VI. POST-TENURE REVIEW APPEALS COMMITTEE OPERATING POLICY

A. The Post-Tenure Review Appeals Committee (PTRAC) shall hear only appeals from a post-tenure review in which the faculty member has received an evaluation of "unsatisfactory" by the post-tenure review unit. Before an appeal may be filed with the PTRAC, the faculty member must have exhausted all appropriate administrative remedies within the school or college. If the faculty member then wishes to file an appeal with the PTRAC, he/she must submit a written request for appeal to the PTRAC stating fully the grounds on which the appeal is based. This written request must be filed with the PTRAC within 15 days after a final decision has been rendered by the school or college under the appropriate administrative appeals procedure.

B. In extraordinary cases, the PTRAC, in its sole discretion, may grant a variance from the exhaustion requirement if the appellant petitions the PTRAC for such a variance in writing and shows good cause why the exhaustion requirement should not apply. The written request for variance must be filed with the PTRAC within 15 days of receiving the unsatisfactory post-tenure evaluation.

C. In considering appeals, the PTRAC will act as a committee of the whole. The Chair shall be a voting member of the committee. A final decision requires a simple majority of the whole committee (4/7). To avoid conflicts of interest, members of the PTRAC shall not serve on any other post-tenure review committee during their term as a PTRAC member.

D. Once an appeal is filed, the PTRAC may consider the fairness of the evaluation process within the post-tenure review unit, the reasonableness of the determination, as well as the appropriateness of the COURSE OF ACTION suggested by the post-tenure review unit THAT MIGHT STRENGTHEN THE FACULTY MEMBER’S PERFORMANCE. In addition to the written appeal, the committee, in its sole discretion, may hear and consider oral testimony.

E. If the PTRAC decides that the decision of the post-tenure review unit is fair and valid, and that the suggested COURSE OF ACTION FOR improvement IS appropriate, the decision of the post-tenure review unit will then be final and binding on the appellant. If, instead, the PTRAC decides that the evaluation process was flawed or that the determination of unsatisfactory is invalid, the PTRAC may (1) order that the matter be reheard by the post-tenure committee as if the matter had not previously been heard before and as if no decision had been previously rendered, or (2) it may ORDER that the decision of the post-tenure review unit be reversed outright. IF THE PTRAC DECIDES THAT ONLY PART OF THE REVIEW WAS INAPPROPRIATE FOR WHATEVER REASON, THE PTRAC MAY REMAND THE MATTER TO THE LOWER COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER ACTION AS DIRECTED BY THE COMMITTEE.
F. If the PTRAC decides that the evaluation itself is fair and valid, but the suggested COURSE OF ACTION FOR improvement IS not appropriate, the PTRAC may 1) hold MEETINGS with the POST-TENURE REVIEW COMMITTEE, THE appellant and the PROMOTION/TENURE UNIT head in order to reach a satisfactory solution, 2) remand to the post-tenure review COMMITTEE with recommendations, or 3) recommend outside mediation.

G. The decision of the PTRAC is final and binding. The prior decision of any other committee is not binding on the PTRAC, although the PTRAC may take such a decision into consideration. If issues before the PTRAC are being considered simultaneously by the Faculty Grievance Committee, the Faculty Grievance proceeding shall be stayed until the PTRAC renders its decision.

H. THE PTRAC SHALL NOT HEAR APPEALS CONCERNING THE FORMAL PLAN OF FACULTY DEVELOPMENT. THIS FORMAL PLAN IS ESTABLISHED BY THE PROMOTION/TENURE UNIT HEAD, THE FACULTY MEMBER, AND THE CHAIR OF THE POST-TENURE REVIEW COMMITTEE AFTER ALL REQUESTS FOR RECONSIDERATION AND APPEALS HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED.

I. A RECORD OF ANY ACTION TAKEN AS A RESULT OF AN APPEAL, INCLUDING ALL DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE APPEAL, WILL BE MAINTAINED BY THE OFFICE OF FACULTY AFFAIRS IN THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTRUCTION.