

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs

AGENDA ITEM: III – C (1)

DATE: June 10-11, 2015

SUBJECT: BOR Policy 4:43 – Emeritus Status

Board of Regents [Policy 4:43 Emeritus Status](#) has been in place since 2007, and the Academic Affairs Council discussed an issue associated with the minimum term of service required for faculty or administrators to be eligible during their [February 2015 meeting](#). Although the general agreement among AAC members was that the minimum threshold should be retained at ten years of service, a question was raised regarding the current language that allows faculty to earn emeritus recognition despite retiring at the “Assistant Professor” level. This appears to be a hold-over to a time when the lecturer ranks had not yet been created in the Regental system, and individuals on tenure-track appointments are unlikely to meet the various thresholds without first earning promotion to the “Associate Professor” level at their institution. As this issue was discussed with Dr. Warner, his preference was to further extend this threshold related to academic rank to require that only those who have earned promotion as a “Full Professor” should be allowed to earn this designation. AAC discussed this further during the [April 2015](#) meeting, and supported a modification to policy that specified emeritus status could only be achieved if a faculty member has achieved the level of full professor. As a result, the following modification was advanced for AAC consideration.

In order to be eligible for emeritus status, the following minimal requirements must be met:

- 1) the individual to be recognized must have held an academic rank of full professor or higher. ~~assistant professor or higher.~~*
- 2) the individual to be recognized must be retired or have requested retirement from an academic, administrative, or professional position.*
- 3) the individual to be recognized must have served within the system without interruption for a period of ten (10) years.*

Additionally, AAC discussed instances where faculty who were unable to achieve full professor status due to the limitations associated with the terminal degree earned and suggested that in a small number of situations a faculty member at the associate level may warrant emeritus status if they had met a higher threshold of service to the institutions. With this in mind, the new section (see Attachment I) was proposed for consideration by AAC for this class of faculty, and was approved to move forward by COPS.

RECOMMENDED ACTION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Approve the revisions to BOR Policy 4:43.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Policy Manual

SUBJECT: Emeritus Status

NUMBER: 4:43

1. Purpose

The title of emeritus is a designation of distinction bestowed upon a retiring faculty member who has held academic rank while serving in an academic, administrative or professional position or to a retiring academic administrative staff member who has served in a position integral to the academic mission at one of the institutions under the control of the Board of Regents.

2. Emeritus Status for Retiring Full Professor~~Faculty Members~~

A. Minimal Eligibility Criteria

In order to be eligible for emeritus status, the following minimal requirements must be met:

- 1) the individual to be recognized must have held an academic rank of ~~assistant~~ Full professor or higher.
- 2) the individual to be recognized must be retired or have requested retirement from an academic, administrative, or professional position.
- 3) the individual to be recognized must have served within the system without interruption for a period of ten (10) years.

B. Eligibility Requirements

Emeritus status typically will be conferred to those faculty who have earned rank at the full professor level, met the ~~on only those persons who have met these~~ minimal requirements, and who have further distinguished themselves in one or more of the following areas:

- 1) teaching
- 2) contributions to the discipline
- 3) university and/or civic involvement including administration

2. Emeritus Status for Retiring Associate Professor

A. Minimal Eligibility Criteria

In order to be eligible for emeritus status, the following minimal requirements must be met:

- 1) the individual to be recognized must have held an academic rank of assistant professor.

- 2). the individual to be recognized must be retired or have requested retirement from an academic, administrative, or professional position.
- 3). the individual to be recognized must have served within the system without interruption for a period of twenty (20) years.

B. Eligibility Requirements

Emeritus status at the assistant professor level typically will be conferred on only those persons who have met these minimal requirements and who have further distinguished themselves in one or more of the following areas:

- 1) teaching
- 2) contributions to the discipline
- 3) university and/or civic involvement including administration

3. Emeritus Status for Retiring Academic Administrative Staff Members

On rare occasion, emeritus status is conferred upon a retiring academic administrator who has distinguished him/herself through meritorious service to the academic mission of the institution. At a minimum, the administrator being recognized must have served the institution for 10 years or more and must have established a record of service that is broadly recognized across the campus.

4. Benefits

The conferring of the title of emeritus is an honorary award which does not include any stipend. However, the separate institutions may grant certain privileges to individuals holding this title.

5. Approval

Since the emeritus designation is one of distinction, it is not automatic and may be conferred by the Board of Regents upon the recommendation of the president. Each institution shall establish a process for consideration of nominations for an award of emeritus status. Recommendations are submitted to the Board of Regents prior to the event at which the title is conferred.

6. Exceptions

Exceptions must be approved by the Board of Regents or by the Executive Director, if circumstances arise.

| **SOURCE: BOR, May 2007; BOR, June 2015.**