Department of History
Factors for Tenure and Promotion

Revised by the Executive Committee, 25 February 2011
Approved by the Policy Committee, 4 March 2011

INTRODUCTION

This statement describes the factors that the Department of History will use as criteria for making recommendations on tenure and promotion. In making decisions about promotion and tenure, the Department of History operates in accordance with the current policies outlined in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Promotion and Tenure Factors and in the current AAUP-AFT Contract.

TENURE AND PROMOTION TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Scholarship

The Department of History considers the continued intellectual development of its faculty vital to its academic mission. The Department assumes and requires that candidates for tenure and promotion to associate professor demonstrate such intellectual development by active engagement in, and professional commitment to, scholarly research and publication.

The Department will recommend tenure and promotion only for a candidate who has successfully completed significant original research that is in press or published by peer-reviewed print or electronic professional presses or journals, and who shows promise of further publication in the future. The Department gives primacy to the publication of a peer-reviewed, single-authored book by a reputable academic or in some cases commercial press. In addition to a book, the Department will also consider articles, essays, monographs, and edited books and journals. In all cases, the quality of publications and their value as significant contributions to existing scholarship in the individual’s field are the primary factors in evaluation. The Department will take into consideration external grants, fellowships, and awards as acknowledgements of professional achievement. The publication of book reviews and papers presented at meetings or conferences of professional organizations are recognized as forms of scholarship, but carry less weight in considerations for tenure. In determining the quality of a candidate’s scholarship, the Department will seek evaluations from specialists outside the University.

Teaching

For classroom teaching, clearly demonstrated excellence, not adequacy, is considered absolutely essential for tenure recommendation. The Department will assess teaching performance by such regular measures as student course evaluations and peer review and recognition. It will also consider the teaching portfolio, which includes components such as a statement of teaching philosophy, contributions to the curriculum such as the development of new courses and fields or
the improvement of existing courses and programs, as well as the publication of textbooks and the development of other significant teaching resources. Consideration is given to continual advising of undergraduate and graduate students.

Service

A record of good departmental citizenship is expected of a candidate for tenure and promotion to associate professor. All faculty are expected to serve the Department actively in various capacities, especially committee work related to its regular functioning. Service at the College and University level, as well as special service in the community and in regional and national professional organizations, will be taken into consideration.

PROMOTION TO FULL PROFESSOR

The factors for promotion to full professor are similar to those for tenure and promotion to associate professor, although the emphasis placed on different components varies. In the case of recommendations for promotion to full professor, sustained engagement in scholarship, teaching, and service is required. The Department stresses the importance of the publication of a peer-reviewed book (not considered in the process for tenure and promotion to associate professor) with a highly regarded academic or, in some cases, commercial press. Teaching excellence, as measured by the same criteria as for tenure and promotion to associate professor, should be sustained. Continual advising of graduate and/or undergraduate students is considered in the recommendation for promotion. In terms of service, higher standards are demanded for those who are promoted to full professor than for associate professors. Particularly distinguished and significant service at the Department, College, and University level, as well as special service in the community and in regional and national professional organizations, will be taken into consideration.