

F Evidence of Merit

- 1 During the probationary period, the tenure-track faculty member must be able to show why he/she deserves to be reappointed as faculty or to receive tenure.
- 2 Units are encouraged to adopt the practice of having tenure-track faculty apply for tenure just as temporary faculty have to apply for reappointment. By asking tenure-track faculty to apply for tenure, the department sends a clear signal that: (a) tenure is not automatically granted, and (b) the burden of proof of merit rests on the faculty member who applies for tenure.
- 3 The faculty member's record of teaching, research, and service is reviewed by peers (by tenured faculty, in the case of the award of tenure). The tenure-track faculty member is entitled to a fair evaluation of his/her record but may not presume an entitlement to renewal of appointment or tenure simply by virtue of being on tenure track. Tenure decisions are individually determined in light of the University's minimum standards and those of the unit where the faculty member serves.
- 4 A faculty member who wishes to appeal the non-renewal of his/her appointment or the non-award of tenure must present proof that: (a) a violation of academic freedom contributed to the decision of the recommending or approving authority, i.e., that other than academic grounds were used to arrive at the decision; or (b) that insufficient consideration was given to the merit of his/her application. Academic grounds include professional ethics, intellectual honesty, and other values central to academic life.
- 5 Two rights are at stake in the event described above: the right of tenured colleagues to make a qualitative judgment on the candidate's performance and record, and the right of temporary faculty to expect fairness, both in the process by which the tenure decision is reached and in the substance of that decision. The appeal procedure should take into account both these rights.
- 6 Non-renewal is different from termination or dismissal of faculty. In the first, the burden of proof lies with the tenure-track faculty to show why he/she ought to be reappointed. In the second, the burden shifts to the University to show why, if at all, the faculty member should be dismissed.
- 7 Tenure does not insulate the faculty member from a fair and periodic review of his/her academic performance.
- 8 A bad tenure decision impedes institutional excellence. Units must therefore treat tenure decisions seriously; the future reputation of the unit rests on the quality of its academic staff.