# GUIDELINES FOR APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, AND TENURE 

 JAMES B. EDWARDS COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINAApproved 15 June 2022

## Introduction

The Appointments, Promotions and Tenure Committee of the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine is responsible for advising the Dean of the College on matters of appointments to the faculty, promotion in academic rank and awarding of tenure. It is the policy of the Medical University of South Carolina that academic rank and tenure are separate issues. Matters of academic rank are the sole responsibility of the various Colleges contingent upon approval by the Academic Vice President and Board of Trustees. Final decisions on matters of tenure rest with the University Tenure Committee and the University administration and Board of Trustees. This document provides guidelines governing appointments, promotions, and tenure for faculty of the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine. Other applicable information is contained in the University Faculty Handbook and the Guidelines of the University Tenure Committee. Should there be a conflict between this document and the University Faculty Handbook, the Faculty Handbook will prevail as the authoritative governing document for the JBE-College of Dental Medicine, Appointments Promotion and Tenure Committee.

## 1. Description of Committee

The Committee for Appointments and Promotions and Tenure (hereafter referred to as the Committee) shall consist of 7 members of the faculty appointed by the Dean to review all nominations for appointments, promotions, and tenure. The appointees to the Committee shall be at the discretion of the Dean, but shall include department representatives at the rank of Associate Professor and Professor. Associate Deans, Assistant Deans and Chairs that supervise faculty will not serve on this committee. Faculty holding other administrative positions may serve on the Committee in so far as they do not supervise faculty.

Should the College have insufficient faculty to serve on the Committee the Dean may recruit faculty members appointed to other Colleges to serve. Ideally, the appointed faculty to JBE-CDP-APT Committee should have an understanding of the demands and requirements placed on the College's faculty. Further should the College have insufficient tenured faculty from within the College to consider an application for tenure the College may appoint tenured faculty from other MUSC Colleges to participate in the College-level assessments of applications.

Chair One member of the Committee shall be appointed by the Dean to serve as Chair for the duration of his/her term. The Chair shall not vote on nominations except in the case of a tie. A simple majority of the members present shall be sufficient to carry a motion on a nomination. The voting shall be by secret ballot. A quorum shall consist of five members.

Duties of the Chair The Chair shall be responsible for calling and chairing meetings of the Committee and communicating to the Dean the Committee's decisions in the form of a letter. The summation of the Committee's discussions on each nomination shall include the specific criteria that led to a positive or negative recommendation. The Dean may accept or reject the recommendation of the Committee. All discussions occurring in Promotion and Tenure Committee meetings are to be kept confidential.

Term of Service - Appointment to the Committee shall be for three years with no member serving more than two consecutive terms. The three-year terms of Committee members shall be staggered. Tenured members of the Committee will serve as the College Tenure Committee, for purposes of reviewing candidates for tenure, and conducting post-tenure reviews. At the discretion of the Dean, additional tenured faculty may be added as members of the College Tenure Committee.

## Duties of the Committee

Appointments. The Committee shall not be responsible for faculty recruitment. However, the qualifications of candidates for appointment shall be reviewed by the Committee. Where possible, the Chair of the Committee should meet with candidates during the recruitment process. At the option of the Committee, the Dean or Chair of the Committee may solicit the Committee's intent on an appointment by an informal poll of its members. Any member of the Committee may petition the Chair for a formal meeting to discuss a particular appointment.

No appointment shall be made prior to or without action by the Committee. This will be particularly important with regard to granting tenure upon initial appointment. See tenure guidelines for more discussion.

The Committee members shall review jointly all recommendations for promotions.

The Committee's definition of rank, recommended procedures for nomination, and criteria for review of nominations follow.

## 2. Rank

2.1 The academic ranks of the College of Dental Medicine shall be titled in progression as Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor.
2.2 The five possible modifiers for each rank are Visiting, Adjunct, Clinical, Research, and Affiliate. While appointment and/or promotion in the modified ranks shall not be subject to the same guidelines as those for full-time faculty, they shall be based on commensurate evidence of scholarship, research, and/or teaching (as appropriate), and in alignment with effort allocation in annual faculty contracts.
2.2.1 Visiting Ranks: The designation Visiting shall precede the title of the respective ranks to designate an associated faculty member whose appointment to the faculty is for a limited time, but whose responsibilities are important in the regular programs of MUSC. All Visiting ranks are nontenured.
2.2.2 Adjunct Ranks: The designation Adjunct shall precede the title of the respective ranks to designate faculty whose responsibilities are important though usually not extensive but may be full-time in the regular programs of MUSC, whose appointment is annual or continuous, and whose activities for which the appointment is made ordinarily do not involve direct patient contact. All Adjunct ranks are nontenured.
2.2.3 Clinical Ranks: The designation Clinical shall precede the title of the respective ranks to designate faculty whose
responsibilities are important though usually not extensive but may be full-time in the regular programs of MUSC, whose appointment is annual or continuous, and whose activities for which the appointment is made ordinarily involve direct patient contact. Clinical ranks may be tenured or nontenured.
2.2.4 Research Ranks: The designation Research shall precede the title of the respective rank to designate a faculty member whose responsibilities are important to the University, often are full-time, but may be part-time, and who have few or no faculty obligations other than doing research, often as a member of a research team. All Research ranks are nontenured.
2.2.5 Affiliate Ranks: The designation Affiliate shall precede the title of the respective ranks to designate faculty who provide a valuable service to the MUSC mission, but who volunteer their services withoút compensation. The title Affiliate shall not be used in conjunction with other faculty rank modifiers (e.g., Adjunct, Visiting, Research, or Clinical). All Affiliate ranks are nontenured.
2.2.6 Other Ranks: Faculty who have primary appointment in another college of the Medical University may be appointed as Joint faculty of the college.

## 3. Criteria for Appointment or Promotion in Rank

All faculty, regardless of rank or designation are expected to excel in teaching, contribute to the scholarly activity of the College through research, publications and presentations and provide service to the College, Medical University, and the dental profession. It is also expected that all faculty will work to enhance a collegial atmosphere within the College and are encouraged to adhere in a positive manner to College and University institutional Strategic Plan initiatives.

The College recognizes that the levels of accomplishment in the general areas of teaching, scholarly activity and service will be different among the faculty. Accomplishment is expected in all areas, with emphasis in one or more areas.
3.1 The primary considerations of the Committee in recommending rank for faculty shall be teaching excellence and competency in the respective fields as demonstrated by professional growth and peer recognition. Time in rank, comparable experiences and service to the university will be given due consideration. Where appropriate, achievement in a nonacademic environment (e.g., private practice, military service, industry) will be considered. Attainment of postgraduate training and certificates will also be taken into account.
3.2 Teaching All members of the academic community shall aspire to excellence in teaching. It is expected that teaching skills shall increase as the individual faculty advances in rank and years served. Support of interprofessional and interdisciplinary (IP/ID) collaborative educational activities is encouraged. It is the responsibility of the department chair to submit evidence of the candidate's teaching excellence. Examples include:
3.2.1 Peer evaluations, if based on class visitations, on attendance at public lectures or lectures before professional societies given by the candidate, or on the candidates results in courses prerequisite to those of the informant.
3.2.2 Course evaluations by students.
3.2.3 Number and caliber of students guided in advanced education and/or research by the candidate and of those attracted to the campus by his/her reputation as a leader.

### 3.2.4 Development of new and effective techniques of instruction

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3.2.5 Nominations for and selection for teaching awards
3.3 Scholarship This may be judged best by scholarly contributions in the form of publications or presented lectures on research, clinical
procedures, recognized evidence-based dentistry supported improvements to the standards of care, or other scholarly activities.
3.3.1 Publications These may be in the form of books, monographs, or manuscripts in professional refereed journals, as well as other publications. These publications should be described, evaluated and enumerated.
3.3.2 Professional Presentations. This shall consist of case reports, paper presentations, table clinics, workshops, and demonstrations, which are presented at regional, national, or international meetings.

### 3.3.3 Presentations of continuing education programs.

3.3.4 Publication of Case Studies of new procedures and techniques.
3.4 Time in Rank Promotions are based on merit. They are not automatic. The years of service listed are intended as guidelines only. They should not be interpreted in such a manner as to inhibit the promotion of persons performing in an extraordinary manner. Nor should they be interpreted to suggest that a person can or should be automatically promoted solely on the basis of time in rank. Ordinarily, a faculty member will be expected to demonstrate ability for a minimum of:
3.4.1. One to two years for promotion from Instructor to Assistant Professor.
3.4.2. Three to five years for promotion from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor.
3.4.3. In as much as the rank of Professor is reserved for individuals of outstanding accomplishment, typically most faculty take 10 to 12 years to advance from Assistant Professor to Professor ranks due to the high performing expectations. This is a guideline and not a requirement.
3.5 Service to the Institution and Profession/Discipline Administrative or clinical services may be considered by the Committee as criteria for attainment of rank. In exceptional cases, many years of exceptional service in these areas may be given primary consideration by the Committee. Service to the College and University may be construed as:

### 3.5.1. Service on the boards of and as consultant to regional, national and international organizations.

3.5.2. Election to offices in regional, national and international groups.
3.5.3. National awards or honors.
3.5.4. Service and leadership on committees within the College and University.
3.5.5 Demonstrable excellence in clinical skills as evidenced by patient referrals, superior patient care, or evidenced-based practice.

## DESIGNATION OF FACULTY TRACKS

The College of Dental Medicine recognizes four separate faculty tracks: Academic Clinician, Academic Investigator, Academic Investigator/Clinician (Hybrid), and Non-clinical Educator. An Academic Clinician is a faculty member who is primarily committed to clinical and didactic teaching with lesser commitment to scholarly activities and research. The Academic Investigator track pertains to a faculty member who contributes to the teaching and service areas, but is primarily committed to the research enterprise. The Academic Investigator/Clinician (Hybrid) track pertains to a faculty member who divides time between the first two tracks and has responsibilities in both areas.

A Non-clinical Educator is a faculty member who is primarily committed to didactic teaching and academic administration but does not provide clinical patient care supervision.

Upon joining the CDM, a faculty member's track will be determined by the Department Chair, in consultation with the faculty member and with the approval of the Dean. If a faculty member wishes to change from one track to another it must be with the Department Chair's permission and approval of the Dean.

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Guidelines for assessment of accomplishment at the various faculty ranks are given in the following table. The number of stars indicates the level of importance from relevant (*) to significant (***) for consideration in the evaluation of rank. This matrix is not meant to be a prescriptive checklist of achievements, or an exhaustive list to be met in order for the Committee to evaluate the candidate's portfolio for success or progress. Rather the information associated with this matrix, together with the candidate's personal statement, the chair's letter outlining the candidate's task descriptions, outside letters of evaluation, and any other supporting documentation highlighting that the candidate may wish to include will be used to inform the Committee's recommendation to the Dean.

Further, faculty will be evaluated and recognized for accomplishments in the traditional areas of teaching, research/scholarship, service, and professional practice. At the same time, the College recognizes that as part of the University's accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, MUSC and the College must advance strategic initiatives to meet Institutional Effectiveness core requirements. Accordingly, faculty participation in the areas of interprofessionalism, innovation, entrepreneurship, and globalization should also be actively supported. Such participation should be assessed favorably by APT committees but not be construed as an additional requirement for tenure and promotion.

## Collaboration and Teamwork

Increasingly, health-related research, practice and education involves teams that vary in terms of size, hierarchy, location of participants, goals, disciplines, and structure. The NIH adopted a multiple-PD/PI model to encourage collaboration when that is the most appropriate way to address a scientific problem. Further, many federally-funded Clinical and Translational Science Award programs (CTSA), including MUSC's South Carolina Clinical and Translational Research (SCTR) Institute, have introduced programs geared-toward investigation and propagation of team science initiatives. In addition to this
national trend toward developing mechanisms and programs to encourage interprofessional and interdisciplinary teamwork in science, MUSC's and the College's strategic plan and our Quality Enhancement Plan, as part of our university-level accreditation reaffirmation efforts through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges; SACSCOC, include several objectives and initiatives to enhance collaboration, teamwork, and interprofessional communication institution-wide in the areas of research, education and clinical service.

Faculty under consideration for promotion, and tenure at MUSC may highlight in their applications, not only their individual academic accomplishments, but also their meaningful contributions to team science accomplishments, and/or participation in interprofessional or interdisciplinary research teams, clinical service teams, education and teaching efforts. Activities supporting an applicant's demonstration of collaborative teamwork in research, education and clinical service may be viewed as meaningful, relevant and, in some cases, instrumental aspects of academic accomplishment warranting promotion and/or tenure at MUSC.


| Supports / Participates in the initiatives of the College and University Strategic Plans | * | * | * |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Supports / Participates in Interprofessional / Interdisciplinary activities | * | * | * |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Associate Professor | Academic Investigator | Academic Investigator/ Clinician (Hybrid) | Academic Clinician | Non-clinical Educator |
| Has fulfilled with distinction duties of Assistant Professor | *** | *** | ${ }^{* * *}$ | *** |
| Has established independent laboratory or clinical research effort | ** | ** | * |  |
| Has obtained research support from extramural source | ** |  | * | * |
| Participates in collaborative research programs | *** | ** | * | * |
| Has presented talks/posters at local/regional/national meetings | *** | *** | *** | *** |
| Is involved in local and professional organizations | *** | *** | *** | *** |
| Is involved with college/university committees | ** | ** | *** | *** |
| Is mentoring students and trainees | *** | *** | *** | *** |
| Has contributed to course development |  | ** | *** | *** |
| Has attained excellence as educator (awards, evaluations) | * | * | *** | *** |
| Has attained reputation as excellent clinician |  | * | *** |  |
| Maintains intramural clinical practice |  | * | * |  |
| Has contributed moderately to the scientific literature (both quantity and quality considered) | *** | ** | * | ** |
| Supports / Participates in the initiatives of the College and University Strategic Plans | * | * | * | * |
| Supports / Participates in Interprofessional / Interdisciplinary activities | * | * | * | * |
| Where applicable, show evidence of enhanced academic credentials (e.g. Specialty Board Certification, AGD Certification, additional advanced degrees, additional formal training) |  | ** | ** | * |


| Professor | Academic Investigator | Academic Investigator/ Clinician (Hybrid) | Academic Clinician | Non-clinical Educator |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Has fulfilled with distinction duties of Associate Professor | *** | *** | *** | *** |
| Continues independent laboratory or clinical research effort | *** | ** |  |  |
| Continues research support from extramural source | *** | ** |  | * |
| Leads collaborative research programs | *** | ** | * | * |
| Continues to mentor students and trainees | *** | *** | *** | *** |
| Has achieved national recognition in specific field | *** | ** | ** | ** |
| Has served on national committees, study sections, editorial boards; reviews manuscripts | *** |  | *** | *** |
| Is a leader on college/university committees | ** | ** | *** | *** |
| Maintains excellence as educator (awards, evaluations) | * | ** | *** | *** |
| Maintains reputation as excellent clinician |  | ** | *** |  |
| Continues intramural clinical practice |  | ** | * |  |
| Has contributed significantly to the scientific literature (both quantity and quality considered) |  | *** | ** | *** |
| Supports / Participates in the initiatives of the College and University Strategic Plans |  | * | * | * |
| Supports / Participates in Interprofessional / Interdisciplinary activities | ** | ** | ** | ** |
| Show evidence of enhanced academic credentials (e.g. Specialty Board Certification, AGD Certification, additional advanced degrees, additional formal training) |  | *** | *** | *** |

## 4. Tenure

4.1. Tenure is the assurance of continuous appointment to a particular faculty rank, with continuation of salary commensurate with the rank. Tenure ensures academic freedom, with the expectation that the faculty member will continue to perform according to accepted standards subject to termination for cause (Faculty Handbook 7.1.1), upon retirement, on account of financial exigency or the change or abolition of institutional programs. The assurance of compensation applies to that base academic salary which is agreed upon by the faculty member and the Department Chair, as defined in the annual contract.

Faculty members who have consistently met the criteria for associate professor or professor and have a record of sustained excellence at that rank may apply for consideration for awarding of tenure. A record of sustained excellence means that over time the faculty member's teaching, scholarship, and service activities have made continuous and identifiably significant contributions to the College, University, and profession.

Scholarship sufficient for consideration of tenure requires a balance of achievement which is based upon teaching, research, professional service, and leadership within the University above and beyond the routine responsibilities required of all faculty. If the candidate's academic accomplishments are primarily limited to one or two areas of academic endeavor, he/she must have demonstrated competencies to some extent in all areas with an absolute necessity for demonstrated and current effectiveness in teaching. In considering tenure, the individual's long-term value to the University is the central issue. Tenure is recommended when, in the opinion of the college, the level of mutual responsibility between the faculty member and the college has developed such that the college can better meet its academic and societal mission with the commitment implicit in the tenure relationship.

In accordance with the MUSC Faculty Handbook, a tenured faculty member will be subjected to post tenure review, every sixth year after obtaining tenure.

## 5. Nominating Procedures of Appointment, Promotions and Tenure

Recommendations for appointments, promotions, and tenure shall normally originate with the Department Chairs as stated in the Faculty Handbook of the Medical University of South Carolina. Where administratively appropriate, the review process may originate with the Dean. Consideration of tenure recommendations shall be independent of any prior or concurrent appointment and promotion recommendations.
5.1. Nominees for appointment shall supply a complete curriculum vitae to the Committee. The Department Chair shall furnish statements documenting the principal areas of responsibility of nominees. The Department Chair shall forward requests for faculty appointment to the Dean who, if he concurs, will forward them to the Committee for consideration. If approved by the Committee and the Dean, appointment requests are referred to the Vice-President for Academic Affairs of the University. Appointments at the rank of Associate Professor and Professor require approval of the University Board of Trustees.

In the case of an appointment of a Department Chair, the Dean shall appoint a search committee. The search committee shall include, where practical and not in conflict with the goals of the College, one or more faculty of the department concerned, two or more Chairs of other departments and any number of other qualified referees. Recruitment and interviews shall be the responsibility of the search committee with its final recommendations being submitted to the Dean. The Dean will forward the final recommendation to the Committee.
5.2. Promotions and Tenure A portfolio supporting the recommendation for promotion or tenure shall be assembled by the Chair and forwarded to the Dean for referral to the Committee. A list of external references will be provided by the candidate, and requests for an evaluation of the credentials of the candidate will be made by either the Dean or the Committee Chair. The Committee shall review the nomination and supportive information. The Dean shall review the recommendations of the Committee and submit recommendations for promotion to the appropriate officers of the Medical University. Recommendations for award of tenure will be forwarded from the Dean to the Office of the Provost and University Tenure Committee.

The supportive information provided to the Dental Medicine Committee shall include:
5.2.1. A Letter of Nomination prepared by the department Chair or Dean. This letter shall include a statement of the academic and administrative responsibilities of the candidate. It should clarify the candidate's principal areas of responsibility or function and the time required for such activity. Also, it should include an estimate of the time available for the candidate to pursue independent research or similar scholarly activities.
5.2.2. A Complete Curriculum Vitae prepared by the candidate. The curriculum vitae shall consist of: (a) personal history, (b) education, (c) professional experience, (d) professional honors received, (e) board status (if applicable), (f) membership in professional societies, (g) publications (publication should be identified, e.g. articles, books, monographs, abstracts, etc.), (h) other scholarly activities.
5.2.3. A Personal Statement prepared by the candidate of his/her significant achievements since the time of last appointment or promotion. The statement may consist of such activities as:
a. Involvement in educational activities on campus and those offered as continuing educational opportunities for the profession
b. Participation in postgraduate seminars and "short courses"
c. Contributions - As service and with presentations and publications - to local, state, national and international societies, and professional groups.

| d. | Service to the University (committee assignments, etc.) |
| :--- | :--- |
| e. | Teaching innovations |
| f. | Research activities and interests. |
| g. | Honors and notable recognitions earned |

5.2.4. External letters and other supporting information (e.g., sample publications, patents, etc.). Nomination for tenure requires a minimum of three letters of recommendation solicited from referees unaffiliated with MUSC.

## 6. General Considerations

6.1. This document is intended to provide guidelines rather than absolute requirements. As such, the Committee will need to exercise judgment with regard to issues not specifically addressed in this document.
6.2 Faculty members applying for promotion/tenure shall be assessed in accordance with the criteria in effect during the period under evaluation and not by a recently adopted version of this document.
6.3 APT Document Revision should take place on a regular basis.
6.3.1 A TOTAL review and revision (if necessary) of this document should take place on a seven-year cycle as part of Accreditation.
6.3.2. Review and revision (if necessary) of a single item in this document may be requested at any time by the written petition of $15 \%$ of the full-time faculty.
6.3.3 Changes to this document will be made by simple majority vote of the full-time faculty with approval of the Dean and higher administration (Provost, President, Board of Trustees).

