

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER

1. AGENDA ITEM TITLE: CODE Revision, University Faculty – Standards for Recommending Appointment with Tenure: Community Engaged Teaching

MEETING DATE: November 30-December 1, 2017

2. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Current Board policy includes three standards for recommending appointment with tenure for university faculty under *Title 2, Chapter 3, Section 3.4.2: Teaching/Performance of Assigned Duties; Research, Scholarly, Creative and Entrepreneurial Activity; and Service*. The policy includes types of activities and accomplishments that may be used to demonstrate competence in each of the three standards.

UNR is preparing to apply for the 2020 Community Engagement Classification within the [Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education](#). This elective classification is awarded on a five-year cycle, and in 2015, the Carnegie Foundation selected 240 U.S. colleges and universities to receive this classification. Following is an overview of the Community Engagement Classification available through the [New England Resource Center for Higher Education \(NERCHE\)](#), which is responsible for the stewardship of the classification:

What Is the Community Engagement Classification?

The Carnegie Foundation's Classification for Community Engagement is an elective classification, meaning that it is based on voluntary participation by institutions. The elective classification involves data collection and documentation of important aspects of institutional mission, identity and commitments, and requires substantial effort invested by participating institutions.

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How Is "Community Engagement" Defined?

Community engagement describes collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.

The purpose of community engagement is the partnership of college and university knowledge and resources with those of the public and private sectors to enrich scholarship, research, and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching and learning; prepare educated, engaged citizens; strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility; address critical societal issues; and contribute to the public good.

In 2015 classification cycle, [NERCHE](#) provided feedback to institutions seeking to qualify for the classification based on in four primary areas including faculty engagement. Specifically with regard to faculty: "With regard to faculty rewards for roles in community engagement, it is difficult to create a campus culture of community engagement when there are not clearly articulated incentives for faculty to prioritize this work. We would like to see more examples of campuses that provide evidence of clear policies for recognizing community engagement in teaching and learning, and in research and creative activity, along with criteria that validate appropriate methodologies and scholarly artifacts. We urge Community Engagement institutions to initiate study, dialogue, and reflection to promote and reward the scholarship of engagement more fully."

Currently, Board standards for recommending appointment with tenure for university faculty do not specifically recognize "community engagement." With the support of the Academic Affairs Council and at the request of UNR, System staff recommends amending Board policy governing the standards for recommending appointment with tenure for university faculty to include "community engagement."

3. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend *Title 2, Chapter 3, Section 3.4.2* of the Code to include "community engagement" and "community engaged" activities within the three required standards for recommending tenure for university faculty.

4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

In order to qualify for the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, UNR must be able to demonstrate that the standards for tenure/promotion for university faculty under the Board of Regents Code include “community engagement” and that this criterion has been in place for at least one year.

UNR plans to apply for the 2020 Community Engagement Classification and applications are due in 2019. In order to have these amendments in effect by January 1, 2018 (and in place for at least one year prior to the upcoming application cycle), the Board of Regents is requested to approve this Code amendment at the November 30-December 1, 2017, meeting. The Code amendment may be considered for action in accordance with *Title 2, Chapter 1, Section 1.3.3.a* (see below).

5. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- This change is critically important for NSHE universities to seek and qualify for the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification.
- In order to have these amendments in effect before the January 1, 2018, the Board of Regents will be asked to approve the Code amendments at the November 30-December 1, 2017, meeting. The Code amendments may be considered for action in accordance with Code Title 2, Chapter 1, Section 1.3.3.a, which provides as follows:

Any regent, Chancellor, president of a System institution or senate may propose amendments to the Nevada System of Higher Education Code by filing proposed amendments with the Secretary of the Board of Regents and requesting consideration by the Board. *At least 30 calendar days before consideration by the Board, proposed amendments shall be circulated to the Chancellor, each System institution president and each senate for review and comment. The Board shall take final action after giving due consideration to the opinions, if any, of the senate representatives and officers of the System.*

- The proposed amendments were circulated to the Chancellor, presidents and faculty senate chairs for review and comment on September 19, 2017.

6. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been presented.

7. ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

Do not adopt the proposed Code change.

8. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #_____ Chapter #_____ Section #_____
- X Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 2, Chapter 3, Section 3.4.2*
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #_____ Section #_____
- Other:_____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes_____ No_____
- Explain:_____

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 2, CHAPTER 3, SECTION 3.4.2
Tenure for University Faculty: Standards for Recommending Appointment
with Tenure – Community Engaged Teaching

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

3.4.2 Standards for Recommending Appointment with Tenure.

- (a) The consideration of a recommendation for appointment of an academic faculty member with tenure shall include the application of the three standards and the ratings contained in this subsection, which shall be applied in consideration of the conditions for appointment with tenure stated in Subsection 3.1.2 of the Nevada System of Higher Education Code. The burden of demonstrating that these standards have been met lies with the applicant for appointment with tenure.

In standards one and two, an academic faculty member being recommended for appointment with tenure must receive an “excellent” rating in one of these standards and no less than a “satisfactory” rating in the other.

1. Standard One: Teaching/Performance of Assigned Duties

Either of the following:

- (A) If applying for tenure as a university instructor, a record of effectiveness as a teacher including, but not limited to, demonstrated teaching competence and efficiency in a classroom, laboratory, and/or clinical setting, the ability to communicate effectively with students and demonstrated skill in handling classroom and other duties related to teaching. Such a record may include, for example, a showing of the ability to impart knowledge, to excite students' interest in the subject matter, to evoke response in students, [~~and~~] to demonstrate competence in advising students, *and to demonstrate community engaged teaching*.
- (B) If applying for tenure as a member of the academic faculty whose role does not include instruction, a record of effectiveness, efficiency and ability to perform assigned duties, *which may include community engagement*.

2. Standard Two: Research, Scholarly, Creative and Entrepreneurial Activity
Demonstrated continuing professional growth related to the academic faculty member's discipline or program area as shown by a record of research, scholarly, creative or entrepreneurial activity, *each of which may include community engagement*, resulting in publication or comparable productivity.

3. Standard Three: Service

In addition to standards one and two, an academic faculty member being recommended for appointment with tenure must receive a "satisfactory" rating or better in the area of service, which may include, but not be limited to:

- (A) Membership and participation in professional organizations;
- (B) Ability to work with the faculty and students of the member institution in the best interests of the academic community and the people it serves, and to the extent that the job performance of the academic faculty member's administrative unit may not be otherwise adversely affected;
- (C) Service on university or System committees;
- (D) Recognition among colleagues for possessing integrity and the capacity for further significant intellectual and professional achievement; and
- (E) Recognition and respect outside the System community for participation in activities that use the faculty member's knowledge and expertise or further the mission of the institution, or that provide an opportunity for professional growth through *community engaged* interaction with industry, business, government, and other institutions of our society, within the state, the nation or the world.

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