It is the responsibility of the individual faculty member to initiate the request for a promotion in rank and to prepare the portfolio of materials. The department chair will advise the faculty member in preparation of this request. The following steps outline the procedures in the promotion process (4.6.3). A Portfolio Transmittal Form (see Forms) to certify the receipt dates and transmittal dates at each step of the promotion process must accompany the request and is available from the department chair. Failure to forward the portfolio and recommendation by the specified date will constitute de facto approval at that step.

It is the responsibility of the individual faculty member to monitor the flow of materials through the process. At any step in the process, the faculty member may withdraw a request for promotion in rank.

4.5.4 Concepts and Understandings Regarding Rank and Promotion Policies

- 1. The highest interests of the University will best be served through a spirit of cooperation and a sense of mutual confidence among the faculty, the chairs, chief academic officer, and the president of the University. The procedure for recommending promotion in rank is designed to systematize as well as to encourage such cooperation and mutual confidence.
- 2. The determination of professional training and/or experience to meet the criteria for assignment of rank will be the responsibility of the appropriate academic officer (or officers) on campus. They will consult with peers or supervisors of those who are being considered for changes in rank.
- 3. No person presently employed shall suffer reduction in rank as a result of the operation of these policies.
- 4. Instructional personnel who are not subject to assignment of rank may be classified by titles such as special instructors, lecturers, graduate assistants, adjunct teachers, and part—time teachers.
- 5. An instructor, upon making official notification to the administration of the completion of a doctoral program, may receive immediate promotion to the rank of assistant professor with approval of the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents.
- 6. The application for promotion may be submitted during the year which completed the requirements for the rank as outlined in Section 4.5.2.1, with a successful application causing promotion effective the following academic year.
- 7. A faculty member must complete at least two years of employment at Southeastern before applying for promotion to the rank of Associate Professor or Professor.
- 8. Any exception to the policy on promotion in rank is the domain of the president of the University.

4.6 Tenure

Source: See Policy Manual of the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents (Academic Affairs, 3.3)

4.6.1 Academic Tenure

Tenure is a privilege and a distinctive honor. Tenure is defined as continuous reappointment which may be granted to a faculty member in a tenure—track position, subject to the terms and conditions of appointment. The tenure decision shall be based on a thorough evaluation of the candidate's total contribution to the mission of the University. While specific responsibilities of faculty members may vary because of special assignments or because of the particular mission of an academic unit, all evaluations

for tenure shall address at a minimum whether each candidate has achieved excellence in (1) teaching, (2) research or creative achievement, (3) professional service, and (4) University service. Each University may formulate standards for this review and determine the appropriate weight to be accorded each criteria consistent with the mission of the academic unit.

Tenure is granted by the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents upon recommendation of the University president. Determination of merit and recommendation for granting tenure shall comport with the minimum criteria and policies and procedures contained in this chapter.

The terms and conditions of every appointment or reappointment shall be stated in writing and copies in the possession of both the institution and faculty member before the appointment is approved. Tenure shall be granted only by written notification after approval by the Board. Only full—time faculty members holding academic rank of assistant professor, associate professor, or professor may be granted tenure. Qualified professional librarians shall be considered faculty members if they are given academic rank.

Tenure does not apply to administrative positions, but a tenured faculty member appointed to an administrative position retains tenured status as a member of the faculty.

The Board intends to reappoint tenured personnel to the faculties of the institutions under its control within existing positions that are continued the next year. The Board reserves the right to terminate tenured faculty at the end of any fiscal year if the Legislature fails to allocate sufficient funds to meet obligations for salaries or compensation.

4.6.2 Periods of Appointment and Tenure

Faculty members holding academic rank above the level of instructor (assistant professor, associate professor, professor) may receive tenure at any time. Normally, faculty members shall be on probation for five (5) years after date of first being employed by the University in a tenure—track position. (Years of experience in a non—tenure—track position may be used for probation only if approved by the University). Seven (7) years shall be the maximum probationary period for the eligible faculty member to be granted tenure. If, at the end of seven (7) years any faculty member has not attained tenure, there will be no renewal of appointment for the faculty member unless a specific recommendation for waiver of policy from the President to the contrary is approved by the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents. This procedure applies every year thereafter.

For the purpose of determining probationary employment of faculty members for tenure consideration, sabbatical leave counts as a part of the period of probationary employment, but a leave of absence is not included as part of the probationary period.

4.6.3 Procedure for Granting Promotion and Tenure

The normal procedure for granting tenure is initiated by the faculty member during the fifth, sixth, or seventh year of service to the University in a tenure—track position. The normal procedure for granting promotion is initiated by the eligible faculty member. Failure to complete any of steps 3-7 by the specified due date will constitute de facto approval at that step in the tenure and/or promotion process. The following steps outline the normal process:

Step 1-

All of the following must be completed no later than **September 15:** The faculty member files a written request for promotion and/or tenure with the department chair. The request must be accompanied by a portfolio exhibiting documentation of effective teaching, research/scholarship, contributions to the institution and profession, and performance of non–teaching or administrative duties, if appropriate. Once the portfolio is submitted, the applicant cannot add to it but he/she can change the status of items (e.g., If a paper was submitted for publication in September and in November he/she is notified it was accepted for publication, the portfolio can be amended to indicate the paper was accepted.)

The department chair who is a candidate for Promotion and Tenure will provide the names of two department chairs, who must hold the rank of Full Professor and not be serving in an interim position to the VPAA. The VPAA will select one to serve in the capacity of the chair throughout the promotion process.

Step 2-

All of the following must be completed no later than **October 1:** A Promotion and Tenure Review Committee shall be formed. The Department Chair will notify the members of the Promotion and Tenure Review Committee, and the candidate's portfolio will be provided. Committee shall include all faculty in the department with the appropriate tenure/rank. For Tenure applications, all tenured faculty members within the department shall serve as the Promotion and Tenure Review Committee. In Promotion cases, only tenured faculty at or above the rank sought shall serve on the committee. As they review applications in a later stage of the process, department chairs and the VPAA do not serve on either Tenure or Promotion committees in their academic department even if they are otherwise qualified. In the event that the number of faculty at the appropriate rank or tenured faculty members in the department is fewer than five (5), the tenured and appropriately ranked faculty within the department will serve on the committee and additional tenured and appropriately ranked faculty members will be appointed by the following process. The applicant will submit a list of qualified prospective faculty to the department chair. The list may include up to twice the number of needed faculty for the vacancies. The department chair, in collaboration with the VPAA, will then choose from the list to fill the vacancies. If no agreement can be reached to fill the vacancies, then the vacancies will be filled by a random selection process--with an equal probability of selection--from the qualified faculty within the applicant's school. Faculty chosen by either of these methods would be asked if they are willing to serve. If there is a committee member(s) that is tenured but not of sufficient rank, that member shall only vote on the tenure recommendation. If this creates a shortage of committee members for the promotion recommendation (i.e., fewer than five), then a qualified member of sufficient rank will be chosen to fill that vacancy by the selection process described in this policy, and that committee member shall only vote on the promotion recommendation.

Step 3--

All of the following must be completed no later than **October 15:** The department chair shall call a meeting of the Promotion and Tenure Review Committee to initiate discussion of the request. At the first meeting, the Promotion and Tenure Review Committee will elect a chair of the Committee. After each member of the Promotion and Tenure Review Committee critiques the portfolio and each performance criterion, the faculty member's performance shall be reviewed, discussed, and evaluated by the Promotion and Tenure Review Committee. This review shall be conducted in a manner that allows for input from non–tenured colleagues, students, alumni, and administrative information from the

department chair. After completion of the review, a poll by secret ballot of the Promotion and Tenure Review Committee will be taken to determine whether a recommendation for the granting of tenure and/or promotion will be made. Committee members shall not be permitted to abstain. A simple majority vote shall prevail. The committee will continue deliberations until a majority decision has been reached. The chair of the Promotion and Tenure Committee will write a narrative evaluation of the applicant's performance on each performance criterion in the form of a letter. The narrative evaluation letter must be approved by a majority vote of the whole Promotion and Tenure Review Committee. The Promotion and Tenure Review Committee shall then send the portfolio with the committee's vote (numerical count), the narrative evaluation letter, and their recommendation to grant or to deny to the department chair. The committee chair also writes a letter to the applicant informing him/her of the committee's recommendation to grant or deny tenure/promotion. The recommendation letter is separate from the narrative evaluation letter. The narrative evaluation letter will be inserted into the portfolio but will not be made available for review by the candidate until the optional withdrawal period following the VPAA's recommendation. All ballots are to be retained by the chair of the Promotion and Tenure Review Committee until a final decision is reached concerning the request. The ballots shall then be destroyed.

Step 4-

All of the following must be completed no longer than **November 15:** The department chair shall review the Promotion and Tenure Review Committee's vote, critique the portfolio, evaluate each performance criterion, and decide whether to recommend the granting of tenure and/or promotion. The department chair will then write a narrative evaluation of the applicant's performance on each performance criterion in the form of a letter. The narrative evaluation letter will be inserted into the portfolio but will not be made available for review by the candidate until the optional withdrawal period following the VPAA's recommendation. The chair will then forward a recommendation concerning the request and all documentation to the VPAA. The chair will provide the applicant with a written statement of his/her recommendation and a written statement of his/her recommendation shall also be forwarded to the members of the Promotion and Tenure Review Committee.

Step 5-

All of the following must be completed no later than **January 15:** The VPAA shall review the Chair's recommendation, the Promotion and Tenure Review Committee's vote, critique the portfolio, evaluate each performance criterion, and decide whether to recommend the granting of tenure and/or promotion. The VPAA will then write a narrative evaluation of the applicant's performance on each performance criterion in the form of a letter. The narrative evaluation letter will be inserted into the portfolio and the VPAA will provide the applicant with a written statement of his/her recommendation. Upon receipt of the VPAA's recommendation the candidate will have the option to withdraw the application (as described in "Withdrawal of the Application" below). Should the candidate elect not to withdraw, the VPAA will then forward a recommendation concerning the request and all documentation to the President. The VPAA will then forward a written statement of his/her recommendation to the department chair and to the members of the Promotion and Tenure Review Committee.

Withdrawal of Application: After receiving the VPAA's recommendation the applicant will be given a summative list of the recommendation decisions and have the opportunity to review narrative evaluations from the Promotion and Tenure Review committee, department chair, and VPAA. The applicant will then have the opportunity to withdraw the tenure/promotion application without prejudice toward future applications. The applicant must file the withdrawal with the VPAA by January 30. If the

applicant chooses to file a procedural due process appeal, then s/he will have the opportunity of withdrawing the tenure/promotion application at the conclusion of the appeal process or following the VPAA's decision, should the procedure be renewed as a result of the appeal. A withdrawal of the application marks the completion of the process.

Due Process Appeal: If the VPAA recommends that promotion or tenure be denied and the faculty member believes that the request has not been accorded "procedural due process," s/he may request of the Faculty Appellate Committee a hearing pertaining solely to due process. The definition of procedural due process is that all aspects of tenure and/or promotion will be conducted in a manner that adheres to the protocols, principles, and policies set forth in the Academic Policies and Procedures Manual at Southeastern and the Policy Manual of the Regional University System of Oklahoma. Areas considered as procedural due process may include but are not limited to: (1) process used to convene the tenure and/or promotion committee; (2) ineligible members appointed to the committee; (3) manner by which the committee conducts business; (4) adherence to the deadlines; (5) attempts to exert inappropriate influence/pressure by any party; or (6) failure to provide required evaluation/narrative at any level of the review. Such an appeal must be filed by **January 30**. The appeal hearing will be conducted by the full membership of the Faculty Appellate Committee, with at least seven members of the committee participating in the hearing (see APPM 3.6.1 for the committee's composition and functions). All decisions by the committee shall be made by a simple majority vote. Pertinent testimony from all parties involved may be heard. If the Faculty Appellate Committee rules that due process was violated, the committee may then recommend that the procedure be renewed at the point where violation occurred. The VPAA shall be responsible for monitoring the subsequent procedures to assure that due process is accorded. The Faculty Appellate Committee must complete action on an appeal by **February** 15.

Step 7-

All of the following must be completed no later than **March 1:** Upon receiving a recommendation from the VPAA, the President decides either to approve or disapprove the request for tenure and/or promotion. The President then reports his decision to the VPAA, department chair, Promotion and Tenure Review Committee, and the faculty member. If the President approves the request for tenure, s/he submits it to the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents, normally at the April meeting. The President then reports the Regents' action to the VPAA, department chair, Promotion and Tenure Review Committee and the faculty member.

If the applicant withdraws the application by the January 30 deadline, the application does not proceed to the President. If, as a result of an appeal decision, the tenure/promotion procedure is renewed, the VPAA's recommendation will be made by March 15. If the VPAA's decision is to recommend denial of tenure/promotion, the applicant will have the opportunity to withdraw the application. The withdrawal must be filed by March 30. If the application is withdrawn, it will not proceed to the President. A withdrawal of the application marks the completion of the process.

4.6.4 Concepts Regarding Tenure

The highest interests of the University will be served through a spirit of cooperation and a sense of mutual confidence among the faculty, department chairs, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the President of the University. The procedure for recommending tenure is designed to encourage such cooperation and confidence.

The Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents recommends that not more than sixty—five percent (65%) of the full—time faculty at a University receive tenure. Once the sixty—five percent limit is reached, there will be no additions to the tenured faculty at Southeastern. However, the tenure process on campus will continue. Faculty members recommended for tenure will be placed in a priority—hold status by year pending tenure vacancies.

Under exceptional circumstances, a new faculty member may be recommended for tenure by a department chair, Vice President for Academic Affairs, or the President without going through the normal process.

In the event that one of the deadlines in the tenure process falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline becomes the next working day at the University.

After the process is completed, the following action should be taken:

- a. The results of all balloting and recommendations from the department chair, and Vice President for Academic Affairs will be placed in the personnel file of the candidate.
- b. The portfolio and a copy of all recommendations will be returned to the candidate.
- c. Other confidential, relevant records leading to tenure shall then be destroyed.

Any exception to the policy on tenure is the domain of the president of the University in conjunction with the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents.

4.6.5 Guidelines for Achieving Tenure

The following guidelines apply in decisions regarding the awarding of tenure:

Five (5) years of service at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in a tenure–track appointment as an assistant professor, associate professor, and/or professor.

Demonstrated effective classroom teaching, research/scholarship, contributions to the institution and profession, and, in appropriate instances, successful performance of non–teaching or administrative duties.

Demonstrated ability to work cooperatively to strengthen the academic quality of the institution.

Noteworthy achievement in classroom teaching and on at least one other criterion: research/scholarship, contributions to the institution and profession, or, in appropriate instances, performance of non-teaching or administrative duties

4.6.6 Evaluation of Tenured Faculty

The academic and professional performance of each tenured faculty member may be reviewed annually and must be reviewed at least every third year.

The results of the review will be placed in the personnel record of the tenured faculty member. The tenured faculty member should be given a copy of the review and an opportunity to respond before it is placed in the personnel folder. An unsatisfactory review will require another review within one year. An

unsatisfactory review at that time may be grounds for dismissal as listed under Sections 4.6.7 and 4.6.8 below.

4.6.7 Causes for Dismissal or Suspension of Tenured Faculty

No tenured member of the faculty shall have his or her appointment terminated in violation of the principles of tenure adopted by the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents except for one or more causes which may include, but are not limited to, the following.

- a. Committing a felony or other serious violation of law that is admitted or proved before a competent court, preventing the faculty member from satisfactory fulfillment of professional duties or responsibilities, or violation of a court order which relates to the faculty member's proper performance of professional responsibilities.
- b. Moral turpitude.
- c. Insubordination.
- d. Professional incompetence or dishonesty.
- e. Substantial or repeated failure to fulfill professional duties or responsibilities or substantial or repeated failure to adhere to Board or University policies.
- f. Personal behavior preventing the faculty member from satisfactory fulfillment of professional duties or responsibilities.
- g. An act or acts which demonstrate unfitness to be a member of the faculty.
- h. Falsification of academic credentials.
- i. Two consecutive unsatisfactory post–tenure performance evaluations.
- j. Bona fide lack of need for one's services in the University.
- k. Bona fide necessity for financial retrenchment.

The President shall have the authority to suspend any faculty member formally accused of a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, or I (listed above). The President shall immediately notify the Board of Regents of the terms and conditions of any such suspension. A faculty member should be suspended only if harm to the faculty or students is possible or disruption of proper conditions for teaching and learning are threatened by the faculty member's continuance. During the suspension period, compensation for the suspended person should be continued. If during the suspension period the faculty member is convicted of or admits to the commission of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude or other serious violation of law referenced above, the institution shall not continue compensation.

4.6.8 Dismissal of Tenured Faculty for Program Discontinuance or Financial retrenchment

A faculty member with tenure whose position is terminated based on genuine financial retrenchment, bona fide discontinuance of a program, or a lack of need for one's services will be given five (5) months' written notice unless an emergency arises.

Before terminating an appointment because of discontinuance of a program or department, or because of other lack of need of services, the institution will make reasonable efforts to place affected members in other suitable positions.

If an appointment is terminated because of financial retrenchment or because of discontinuance of a program, the released faculty member's position will not be filled by a replacement within a period of two years, unless the released faculty member has been offered reappointment at the previous status.

4.6.9 Dismissal of Tenured Faculty Member for Cause

Dismissal proceedings shall begin with a conference between the faculty member and the appropriate department chair. The conference may result in agreement that the dismissal proceedings should be discontinued or that the best interest of the tenured faculty member and the institution would be served by the faculty member's resignation. If so, the faculty member shall submit a resignation in writing, effective on a mutually agreed upon date. If this conference does not result in mutual agreement, the department chair will submit a recommendation in writing with rationale to the faculty member and to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Within fourteen (14) days, the Vice President for Academic Affairs should have a conference with the faculty member.

The conference with the Vice President for Academic Affairs may result in agreement that the dismissal proceedings should be dropped. On the other hand, the conference may result in mutual agreement that the best interest of the tenured faculty member and the institution would be served by the faculty member's resignation. If so, the faculty member shall submit a resignation in writing, effective on a mutually agreed upon date. If this conference does not result in mutual agreement, the Vice President for Academic Affairs will submit his/her decision in writing with rationale to the faculty member and forward his/her decision to the President. If the President concurs in the recommendations for dismissal, the President shall send a written statement to the faculty member within ten (10) school days of his/her receipt of the Vice President for Academic Affair's recommendation. Copies of this written statement should be sent to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and department chair. When the President notifies a tenured faculty member of the intention to recommend dismissal for cause, the tenured faculty member must be informed in writing in detail of the specific charges against him/her and be informed of the procedural rights that will be accorded to him/her. Every reasonable effort must be made by the President to ensure that the communication of this action is received by such faculty members without delay. Such notification must be made by registered or certified mail with return receipt requested.

4.6.10 Suspension of a Tenured Faculty Member

The President shall have the authority to suspend any faculty member formally accused of a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, or I (listed above). The President shall immediately notify the Board of Regents of the terms and conditions of any such suspension. A faculty member should be suspended only if harm to the faculty or students is possible or disruption of proper conditions for teaching and learning are threatened by the faculty member's continuance. During the suspension period, compensation for the suspended person should be continued. If during the suspension period the faculty member is convicted of or admits to the commission of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude or other serious violation of law referenced above, the institution shall not continue compensation.

4.6.11 Disciplinary Action Other Than Dismissal or Suspension

Disciplinary action affecting the terms of employment taken by the University against a tenured faculty member must be based upon causes stated in this chapter, or any other adequate cause which related

directly and substantially to the fitness of the tenured faculty member to perform professional duties. Disciplinary action shall begin with a conference between the tenured faculty member and the appropriate department chair. If, as a result of the conference, the departments chair finds that disciplinary action is warranted, a written recommendation for action and rationale for the recommendation for action should be forwarded to the VPAA. The Vice President for Academic Affairs should arrange a conference with the faculty member. The Vice President for Academic Affairs may determine no additional action is necessary. However, the Vice President for Academic Affairs may determine a plan of disciplinary action, in which case s/he should notify the faculty member in writing and place a copy of the disciplinary action in the faculty member's personnel file.

4.6.12 The Right of Appeal of Tenured Faculty

Each of the six state universities under the jurisdiction of the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents shall institute an Appellate Committee on Dismissal of Tenured Faculty Members. The committee shall not exceed nine (9) tenured faculty members, eight (8) of whom shall be elected by the faculty governing body of the University and one member appointed by the President of the University. A quorum shall be five (5) members or a majority of qualified members of the committee. Initially, one—half of the elected members shall be elected for twelve (12) months and one—half for twenty—four (24) months; thereafter, one—half shall be elected each year. No member may serve more than two consecutive terms. One or more alternate members of the committee shall be elected to serve in the event a regular member is unable to serve. If any member of the committee is an interested party in a case which comes before the Appellate Committee on Dismissal of Tenured Faculty Members, said committee member shall not serve on that case.

The incumbent committee shall serve until the completion of any case pending at the time their term of service expires.

The decision of the committee will be based on majority vote. The committee will elect its own chair, who will have the right to vote.

If a faculty member receives notice of a pending dismissal and so desires, he may request and shall be accorded a hearing before the Appellate Committee on Dismissal of Tenured Faculty Members. Failure to make a request in writing to the President within fourteen (14) days after receipt of notification shall constitute a waiver by such faculty member of his/her right to a hearing before the Appellate Committee on Dismissal of Tenured Faculty Members.

At Southeastern, this committee has been designated to serve as the grievance committee in the promotion process (see Section 4.5.3, Step 4).

4.6.13 Appeal Procedures for Tenured Faculty

a. After a faculty member has requested a hearing before the Appellate Committee on Dismissal of Tenured Faculty Members, service of notice of hearing with specific charges in writing will be made at least twenty (20) days prior to the hearing. The faculty member may respond by waiving the hearing and filing a written brief or the matter may proceed to a hearing. If the faculty member waives a hearing, but denies the charge or asserts that the charges do not support a finding of

- adequate cause, the Appellate Committee on Dismissal of Tenured Faculty Members will evaluate all available evidence, including testimony and documentary evidence presented by the University, and make its recommendation upon the evidence in the record.
- b. If the faculty member requests a hearing, the Appellate Committee on Dismissal of Tenured Faculty Members shall, with due diligence, and in keeping with the Administrative Procedures Act, considering the interests of both the University and the faculty member affected, hold a hearing and report its findings and recommendations to the President and to the involved faculty member.
- c. At hearings before the Appellate Committee on Dismissal of Tenured Faculty Members, faculty members and the University shall be permitted academic advisors and/or counsel. A court reporter will be retained by the University to record the proceedings. Each party will pay the entire cost of his or her copy of the transcript. The committee will determine whether the hearing should be public or private.
- d. The faculty member will be afforded an opportunity to obtain necessary witnesses and documentary or other evidence, and the administration of the University will attempt to secure the cooperation of such witnesses and will make available necessary documents and other evidence within its control. No employee of the institution, regardless of position, should be excluded or excused from appearing before the committee, if available.
- e. The faculty member and the University will have the right to cross examine all witnesses present. Depositions are admissible whenever a witness cannot appear.
- f. The committee may conclude: (a) that adequate cause for dismissal has been established by the evidence; (b) that adequate cause for dismissal has not been established by the evidence; or (c) that adequate cause for dismissal has been established, but an academic penalty less than dismissal, including removal of tenure, would be more appropriate. The committee may make any other recommendations it determines are appropriate. The committee's findings and recommendations shall be made to the President of the University. The committee shall send a copy of its findings and recommendations to the affected faculty member.
- g. The President shall notify the affected faculty member of his recommendation to the Board of Regents. The faculty member shall have the right to request the Board of Regents to review adverse findings and recommendations of the President. The request must be in writing and filed within fifteen (15) days after final notification by the President at the office of the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents. If the affected faculty member does not timely request that the Board of Regents review the President's findings and recommendations, the President's determinations become final and binding.
- h. In the event the faculty member submits a timely request to the Board of Regents to review adverse findings and recommendations of the President, the faculty member must indicate whether s/he desires a hearing of all of the evidence of the case; otherwise, the review will be a review of the record of the case. The Board of Regents has the discretion to determine whether the review will be a de novo hearing or a review of the record.
- i. Public statements and publicity about the case by the University will be avoided until the proceedings, including consideration by the Regents, have been concluded.

4.6.14 Non-tenured Faculty

Non-tenured faculty shall be afforded the same rights of academic freedom as tenured faculty.