty members in written

form. This documentation must accompany the request to the immediate supervisor for consideration.

- 6.3. The continuing appointment review committee shall review the qualifications of each applicant for a continuing appointment to determine whether the applicant has satisfied the provisions of Section C.4 (Continuing Appointment - Standards for Appointment). To assist in the evaluation of performance, the immediate supervisor, the continuing appointment review committee or any other administrator involved in the review process may solicit outside reviews. Any such outside review will be added to the documentation that accompanies the file when submitted with recommendations for further review or consideration. The continuing appointment review committee shall deliver its recommendation to the institution's chief research officer and Vice President for Academic Affairs and the research officer and Vice President for Academic Affairs will forward that recommendation, together with such additional comments as each may deem appropriate, to the institutional president according to institutional timelines. The work product of the continuing appointment review committee shall remain confidential.
- 6.4. The applicant shall be notified of what the institutional president will recommend to the Board regarding the faculty member's continuing appointment status according to institutional timelines. Such notice shall indicate the continuing appointment review committee's recommendation. If the institutional president intends to recommend that the continuing appointment be denied, the president shall, upon request, provide reasons in writing for the decision. If the President intends to recommend that promotion or continuing appointment be denied, the faculty member may request the President provide reasons for the recommendation provided the faculty member makes a written request by April 15. If the faculty member makes such a request, the President shall respond in writing within fifteen (15) working days.
- 6.5. The institutional president shall make a recommendation to the Board not later than April 1. This recommendation shall be based upon the provisions of Section C.4 (Continuing Appointment – Standards for Appointment), as well as upon the other provisions and requirements of this Chapter and upon an assessment of the candidate's past contributions and promise of future contributions to the goals and missions of the research center program.
- 6.6. Successful applicants will receive a continuing appointment the following year. Unsuccessful applicants and faculty members who complete their sixth year of probationary service without applying for a continuing appointment will be offered a single term contract for the appointment year following that in which the continuing appointment is denied. This term contract is not subject to renewal, and the research faculty member will be ineligible for reappointment after it expires.
- 6.7. The final decision whether to grant a continuing appointment to any applicant shall remain exclusively with the Board.

7. Non-Renewal of Tenure-Track Appointments

- 7.1. Non-renewal ordinarily terminates employment at the end of an annual contract term. Non-renewal is not a disciplinary action. It does not terminate rights under an existing

annual contract. The decision to non-renew is discretionary with the administration, provided that it is not based upon reasons expressly forbidden under BOR policy. Non-renewal is subject only to those procedural limitations expressly set forth in this section.

- 7.2. Prior to the issuance of a written notice of non-renewal, the faculty member's immediate supervisor shall provide the opportunity for a meeting with the faculty member to apprise the faculty member of the proposed action. The faculty member shall be given five (5) working days written notice of such meeting and the faculty member may have present a witness or representative of the faculty member's choosing.
- 7.3. In order to facilitate the relocation of faculty members who are not to be rehired, the administration agrees to provide notice, including reasons, of its intent not to rehire any faculty member serving under a tenure track in accordance with the following schedule:
 - 7.3.1. A faculty member who has completed less than one (1) academic year of service under a tenure-track appointment shall receive written notice of non-renewal from the institution before March 15 of the current year of appointment.
 - 7.3.2. If a faculty member has completed more than one (1) but less than four (4) years of service under a tenure-track appointment, the institution shall provide the faculty member with written notice of non-renewal before December 15 of the current year of appointment. However, if the faculty member is currently subject to the provisions of an improvement plan, the institution shall provide the faculty member notice of non-renewal prior to March 1 of the current year of employment. The non-renewed faculty member may file a request for reconsideration with the president within ten (10) working days of receipt of the notice of non-renewal. The president, after reviewing the request, shall notify the faculty member, within ten (10) working days, of the final institutional recommendation to be forwarded to the Board.
 - 7.3.3. If a faculty member has completed at least four (4) years of service under a tenure-track appointment, the institution shall provide the faculty member with written notice of non-renewal before April 1 of the current year of appointment. Such faculty member having received written notice of non-renewal shall receive a term contract for the term of one (1) academic year, effective the subsequent academic year. The faculty member may file a request for reconsideration with the president within ten (10) working days of receipt of the notice of non-renewal. The president, after reviewing the request, shall notify the faculty member within ten (10) working days of the final institutional recommendation to be forwarded to the Board. The faculty member may file with the president a statement which shall accompany the institutional recommendation to the Board. The Board shall consider the institutional recommendation and any statement at its next regularly scheduled meeting and shall issue its binding decision which shall be deemed final at the end of ten (10) days from the date of issuance unless such faculty member shall submit a resignation prior thereto.
 - 7.3.4. Faculty members employed on tenure-track contracts who are non-renewed may be granted no more than one subsequent term contract. Nothing in this section is intended to modify the rights and limitations contained in BOR Policy 4.4.9.

- 7.4. In order to facilitate the relocation of research faculty members who are not to be rehired after the termination of an appointment, the administration agrees to provide notice, including reasons, of its intent not to rehire any faculty member serving under probationary contracts in accordance with the following schedule:
- 7.4.1. A research faculty member who has completed less than three (3) years of service under a probationary appointment shall receive written notice of non-renewal from the research center before March 15 of the current year of appointment.
- 7.4.2. If a research faculty member has completed more than three (3) years of service under a probationary appointment, the research center shall provide the research faculty member with written notice of non-renewal before December 15 of the current year of appointment.
- 7.4.3. Nothing in this section is intended to modify the rights and limitations contained in BOR Policy 4.4.9.
- 7.5. If the administration is late in providing the notice stipulated in C.7.3.1 or C.7.3.2 above, the faculty member will be entitled to receive, at the election of the administration, either (1) an additional term contract for a period of time equal to twice the number of working days by which the notice is late; or (2) a payment equal to twice the number of working days by which the notice is late times the faculty member's monthly salary divided by twenty-two (22). If the administration is late in providing the notice stipulated in C.7.3.3 above, the faculty member will be entitled to receive, at the election of the administration, either (1) an additional term contract for the following academic year; or (2) a payment equal to the base salary for the current academic year. If the institution fails to provide timely notice as stipulated in (C.7.2), above, the faculty member shall receive, at the election of the institution, either of the following:
- an additional term appointment for a period of time equal to twice the number of working days by which the notice was late; or
 - payment equal to twice the number of working days by which the notice was late, multiplied by the faculty member's monthly salary, divided by twenty-two.
- 7.6. The years of service required for the notice provisions of this section shall not be affected by any reduction of the tenure-track period granted by the Board pursuant to Section C.2 (Conditions of Appointment for Tenure or Continuing Appointments).

8. Non-Renewal of Librarians with Tenure

Non-renewal of faculty members assigned to libraries who hold tenure appointments are subject to the non-renewal of tenure-track appointments identified in Section 7 of this policy.

9. Grant of Academic Tenure or Continuing appointment to Newly Hired Administrators or Research Faculty Members

- 9.1. The Board may, at its discretion and upon the recommendation of the administration of the institution, when special conditions warrant, award academic tenure or continuing appointment to newly hired administrators or research faculty members. This grant of tenure or continuing appointment shall not be construed to create a property right of any

sort in the administrative portion of employment, and continuing appointments at hire remain subject to the same requirements and conditions involving the generation of income that otherwise apply to such appointments. In rare and exceptional circumstances, the Board may grant a tenure appointment to a newly hired research faculty member who had such tenure status previously.

- 9.2. The administration shall provide documentation of the circumstances that warrant a new appointment with tenure or continuing appointment. Circumstances that may warrant such an appointment include documentation of current performance commensurate with the award of tenure or a continuing appointment, development of a new program, need for special expertise, or appointment to an administrative position where possession of tenure or continuing appointment is critical to effective performance of administrative responsibilities.
- 9.3. Candidates recommended for appointment with tenure or continuing appointment shall have a record at least equal to that expected for tenure or continuing appointment at the institution or research center. The administration shall engage the institutional promotion and tenure committee to review the new appointments academic and scholarly record and advance a recommendation from the committee as a portion of the formal recommendation.
- 9.4. The administration shall provide to the Board the candidate's resume and information on tenure or continuing appointment status at other institutions. The administration may provide additional information in support of the recommendation.
- 9.5. The final decision whether to grant tenure or continuing appointment hereunder upon employment shall remain exclusively with the Board.

FORMS / APPENDICES:

None

SOURCE:

BOR August 1979; BOR June 1987; BOR May 1991; BOR June 1993; BOR May 1996; BOR August 1996; BOR August 2004; BOR August 2008; BOR April 2009; BOR December 2010; BOR August 2017; BOR December 2018; BOR August 2020; October 2023 (Clerical).