Policy 8-7 Rev 6

DATE MAY 17, 1999

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS - Chapter VII ACADEMIC FREEDOM TERMINATIONS AND PROGRAM DISCONTINUANCE

SECTION 1. ACADEMIC FREEDOM

ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN THE PURSUIT AND DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE THROUGH ALL MEDIA SHALL BE MAINTAINED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH. SUCH FREEDOM SHALL BE RECOGNIZED AS A RIGHT OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY, WHETHER WITH OR WITHOUT TENURE OR CONTINUING APPOINTMENT, OF ALL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS, AND OF ALL STUDENTS. THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH ENDORSES THE 1961 STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS CONCERNING RECRUITMENT, RESIGNATIONS, THE 1940 "STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND TENURE" OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS AND THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS.

SECTION 2. ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND TENURE COMMITTEE

THE ACADEMIC SENATE SHALL ELECT AN ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND TENURE COMMITTEE OF TWELVE MEMBERS CHOSEN FROM THE (I) VOTING MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY OTHER THAN THE EX OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND (2) ACADEMIC LIBRARIANS. THE CHAIRS OF THE FACULTY HEARING COMMITTEE AND OF THE UNIVERSITY RPT STANDARDS AND APPEALS COMMITTEE SHALL BE EX OFFICIO NONVOTING MEMBERS, AS WELL AS THE SENATE PRESIDENT OR THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE.

THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS SHALL BE ELECTED FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS ON A ROTATING BASIS SO THAT THE SENATE SHALL ANNUALLY ELECT FOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO FILL VACANCIES CAUSED BY THE EXPIRATION OF TERMS OF OFFICE.

THE ACADEMIC SENATE SHALL BE SUPPLIED WITH THE NAMES OF RETIRING AND CONTINUING COMMITTEE MEMBERS BY THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE TEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE NOMINATING OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION AS COMMITTEE MEMBERS. VOTING SHALL BE BY SECRET BALLOT.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE ACADEMIC FREEDOM COMMITTEE SHALL BE SELECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH POLICY AND PROCEDURES NO. 9-3, SECTION 4, C, PARAGRAPH 2. A VICE-CHAIR PERSON SHALL BE SELECTED BY THE COMMITTEE AND WILL PRESIDE IN THE ABSENCE OF THE CHAIRPERSON.

It shall be the duty of the chairperson or, in his/her absence, of the vice chairperson, to call meetings of the committee at least once each semester and more frequently if need arises. Meetings also shall be called by the chairperson or, in his/her absence, by the vice chairperson, upon the written request of three members of the committee. At least five (5)

DAYS WRITTEN NOTICE OF ALL MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE AND OF ITS AGENDA SHALL BE GIVEN TO ITS MEMBERS. IT SHALL BE THE DUTY OF THE COMMITTEE TO MAKE AN ANNUAL REPORT EACH SPRING SEMESTER TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE. IT SHALL BE THE DUTY OF THE AGENDA SUBCOMMITTEE TO FORMULATE THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF THE ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SENATE AND TO SUGGEST CURRENT PROBLEMS FOR COMMITTEE STUDY. IT SHALL ALSO BE A RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COMMITTEE TO KEEP FULLY INFORMED ON THE MOST IMPORTANT CONTROVERSIES ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND TENURE IN HIGHER EDUCATION; TO SURVEY PROBLEMS OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND TENURE, INCLUDING RESIGNATIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH; AND TO INFORM THE SENATE ON THESE MATTERS IN ITS ANNUAL REPORT.

THE ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND TENURE COMMITTEE SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO INVESTIGATE, EITHER ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE OR AT THE REQUEST OF ANY MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY, INTO ANY MATTER WHICH THE COMMITTEE REASONABLY BELIEVES MAY INVOLVE VIOLATIONS OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM AT THE UNIVERSITY.

No committee member shall be present during the consideration of any case from a department with which he/she is associated as a faculty member or for any case in which he/she has been involved except for prior involvement as an AFT committee member. In addition, committee members shall decline to participate in the consideration of any case in which they have a personal bias or interest which would preclude their making a fair and objective decision.

SECTION 3. TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENTS

[Terminology. For the purpose of this section, the terms "faculty" and "faculty member" include academic librarians.]

<u>Grounds for Dismissal</u>. The following are the sole grounds for dismissal of faculty members with tenure:

A. <u>Cause</u>. A faculty member may be dismissed for adequate cause. Adequate cause is incompetence in the performance of his/her duties as a teacher and faculty member, or conduct which demonstrates that the faculty member lacks the ability or willingness to meet his/her responsibilities to the university. While the university does not serve as the overseer of the personal morality of members of the university community, grave personal misconduct may demonstrate inability or unwillingness to meet such responsibilities. Mere expression of opinions, however vehemently expressed and however controversial such opinions may be, shall not constitute adequate cause. Dismissal will not be used to restrain faculty members in their exercise of academic freedom or of their rights as American citizens.

B. <u>Medical Reasons</u>. A faculty member with tenure may be dismissed for medical reasons which preclude the faculty member from competently performing his/her duties and responsibilities as teacher and faculty member.

- C. <u>Financial Exigency</u>. A faculty member with tenure may be terminated or given a renewal contract with a substantially reduced status because of financial exigency.
- D. <u>Program Discontinuation</u>. A faculty member with tenure may be terminated or given a renewal contract with a substantially reduced status because of bona fide discontinuation of a program.

SECTION 4. PROCEDURES GOVERNING DISMISSAL FOR CAUSE OR FOR MEDICAL REASONS

DISMISSAL OF A FACULTY MEMBER WITH TENURE, OR WITH A SPECIAL OR PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT BEFORE THE END OF THE SPECIFIED TERM, WILL BE PRECEDED BY: (1) DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE FACULTY MEMBER, APPROPRIATE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS, AND DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES, LOOKING TOWARD A MUTUAL SETTLEMENT; (2) A WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CHARGES, FRAMED WITH REASONABLE PARTICULARITY BY THE PRESIDENT OR THE PRESIDENT'S DELEGATE.

A DISMISSAL FOR ADEQUATE CAUSE OR MEDICAL REASONS WILL BE PRECEDED BY A WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CHARGES, AND THE INDIVIDUAL CONCERNED WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD INITIALLY BY THE ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND TENURE COMMITTEE.

A member of the committee will remove himself or herself from the case, either at the request of a party or on his/her own initiative, if he/she deems himself or herself disqualified for bias or interest. Each party will have a maximum of two challenges without stated cause.

- (1) Service of notice of hearing with specific charges in writing will be made at least 20 days prior to the hearing. The faculty member may waive a hearing or may respond to the charges in writing at any time before the hearing. If the faculty member waives a hearing, but denies the charges against him/her or asserts that the charges do not support a finding of adequate cause, the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee will evaluate all available evidence and rest its recommendation upon the evidence in the record.
- (2) THE COMMITTEE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE FACULTY MEMBER, WILL EXERCISE ITS JUDGMENT AS TO WHETHER THE HEARING SHOULD BE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE.
- (3) During the proceedings the faculty member will be permitted to have an academic advisor and counsel of his/her own choice.
- (4) At the request of either party or the committee, a representative of a responsible educational association shall be permitted to attend the proceedings as an observer.

- (5) A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE HEARING OR HEARINGS WILL BE TAKEN AND A TYPEWRITTEN COPY WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE FACULTY MEMBER WITHOUT COST AT HIS/HER REQUEST.
- (6) THE BURDEN OF PROOF THAT ADEQUATE CAUSE EXISTS RESTS WITH THE INSTITUTION, AND SHALL BE SATISFIED ONLY BY CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE IN THE RECORD CONSIDERED AS A WHOLE.
- (7) THE COMMITTEE WILL GRANT ADJOURNMENTS TO ENABLE EITHER PARTY TO INVESTIGATE EVIDENCE TO WHICH A VALID CLAIM OF SURPRISE IS MADE.
- (8) The faculty member will be afforded an opportunity to obtain necessary witnesses and documentary or other evidence, and the administration will, insofar as it is possible for it to do so, secure the cooperation of such witnesses and make available necessary documents and other evidence within its control.
- (9) THE FACULTY MEMBER AND THE ADMINISTRATION WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONFRONT AND CROSS-EXAMINE ALL WITNESSES. WHERE THE WITNESS CANNOT OR WILL NOT APPEAR, BUT THE COMMITTEE DETERMINES THAT THE INTERESTS OF JUSTICE REQUIRE ADMISSION OF HIS/HER STATEMENT, THE COMMITTEE WILL IDENTIFY THE WITNESS, DISCLOSE HIS/HER STATEMENT AND IF POSSIBLE PROVIDE FOR INTERROGATORIES.
- (10) In the hearing of charges of incompetence, the testimony shall include that of qualified faculty members from this or other institutions of higher education.
- (11) THE COMMITTEE WILL NOT BE BOUND BY STRICT RULES OF LEGAL EVIDENCE, AND MAY ADMIT ANY EVIDENCE WHICH IS OF PROBATIVE VALUE IN DETERMINING THE ISSUES INVOLVED. EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO OBTAIN THE MOST

RELIABLE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE.

- (12) THE FINDINGS OF FACT AND THE DECISION WILL BE BASED SOLELY ON THE HEARING RECORD.
- (13) Except for such simple announcements as may be required, covering the time of the hearing and similar matters, public statements and publicity about the case by either the faculty member or administrative officers will be avoided so far as possible until the proceedings have been completed, including consideration by the university's Board of Trustees. The president and the faculty member will be notified of the decision in writing and will be given a copy of the record of the hearing. A report of the decision will also be made by the committee to the Academic Senate for its information.

(14) If the president rejects the report, the president will state the reasons for doing so, in writing, to the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee and to the faculty member, and provide an opportunity for response before transmitting the case to the university's Board of Trustees.

ACTION BY THE UNIVERSITY'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

If dismissal, suspension without pay, or other penalty is recommended by the president, the president will, on request of the faculty member, transmit to the university's Board of Trustees the record of the case. The Council's review will be based on the record of the hearing by the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee, and will provide opportunity for argument, oral or written or both, by the principals at the hearing or by their representatives. The decision of the committee will either be sustained, or the proceeding returned to the committee with specific objections. The committee will then reconsider, taking into account the stated objectives and receiving new evidence if necessary. The university's Board of Trustees will make a final decision after study of the committee's reconsideration.

Until the final decision upon termination of an appointment has been reached, the faculty member may be suspended temporarily, or assigned to other duties in lieu of suspension, only if immediate harm to the faculty member or others is threatened by his/her continuance. Before suspending a faculty member, pending an ultimate determination of his/her status through the hearing machinery set forth above, the administration will consult with the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee. Salary will continue during the period prior to final decision by the Board of Trustees.⁽¹⁾

SECTION 5. PROCEDURES GOVERNING TERMINATIONS REQUIRED BY

FINANCIAL EXIGENCY

A. <u>Purpose</u>. This section specifies the conditions under which the university would declare a state of financial exigency, the process by which such a condition would be declared and the process by which program reduction or discontinuance would proceed under a condition of financial exigency. It also specifies the process to be followed in termination or reduction in status of faculty members due to program reduction necessitated by financial exigency. Termination or reduction in status of faculty members due to program discontinuance is governed by the procedures of section 6 of this chapter.

B. <u>Definitions</u>.

I. DECLARATION AND DEFINITION OF FINANCIAL EXIGENCY. THE STATE BOARD OF

REGENTS (BOARD) MAY DECLARE A BONA FIDE FINANCIAL EXIGENCY AT ONE OR MORE INSTITUTIONS IN THE UTAH SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION. A DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL EXIGENCY FOR ALL OF THE SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS WOULD BE IN EFFECT A DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL EXIGENCY FOR THE SYSTEM AS A WHOLE. A BONA FIDE FINANCIAL EXIGENCY IS AN EXISTING OR IMMINENT FINANCIAL CRISIS WHICH, IF UNCORRECTED, WOULD THREATEN THE SURVIVAL OF THE INSTITUTION AS A WHOLE AND WHICH COULD NOT BE ALLEVIATED REASONABLY BY LESS DRASTIC MEANS. 'SURVIVAL OF THE INSTITUTION AS A WHOLE' IS EXPRESSLY DEFINED FOR PURPOSES OF THIS POLICY AS THE AVAILABILITY OF ADEQUATE APPROPRIATED FUNDS TO ENABLE THE INSTITUTION SUBSTANTIALLY TO FULFILL ITS MISSION AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD. A DECLARATION BY THE BOARD OF FINANCIAL EXIGENCY MAY AUTHORIZE THE PRESIDENT, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, TO RECOMMEND AND IMPLEMENT, SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVALS AS PROVIDED HEREIN, REDUCTIONS IN FORCE OF FACULTY AND STAFF PERSONNEL THROUGH LAYOFFS.

- 2. <u>Academic Program</u>. A program is a unit within the university with an identifiable teaching, research, or other academic mission. For the purposes of these regulations "program" is to be determined by existing academic standards, and "programs" are never to be declared with the aim of singling out individual faculty members. For a unit to be designated as a "program," it shall fulfill one or more of these criteria:
 - (A) WHETHER THE UNIT HAS "PROGRAM" IN ITS TITLE OR HAS OTHERWISE BEEN DESIGNATED AS A PROGRAM BY A SPECIFIC FACULTY DECISION;
 - (B) WHETHER THE UNIT OFFERS OR ADMINISTERS A DEGREE, CERTIFICATE, OR SOME OTHER CREDENTIAL;
 - (C) WHETHER THE UNIT HAS AN IDENTIFIABLE CURRICULUM OR IS FORMALLY DESCRIBED IN CURRENT UNIVERSITY CATALOGS OR OTHER PUBLICATIONS;
 - (D) WHETHER THE UNIT HAS A SEPARATE BUDGET;
 - (E) WHETHER THE UNIT HAS AN IDENTIFIED GROUP OF FACULTY.
- C. DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL EXIGENCY.
 - I. A FINANCIAL EXIGENCY EXISTS AFTER IT HAS BEEN FORMALLY DECLARED BY THE STATE BOARD OF REGENTS. THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY, WITH THE ADVICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE, MAY RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD DECLARE A STATE OF FINANCIAL EXIGENCY. THE PRESIDENT AND ACADEMIC SENATE SHALL MAKE

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD CONCERNING FINANCIAL EXIGENCY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCEDURES SET FORTH HEREIN.

- 2. As early as is feasible after the declaration of financial exigency appears to be a possibility, the president shall inform the Faculty Budget and Planning Advisory Committee and the Academic Senate concerning the causes and possible consequences of the crisis, reasons why the university's financial circumstances may require academic program discontinuance or reduction, and the options investigated by the university short of a declaration of financial exigency.
- 3. WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD ESTABLISHED BY THE PRESIDENT, THE ACADEMIC SENATE SHALL RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE COMMENTS AND ADVICE OF THE FACULTY BUDGET AND PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE AS WELL AS TIMELY PRESENTED VIEWS OF ANY OTHER FACULTY OR ADMINISTRATIVE BODY, OR INDIVIDUAL FACULTY MEMBERS, BEFORE MAKING ITS RECOMMENDATION TO THE PRESIDENT ON WHETHER FINANCIAL EXIGENCY SHOULD BE DECLARED.
- 4. WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD ESTABLISHED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BEFORE MAKING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE STATE BOARD OF REGENTS, THE PRESIDENT SHALL RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE COMMENTS AND ADVICE PRESENTED ON THE MATTER BY THE FACULTY BUDGET AND PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND BY THE ACADEMIC SENATE.
- 5. The president shall submit his/her final recommendation on the declaration of financial exigency in writing to the State Board of Regents and shall attach the written comments and advice of the Academic Senate.
- D. <u>Time Considerations</u>. Time considerations may be critical when the university must judge whether a financial exigency exists; whether or not programs must be eliminated or reduced; and whether faculty must be reduced in status or terminated. To the extent that such judgments must be made in a brief time frame for a given situation, the time periods for the consultative process provided for in these regulations shall be specified by written notice from the president, giving those for whom the consultative processes were provided in these regulations the fullest possible amount of time under the circumstances to use such processes. In that regard, the president shall use his best efforts to secure the fullest period of time possible for the consideration of these matters and the responses hereto. The failure of parties to fulfill the participation opportunity within the time frame provided shall not be deemed an absence of such opportunity.
- E. Program Elimination or Reduction because of Financial Exigency.

- I. <u>Iterative Process</u>. After a declaration of financial exigency by the State Board of Regents, an iterative process of university program elimination or reduction may begin. The first step in this process shall be for each administrative and academic structural component of the university to assess its programs with regard to quality and essentiality to the mission of the university. All components of the university community make important contributions in enabling the university to fulfill its mission. This process should be carried out in a manner that best ensures the continuing integrity of academic programs.
- 2. Administrative and Support Services. The president will ask the cognizant vice presidents to develop reduction plans in the areas of support services. Such plans will be reviewed by the Council of Academic Deans, the Budget and Planning Advisory Committee, and the Administrative Policy Advisory Committee, and will be integrated with academic discontinuance or reduction plans in light of the overall academic mission of the university.

As the iterative process continues, academic functions should take priority, and support services shall be reduced to the extent necessary and feasible without significantly impairing the university's ability to pursue its basic academic purposes.

- 3. President's Direction. The president, at his/her discretion, and after consultations with the Council of Academic Deans and the Budget and Planning Advisory Committee shall direct the cognizant vice president(s) to develop academic program discontinuance or reduction plans according to procedures set forth below in this section 5, part E, 4, 5 and 6.
- 4. ACADEMIC PROGRAM ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION PLANS. THE DEVELOPMENT OF ACADEMIC PROGRAM ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION PLANS MUST INVOLVE CONSULTATION AMONG DEPARTMENTAL AND COLLEGE FACULTIES TO IDENTIFY AREAS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAM ELIMINATIONS OR REDUCTIONS. THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA AND INFORMATION SOURCES SHALL BE CONSIDERED BY THOSE MAKING JUDGMENTS ABOUT WHICH PROGRAMS SHOULD BE ELIMINATED OR REDUCED BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL EXIGENCY: (I) THE GENERAL ACADEMIC QUALITY OF THE PROGRAM WITH REGARD TO SCHOLARSHIP, TEACHING AND SERVICE (II) THE EXTENT OF IMPORTANCE THE PROGRAM HAS FOR THE MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY; AND, INSOFAR AS THEY RELATE TO ACADEMIC QUALITY AND THE MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY, THE FOLLOWING: (III) GRADUATE COUNCIL REVIEW; (IV) FINDINGS BY NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BODIES; (V) REPORTS BY APPROPRIATE NATIONAL RANKING SOURCES; (VI) SUCH OTHER SYSTEMATICALLY DERIVED INFORMATION, BASED ON LONG-TERM CONSIDERATIONS OF PROGRAM QUALITY, AS MAY BE AVAILABLE; (VII) THE CAPACITY OF THE PROGRAM TO GENERATE EXTERNAL FUNDING; (VIII) FACULTY/STUDENT RATIOS; (IX)

COST/EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS; AND (X) RELATIONSHIP TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS MASTER PLAN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF UTAH.

- 5. <u>Discontinuance of Administrative and Support Services</u>. If an academic program is discontinued or reduced, then administrative and support services associated with it shall be re-evaluated and reduced if appropriate. These reductions shall precede further reduction in or elimination of academic programs. This iterative process between reduction in administrative and support services and staff and elimination or reduction of academic programs shall proceed until the necessary level has been reached.
- 6. Review. If a plan calls for the elimination or reduction of a specific program, department, school or college, that element of the plan shall be reviewed by the Faculty Budget and Planning Advisory Committee; the Graduate Council; the faculty members and/or the faculty committee most directly involved in the academic program proposed for elimination or reduction, the cognizant director, department chairperson, and/or dean; relevant college committees or councils; and relevant student advisory committees. The views of these bodies shall be forwarded to the Academic Senate for its consideration within the time periods prescribed by the president. The conclusions of the above bodies and the Academic Senate shall be forwarded to the president, who shall consider these views in his/her review of the proposed plan. When the president's recommendations are submitted to the State Board of Regents, they shall be accompanied by the Academic Senate's recommendations.

F. FACULTY TERMINATION OR REDUCTION IN STATUS BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL EXIGENCY.

- I. <u>Plan for Faculty Reduction</u>. The dean of each school or college, in consultation with the departments, department chairpersons and the school or college executive committee, or other appropriate standing committees established by the school or college Council Charter, shall devise an orderly sequence of steps which shall constitute the school's or college's faculty reduction plan. Included in such a plan will be explicit criteria by which individual faculty will be identified with the various programs under consideration for reduction or elimination.
- 2. <u>Voluntary Incentives</u>. Insofar as feasible, The plan will emphasize the creation of various incentives such as voluntary retirement, early retirement, partial retirement, partial resignation, resignation, extended leaves, salary reductions, severance pay, or similar actions that will result in immediate or eventual cost savings for the university, and that are voluntarily entered into by individual faculty

MEMBERS RATHER THAN IMPOSED BY UNIVERSITY AUTHORITY.

- 3. <u>Priorities</u>. When non-voluntary faculty reductions are necessary, unless explicitly stated and compelling academic reasons exist to the contrary, consideration will be given to not filling existing faculty vacancies and not filling vacancies from resignations, retirement or death. Consideration should next be given to the elimination of instructional positions occupied by teaching assistants/fellows, associate instructors and auxiliary faculty. Next, consideration should be given to the termination of tenure-track or tenured faculty members.
- 4. <u>Tenure System</u>. The integrity of the tenure system will be respected and tenured faculty members will not be terminated unless there are explicitly stated, compelling academic reasons. The appointment of a faculty member with tenure will not be terminated in favor of retaining the faculty member without tenure except in extraordinary circumstances where a serious distortion of the academic program would otherwise result. A serious distortion will be determined in accordance with sections E. 4. and F. 1. above.
- 5. PROCEDURES FOR FACULTY TERMINATION OR REDUCTION IN STATUS DUE TO PROGRAM DISCONTINUANCE. TERMINATION OR REDUCTION IN STATUS OF TENURED OR TENURE-TRACK FACULTY MEMBERS DUE TO PROGRAM REDUCTION SHORT OF PROGRAM DISCONTINUANCE SHALL FOLLOW THE PROCEDURES SET FORTH BELOW IN THIS SECTION F, 6 THROUGH 14. TERMINATION OR REDUCTION IN STATUS OF TENURED OR TENURE-TRACK FACULTY MEMBERS DUE TO PROGRAM DISCONTINUANCE NECESSITATED BY FINANCIAL EXIGENCY IS NOT GOVERNED BY THESE PROCEDURES BUT SHALL FOLLOW THE PROCEDURES SET FORTH IN UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS, CHAPTER VII, SECTION 6 PARAGRAPH 3.
- 6. <u>Departmental and College Review</u>. Proposed faculty reduction plans shall be reviewed by affected

DEPARTMENT AND COLLEGE FACULTIES IN LIGHT OF THE FUTURE STRENGTH, BALANCE, QUALITY OF TEACHING, RESEARCH, SERVICE AND MISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT AND COLLEGE TEMPERED BY CONCERN FOR INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCES. FACULTY RESPONSE TO SUCH REDUCTION PLANS SHALL BE FORWARDED TO THE APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSON AND DEAN IN A TIMELY MANNER.

7. Notice. The dean shall give timely written notice to any faculty member who is the subject of a recommendation for reduction. A faculty member so identified may respond in writing at any point in the process with his/her comments becoming part of the record to be forwarded to

THE NEXT LEVEL OF REVIEW. THE DEAN, AFTER CONSIDERING ANY SUCH RESPONSE, SHALL ADD HIS/HER SEPARATE RECOMMENDATION(S) AND FORWARD THE COMPLETE FILE TO THE COGNIZANT VICE PRESIDENT.

- 8. <u>Intent to Appeal</u>. If a faculty member chooses to respond to his/her proposed dismissal or reduction in status, the faculty member must submit, within thirty days of his/her receipt of a recommendation for termination or reduction in status from the dean, a written notice of intent to appeal to the vice president.
- 9. <u>Appeal</u>. A faculty member who intends to appeal, and who has submitted notice of such intent, must file a formal written appeal to the vice president within ninety days of receipt of proposed termination notice. The faculty member's written appeal to the vice president should state, as precisely as possible, the grounds for the appeal.
- IO. <u>Review by the Vice President.</u> The file, including any appeal submitted by the faculty member, will be reviewed by the cognizant vice president who will add his/her separate recommendation(s) and forward the complete file to the President.
- II. <u>Hearing</u>. If the cognizant vice president recommends termination or reduction in status, the faculty member, within fifteen (15) days after receiving a copy of the cognizant vice president's final recommendation to the president, may submit a written request to the cognizant vice president for a hearing on the pending action. A hearing will then be conducted in a timely manner by the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee.
- 12. Standard of Review. An affected faculty or staff member may contest a layoff only for (a) violation of his/her academic freedom or constitutional rights, or (b) failure to comply with this policy, with related institutional policy, or with the plan for personnel reduction approved by the Board. Because the procedures for the declaration of financial exigency contained herein require the demonstration of the need for such declaration after substantive consultations, notice, and hearing, the decision of the Board to declare financial exigency is not subject to contest by faculty or staff in any grievance or appeal procedure within the institution or before the Board.

If the faculty member requesting the hearing believes that the recommendation is associated with prejudicial treatment, harassment, or illegal discrimination, based upon race, color, ethnic or national origin, sex, religion, age, lack of American citizenship, sexual preference,

HANDICAPPED STATUS, OR STATUS AS A VETERAN OF THE MILITARY SERVICE, HE/SHE MAY ALSO CONSULT WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND AN ADDITIONAL, SEPARATE HEARING MAY BE CONDUCTED BY A DISCRIMINATION HEARING PANEL (SEE POLICY AND PROCEDURES NO. 2-32). THE DECISIONS AND CONCLUSIONS OF SUCH HEARING COMMITTEES AND PANELS WILL BE COMMUNICATED IN WRITING TO THE FACULTY MEMBER.

- 13. <u>Hearing Procedure</u>. In conducting a hearing on a faculty member's appeal of dismissal or reduction in status due to financial exigency, the hearing committee will follow the guidelines set forth in University Regulations, Chapter VII, Section 3A, and the president shall respond to the committee's recommendation according to these guidelines.
- 14. Notice of Termination or Reduction in Status. Notice from the president will be given to a faculty member who is terminated due to program reduction because of financial exigency as follows: Should either (I) the faculty member fail to request a hearing on the pending action as provided in paragraph (II) and the president decide in favor of termination or reduction status or (2) the faculty member request a hearing as provided in paragraph (II) and such hearing be timely initiated, then the president shall give written notice of termination or reduction in status to the affected faculty member.
- 15. Form of Notice. The notice must include the following:
 - (A) THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF LAYOFF;
 - (B) A STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE BOARD'S ACTION TO DECLARE A FINANCIAL EXIGENCY;
 - (C) THE BASIS, THE PROCEDURES, AND THE CRITERIA USED TO LAY OFF FACULTY AND STAFF;
 - (D) ANY OPPORTUNITY FOR RECONSIDERATION OR APPEAL INCLUDING ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION, AND THE ISSUES THAT MAY OR MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED; AND
 - (E) THE REINSTATEMENT RIGHTS OF THE FACULTY AND STAFF.

If the appointee is untenured and in the first year of service, notice shall be given at least three months prior to the termination or reduction in status of the existing

APPOINTMENT. IF THE APPOINTEE IS TENURED OR IS IN THE SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT YEAR OF SERVICE, THE INTENDED TERMINATION OR REDUCTION IN STATUS SHALL NOT BECOME EFFECTIVE SOONER THAN TWELVE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE UPON WHICH NOTICE IS SERVED.

16. <u>Relocation</u>. With the assistance of cognizant academic administrators (e.g., department chairs, deans, vice presidents) and the consent of the receiving department or college, every reasonable effort will be made to enable faculty members affected, who wish to do so, to obtain suitable positions elsewhere in the university.

SECTION 6. PROCEDURES GOVERNING TERMINATIONS BECAUSE OF BONA FIDE PROGRAM DISCONTINUANCE FOR ACADEMIC REASONS

A. <u>Purpose</u>. This section specifies the procedures to be followed in discontinuing a program for academic reasons. It also specifies the procedures for termination, should that be necessary, of the faculty and staff of a program when the program is discontinued for any reason.

B. **DEFINITIONS**.

- I. Program discontinuance means the termination of a program, center, institute, department, school, or college for reasons based upon educational and academic considerations. For the purpose of this section, educational and academic considerations do not include cyclical or temporary variations in enrollment, but must reflect long-range judgments that the basic educational mission of the university will be strengthened by the discontinuance of the program, center, institute, department, school or college. This does not preclude the reallocation of resources to other academic programs with higher priority based on academic and educational considerations.
- 2. A PROGRAM IS A UNIT WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY WITH AN IDENTIFIABLE TEACHING, RESEARCH, OR OTHER ACADEMIC MISSION. FOR THE PURPOSE OF THESE REGULATIONS, "PROGRAM" IS TO BE DETERMINED BY EXISTING ACADEMIC STANDARDS, AND "PROGRAMS" ARE NEVER TO BE DECLARED WITH THE AIM OF SINGLING OUT INDIVIDUAL FACULTY MEMBERS. FOR A UNIT TO BE DESIGNATED AS A "PROGRAM," IT SHALL FULFILL ONE OR MORE OF THESE CRITERIA:
 - (A) WHETHER THE UNIT HAS "PROGRAM" IN ITS TITLE OR HAS OTHERWISE BEEN DESIGNATED AS A PROGRAM BY A SPECIFIC FACULTY DECISION;

- (B) WHETHER THE UNIT OFFERS OR ADMINISTERS A DEGREE, CERTIFICATE, OR SOME OTHER CREDENTIAL;
- (C) WHETHER THE UNIT HAS AN IDENTIFIABLE CURRICULUM OR IS FORMALLY DESCRIBED IN CURRENT UNIVERSITY CATALOGS OR OTHER PUBLICATIONS;
- (D) WHETHER THE UNIT HAS A SEPARATE BUDGET;
- (E) WHETHER THE UNIT HAS AN IDENTIFIED GROUP OF FACULTY.
- C. Process of Program Discontinuance for Academic Reasons.
 - I. TIMING. PROGRAM DISCONTINUANCE MAY OCCUR AT ANY TIME.
 - 2. <u>Initiation</u>. Formal consideration of possible discontinuance of an academic program may be initiated by the faculty of that program; the faculty or an appropriate committee of the faculty of the center, institute, department, school or college of which the program in question is a part; the Graduate Council; or the cognizant director, department chairperson, dean, or vice president, or president of the university.
 - 3. Memorandum. In the event that a program discontinuance may result in the termination of faculty, the faculty group or committee or the administrative officer initiating the formal consideration of discontinuance of an academic program shall prepare, and submit to the vice president for academic affairs or health sciences, a memorandum which (1) clearly identifies the program; (2) states explicit criteria by which faculty are identified with the program under consideration for reduction or elimination; (3) states the reasons for recommending discontinuance in light of the university's academic mission; (4) assesses the probable consequences for faculty, related programs and the university in general resulting from discontinuance; and (5) suggests a time-table for accomplishing the discontinuance.
 - 4. <u>Procedure for Considering Program Discontinuance</u>. In the event that a program discontinuance may result in the dismissal of faculty, the following process shall apply:
 - (A) SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS. COPIES OF THE MEMORANDUM

EMBODYING AN INITIAL OR AMENDED PROPOSAL FOR PROGRAM DISCONTINUANCE SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED FOR COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION TO (I) THE FACULTY MEMBERS AND/OR FACULTY COMMITTEE MOST DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROPOSED FOR DISCONTINUANCE; (II) RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS OR COLLEGES; (III) THE COGNIZANT DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSON, AND/OR DEAN; (IV) RELEVANT COLLEGE COMMITTEES OR COUNCILS; (V) THE FACULTY BUDGET AND PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE; AND (VI) RELEVANT STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

- (B) <u>Dean's Recommendation</u>. After receiving and considering any comments, the dean shall forward his/her recommendation to the Graduate Council for its review and recommendation.
- (C) <u>Graduate Council Recommendation</u>. The Graduate Council's recommendation shall be submitted to the cognizant vice president for review and recommendation.
- (D) <u>Vice President's Recommendation</u>. After receiving and considering the comments, the cognizant vice president shall submit the proposal and comments, together with his/her recommendation regarding the continuation or discontinuance of the program, to the Academic Senate. The vice president's recommendations shall be subject to review and debate by the Academic Senate according to <u>Faculty Regulations</u>, Chapter III.
- (E) <u>Academic Senate's Recommendation</u>. The Academic Senate's recommendation shall be forwarded with the vice president's recommendations to the president for his/her consideration and determination of the recommendation to be made to the State Board of Regents. The Board of Trustees shall review the president's recommendation before it is submitted to the State Board of Regents. The recommendations of the Academic Senate shall accompany the recommendations of the president to the Board of Trustees and the State Board of Regents.
- D. <u>Termination of Faculty and Staff Due to Discontinuance of a Program, Center, Institute</u>, <u>Department</u>, <u>School or College</u>.
 - I. <u>Notice of Program Discontinuance</u>. After the State Board of Regents has approved a proposal by the university to discontinue a program,

CENTER, INSTITUTE, DEPARTMENT, SCHOOL OR COLLEGE, THE COGNIZANT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (DEAN OR VICE PRESIDENT) SHALL GIVE WRITTEN NOTICE OF THAT DISCONTINUANCE TO ALL PERSONS IN THE PROGRAM, CENTER, INSTITUTE, DEPARTMENT, SCHOOL OR COLLEGE.

- 2. Notice of Reduction in Status. In addition to the general notice from the cognizant administrator (see previous paragraph), the president shall give tenured and untenured faculty members in the program, center, institute, department, school or college scheduled for discontinuance formal notice of termination or reduction in status as follows: If the appointee is untenured and in the first year of service, notice shall be given at least three months prior to the termination or reduction in status of the existing appointment. If the appointee is tenured or is in the second or subsequent year of service, the intended termination or reduction in status shall not become effective sooner than twelve months after the date upon which notice is served.
- 3. <u>Relocation</u>. With the assistance of cognizant academic administrators (e.g. department chairs, deans, vice presidents) and the consent of the receiving department or college, every reasonable effort will be made to enable faculty members affected, who wish to do so, to obtain suitable positions elsewhere in the university.
- 4. <u>Effect Upon Faculty and Staff</u>. A minimum of one full calendar year, beginning July 1, shall pass from the time when a final decision is made to close an academic program until program discontinuance. During that interval good faith efforts must be made to relocate affected faculty and staff in other suitable positions in the university.
- 5. <u>Rights of Appeal</u>. In any instance where it is not possible to continue the appointments of regular faculty members, the established procedures for ending faculty appointments, including rights of appeal, will be observed. (See University Regulations, Chapter VI, Section 3, and Chapter VII, Section 3.)

SECTION 7. EFFECT UPON STUDENTS

ALTHOUGH OPPORTUNITY FOR COMPLETION OF A DEGREE OR TRANSFER TO ANOTHER PROGRAM CANNOT BE GUARANTEED WHEN AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM IS DISCONTINUED BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL EXIGENCY OR PROGRAM DISCONTINUANCE, EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS ALREADY ENROLLED IN THE PROGRAM. AFTER THE VICE PRESIDENT SUBMITS A RECOMMENDATION TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE FOR DISCONTINUANCE OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM, NO NEW ADMISSIONS TO THAT

PROGRAM WILL BE PERMITTED, UNLESS AND UNTIL A FINAL DECISION TO RETAIN THE PROGRAM IS MADE.

SECTION 8. ACADEMIC FREEDOM

If a faculty member, facing termination because of financial exigency or program discontinuance, believes that such termination involves a violation of his/her academic freedom, the faculty member may file a complaint with the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee, which shall deal with the complaint according to its established rules of procedure. The complaint should specify as precisely as possible the conditions and/or circumstances which are believed to limit the faculty member's academic freedom.

SECTION 9. EMPLOYMENT AFTER TERMINATION

TENURED FACULTY MEMBERS TERMINATED BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL EXIGENCY OR DISCONTINUANCE OF A PROGRAM, DEPARTMENT, SCHOOL OR COLLEGE, FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS FOLLOWING THE DATE ON WHICH THEY RECEIVED THEIR FINAL SALARY PAYMENT, SHALL RECEIVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION AMONG CANDIDATES WITH COMPARABLE QUALIFICATIONS FOR ANY VACANT AND FUNDED UNIVERSITY POSITIONS FOR WHICH THEY APPLY AND ARE QUALIFIED.

A. REINSTATEMENT RIGHTS.

- I. FOR TENURED FACULTY. IN CASES OF LAYOFF OF TENURED FACULTY MEMBERS, A RELEVANTLY SIMILAR POSITION MAY NOT BE FILLED BY REPLACEMENT WITHIN A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE LAYOFF UNLESS THE TENURED FACULTY MEMBER HAS BEEN OFFERED A RETURN TO EMPLOYMENT IN THAT POSITION AND HAS NOT ACCEPTED THE OFFER WITHIN THIRTY (30) CALENDAR DAYS AFTER THE OFFER WAS EXTENDED. TENURED FACULTY WILL BE OFFERED REINSTATEMENT TO SUCH POSITIONS BEFORE OFFERS ARE MADE TO UNTENURED FACULTY.
- 2. FOR NONTENURED FACULTY AND NONFACULTY EMPLOYEES. IN CASES OF LAYOFF OF NONTENURED FACULTY MEMBERS AND ALL OTHER SALARIED EMPLOYEES A RELEVANTLY SIMILAR POSITION MAY NOT BE FILLED BY REPLACEMENT WITHIN A PERIOD OF ONE (I) YEAR FROM THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE LAYOFF UNLESS THE PERSON LAID OFF HAS BEEN OFFERED A RETURN TO EMPLOYMENT IN THAT POSITION AND THE PERSON LAID OFF HAS NOT ACCEPTED THE OFFER WITHIN THIRTY (30) CALENDAR DAYS AFTER THE OFFER WAS EXTENDED.
- 3. Offers of Reinstatement Not Accepted. If an offer of reinstatement is not accepted the institution and the Board have no further obligation to the person laid off. After the expiration of the applicable reinstatement period as provided herein, the institution and Board have

NO FURTHER OBLIGATION TO THE AFFECTED FACULTY AND STAFF.

4. Status Following Reinstatement. A faculty member who has been laid off and who accepts reinstatement in the same position will resume the rank and tenure status held at the time of layoff, be credited with any sick leave accrued prior to the date of layoff, be paid a salary commensurate with the rank and length of previous service, and will be credited with any annual leave which the faculty member had accrued prior to the date of layoff and for which the faculty member has not received payment. (2)

SECTION 10. DECISION-MAKING WITH REGARD TO A MAJOR FINANCIAL CRISIS WHICH IS SHORT OF A FINANCIAL EXIGENCY

A. <u>Purpose</u>. This section applies to the process of determining whether at a particular time the university faces a major financial crisis, which is not definable as a situation of financial exigency, and to the process of making decisions in response to such a crisis.

THIS SECTION DOES NOT PRECLUDE THE DISCONTINUANCE OR REDUCTION OF PROGRAMS FOR ACADEMIC REASONS AT ANY TIME.

- B. IDENTIFYING A MAJOR FINANCIAL CRISIS.
 - I. <u>Definition</u>. To constitute a major financial crisis, a situation facing the university shall:
 - 2. Decision-making about the Existence of such a Crisis.
 - (A) When the president of the university identifies a major financial crisis, the president shall inform the Faculty Budget and Planning Advisory Committee and the Academic Senate concerning the causes and possible consequences of the crisis. The president shall also identify the measures considered by the university up to that point for dealing with the crisis, possible strategies which may be alternatives to program reduction (short of termination) or program termination, and, as warranted, reasons why the university's financial circumstances may necessitate academic program reduction or termination, and the time frame by which decisions on these matters must be made by all those entitled

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS. IN THAT REGARD, THE PRESIDENT SHALL USE HIS/HER BEST EFFORTS TO SECURE THE FULLEST PERIOD OF TIME POSSIBLE FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THESE MATTERS AND THE RESPONSE THERETO.

- (B) THE ACADEMIC SENATE SHALL RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE COMMENTS AND ADVICE OF THE FACULTY BUDGET AND PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AS WELL AS TIMELY PRESENTED VIEWS OF ANY OTHER FACULTY OR ADMINISTRATIVE BODY, ON WHETHER THE PRESIDENT SHOULD DECLARE THE EXISTENCE OF A MAJOR FINANCIAL CRISIS. AFTER CONSULTING WITH THE PRESIDENT REGARDING WHETHER A MAJOR FINANCIAL CRISIS EXISTS, THE SENATE SHALL EXPRESS ITS VIEW IN WRITING TO THE PRESIDENT.
- C. <u>Implementation</u>. When the president declares the existence of a major financial crisis, the university's actions in response to the crisis shall be governed by the provisions of Sections D,E,F, and G of this section.
- D. Consideration of Strategies. When the president has declared the existence of a major financial crisis, the central administration shall consult with the Council of Academic Deans, the Graduate Council, and Administrative Directors, (3) the Faculty Budget and Planning Advisory Committee concerning strategies for dealing with the crisis. Consideration of strategies shall include examination of the feasibility of restrictions on enrollment, reductions in non-academic staff, budget reductions which are across-the-board, using phased reductions, using attrition, reductions in supplies, and program reduction or termination. The administration will then submit a plan to the Academic Senate describing strategies it proposes to follow in developing a specific plan for coping with the crisis. The Senate will make whatever recommendations it deems appropriate to the president regarding such strategies.
- E. Program Reduction or Termination because of a Major Financial Crisis. This section applies when the president after receipt of the recommendation of the Academic Senate has concluded that a declared major financial crisis entails program reduction or termination.
 - I. <u>Academic Program</u>. An academic program is a unit within the university with an identifiable teaching, research, or other academic mission. For the purposes of these regulations "program" is to be determined by existing academic standards, and "programs" are never to be declared with the aim of singling out individual faculty members. For a unit to be designated as a "program," it shall fulfill one or more of these criteria:
 - (A) WHETHER THE UNIT HAS "PROGRAM" IN ITS TITLE OR HAS

OTHERWISE BEEN DESIGNATED AS A PROGRAM BY A SPECIFIC FACULTY DECISION;

- (B) WHETHER THE UNIT OFFERS OR ADMINISTERS A DEGREE, CERTIFICATE, OR SOME OTHER CREDENTIAL;
- (C) WHETHER THE UNIT HAS AN IDENTIFIABLE CURRICULUM OR IS FORMALLY DESCRIBED IN CURRENT UNIVERSITY CATALOGS OR OTHER PUBLICATIONS;
- (D) WHETHER THE UNIT HAS A SEPARATE BUDGET;
- (E) WHETHER THE UNIT HAS AN IDENTIFIED GROUP OF FACULTY.
- 2. Criteria for Academic Program Cutbacks. The following criteria and information sources shall be the bases for decision-making about which programs should be reduced or eliminated because of a major financial crisis: (i) the general academic quality of the program with regard to scholarship, teaching and service; (ii) the importance the program has for the mission of the university; and, insofar as they relate to academic quality and the mission of the university, the following: (a) Graduate Council Reviews; (b) findings by national accreditation bodies; (c) reports by appropriate national ranking sources; (d) such other systematically derived information, based on long-term considerations of program quality, as may be available; (e) the capacity of the program to generate external funding; (f) faculty/student ratios; (g) cost/effectiveness analysis; and (h) relationship to the Board of Regents master plan for higher education in the State of Utah.
- 3. <u>Iterative Process</u>. The process of University program reduction or termination should be an iterative one between academic programs and their support services.
- 4. Program Reduction or Termination Plans. The president shall direct the cognizant vice presidents to assist the academic departments in developing plans regarding academic program reduction or termination. The individual academic departments of the university shall be asked to reevaluate their programs, consider alternatives to program reduction or termination, and examine possible time frames (including multi-year) for accomplishing potential budget reductions. The dean of each college or school involved shall review the departmental reports resulting therefrom, and comment on them. The departmental reports and dean's comments shall be forwarded to the university administration, the Council of Academic Deans, and the Graduate

Council for their review and statement of reactions. The president shall direct the cognizant vice presidents to assist the administrative units of the university in developing plans regarding program reduction or termination in the area of support services. In reassessing programs, the individual academic and administrative departments of the university shall endeavor to identify those which might most appropriately be considered for reduction or termination, given the financial crisis faced by the university.

5. <u>REVIEW</u>. IF PLANS CALL FOR THE REDUCTION OR TERMINATION OF SPECIFIC PROGRAMS, DEPARTMENTS, SCHOOLS, OR COLLEGES, THOSE ELEMENTS OF THE PLANS SHALL BE REVIEWED BY THE FACULTY MEMBERS AND/OR FACULTY COMMITTEES MOST DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS PROPOSED FOR TERMINATION OR REDUCTION; THE COGNIZANT DIRECTORS, DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS, AND/OR DEANS; RELEVANT COLLEGE COMMITTEES OR COUNCILS; RELEVANT STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEES; THE COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC DEANS; AND THE GRADUATE COUNCIL. WITHIN THE TIME FRAME SPECIFIED BY THE PRESIDENT, THE PLANS, AND THE VIEWS OF THE REVIEW BODIES REGARDING THEM, SHALL BE FORWARDED TO THE FACULTY BUDGET AND PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ITS CONSIDERATION. THE VIEWS OF THE FACULTY BUDGET AND PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL BE REPORTED TO THE SENATE AND TO THE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION FOR CONSIDERATION. THE VIEWS OF THE SENATE ON THE PLANS SHALL BE FORWARDED TO THE PRESIDENT AND TO THE BOARD OF Trustees, and/or to such other body as may be required by state law or UNIVERSITY POLICY.

F. Making Adjustments in Academic Staffing Levels in Response to a Declared Major Financial Crisis.

Among the methods available to the organizational units of the university of adjusting academic staffing levels, for financially driven (short of financial exigency) program reduction short of program elimination, are:

- (A) VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT
- (B) VOLUNTARY PARTIAL RETIREMENT
- (C) VOLUNTARY EARLY RETIREMENT
- (D) VOLUNTARY RESIGNATION
- (E) VOLUNTARY REDUCTIONS IN FTE

- (F) SEVERANCE PAY
- (G) EXTENDED LEAVES
- (H) SALARY REDUCTIONS NOT TANTAMOUNT TO DISMISSALS
- (I) NOT FILLING EXISTING FACULTY VACANCIES
- (J) NOT FILLING VACANCIES RESULTING FROM RESIGNATION, RETIREMENT OR DEATH
- (K) Elimination of instructional positions occupied by teaching assistants/fellows, associate instructors, and auxiliary faculty

THIS LIST IS NOT INTENDED TO BE IN ANY ORDER OF PRIORITY, SINCE IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT PARTICULAR NEEDS AND PREFERENCES VARY AMONG ORGANIZATIONAL UNITS OF THE UNIVERSITY AND OVERTIME.

Unless financial exigency has been declared, tenured and tenure-track faculty members may not be terminated because of program reduction except when program discontinuance occurs.

In the event that a program or academic unit of the university is discontinued, then adjustments to academic staffing levels may be made according to the methods listed above, as well as those in Chapter VII, Section 6. Moreover, that Section, "Procedures Governing Terminations because of Bona Fide Program Discontinuance for Academic Reasons," will govern in the event of the termination of a tenured or tenure track faculty member.

G. Time Considerations.

Time considerations may be critical when the university must judge whether a major financial crisis exists, what its effects may be, and what the responses to it should be. When the president declares that a major financial crisis exists, he/she shall also determine the maximum amount of time available to the university for preparing a response or recommendation to the Board of Regents for such crisis and shall establish time periods for each step in the consultative process which afford the fullest time possible for each step. In that regard, the president shall use his best efforts to secure the fullest period of time possible for the consideration of these matters and the response thereto. (5)

APPROVED: ACADEMIC SENATE 5/3/99

APPROVED: BOARD OF TRUSTEES 5/17/99

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APPENDIX TO UNIVERSITY REGULATION CHAPTER VII (PPM 8-7)

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND TENURE COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

THE ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND TENURE COMMITTEE IS CHARGED BY UNIVERSITY AND FACULTY REGULATIONS WITH RESPONSIBILITY TO REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON MATTERS INVOLVING ACADEMIC FREEDOM. IT MAY INVESTIGATE, ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE OR AT THE REQUEST OF ANY MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY, INTO ANY MATTER WHICH THE COMMITTEE REASONABLY BELIEVES MAY INVOLVE VIOLATIONS OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM AT THE UNIVERSITY. UNIVERSITY REGULATION 8-7.

In the retention, promotion and tenure decision processes, the Committee is empowered to review allegations by a faculty member not recommended for retention, promotion or tenure that his or her academic freedom was violated. Faculty Regulation 9-2.2.

THE COMMITTEE IS THE HEARING BODY IN CASES OF DISMISSAL FOR CAUSE OR FOR MEDICAL REASONS. THE COMMITTEE ALSO REVIEWS THE FACTS AND ISSUES IN CASES OF TERMINATION OR REDUCTION IN STATUS BASED ON FINANCIAL EXIGENCY OR DISCONTINUANCE OF A PROGRAM. UNIVERSITY REGULATION 8-7; FACULTY REGULATION 9-5.4. THE COMMITTEE IS EMPOWERED TO REVIEW AND REPORT TO THE SENATE ON PROTESTED RESIGNATIONS AND PROPOSED DISMISSALS AND REMOVALS. ANY FACULTY MEMBER MAY REQUEST SUCH REVIEW. UNIVERSITY REGULATION 8-5. FACULTY REGULATION 9-5.4.

THE COMMITTEE IS EMPOWERED TO INVESTIGATE "GRIEVANCES" OF FACULTY MEMBERS (OTHER THAN MATTERS CONCERNING RETENTION, TENURE OR PROMOTION). THE POWER TO INVESTIGATE GRIEVANCES ON A COMPLAINT BY A FACULTY MEMBER ARISES AFTER THE FACULTY MEMBER HAS HAD THE MATTER REVIEWED BY THE APPROPRIATE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES. FACULTY REGULATION 9-5.4. THE REGULATION DOES NOT DEFINE GRIEVANCES. THE COMMITTEE INTERPRETS THE TERM TO MEAN AN ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE

CENTERING ON BOTH THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF FACULTY MEMBERS ENGAGED IN THE ACADEMIC PROCESSES OF TEACHING, RESEARCH, THINKING, AND THE COMMUNICATION OF THE PRODUCTS OF THESE PROCESSES; THE MAKING OF ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS; AND PARTICIPATION IN DEPARTMENTAL, COLLEGIAL AND UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE AS PROVIDED BY UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.

THE ACADEMIC SENATE MAY REFER ANY DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN FACULTY MEMBERS OR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY STAFF TO THE COMMITTEE FOR STUDY AND REPORT. UNIVERSITY REGULATION 8-5.

In addition to its power to investigate and review as referred to above, the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee is responsible for overseeing the Code of Faculty Responsibility, and with making recommendations to the Academic Senate on General Matters of Faculty Rights and responsibilities and the protection of Academic Freedom. Faculty Regulation 9-3. University Regulation 8-5. To perform the Latter task, the Committee is directed by university regulations to keep fully informed on issues and problems of Academic Freedom and Tenure in Higher Education and to inform the Senate on these matters in its annual report.

PROCEDURES

Dismissal proceedings will follow the procedures set forth in University Regulation 8-7. The procedures below will be followed in matters before the Committee on complaints alleging violations of academic freedom or other academic grievances. These procedures also apply to other essentially adversarial proceedings.

In performing its duties to inform itself and make recommendations to the Senate on General issue of academic freedom and tenure not related to specific cases, the Committee may rely on other means to determine and evaluate data.

A. DEFINITIONS

"Claimant" means the person(s) submitting a complaint to the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee.

"Complaint" means a signed, written statement that asserts a violation of academic freedom or other substantial academic grievance. An informal inquiry to the committee or a committee member will not be considered a complaint for purposes of these rules.

"DISPOSITION" MEANS DISPOSITION AFTER FORMAL OR INFORMAL HEARING AND DOES NOT INCLUDE DISMISSAL OF A COMPLAINT PRIOR TO HEARING.

"Respondent" means the person(s) against whom a complaint is made and other persons with an interest adverse to the claimant who, upon request to the committee, are permitted to participate as parties.

B. SUBMISSION OF COMPLAINTS

- I. ANY MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY MAY MAKE AN INFORMAL INQUIRY CONCERNING COMMITTEE POWERS AND PROCEDURES TO ANY MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE.
- 2. Any member of the university community may submit a complaint to the committee.
- 3. A COMPLAINT SHALL BE ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE; SHALL BE IN A SIGNED WRITING AND SHALL INFORMALLY AND CONCISELY EXPLAIN THE GROUNDS OF THE COMPLAINT AND NAME THE PERSONS COMPLAINED AGAINST. THE COMMITTEE MAY PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONS AND FORMS FOR FILING COMPLAINTS, WHICH INSTRUCTIONS AND FORMS SHALL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR AND PUBLISHED ELECTRONICALLY IN AN APPENDIX TO THE POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL. ALL PARTIES SHALL COMPLY WITH SUCH INSTRUCTIONS AND USE THE PROPER FORMS. COMPLAINTS ALLEGING ILLEGAL DISCRIMINATION, INCLUDING SEXUAL HARASSMENT, SHALL BE HANDLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH POLICY AND PROCEDURES NO. 2-32.
- 4(a). The committee will not usually hear a complaint if it determines that the claimant has not been directly or substantially affected by the matters of which he or she complains. Thus the committee will generally decline to hear complaints submitted on behalf of persons who have not joined in the complaint. After a complaint has been filed with the Committee, the chair shall consult with the chairs of the RPT Standards and Appeals Committee and the Faculty Hearing Committee, both ex officio members of the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee, to ascertain whether the dispute has been brought before either of those committees, in order to promote efficient resolution of all disputes.
- 4(B). Persons with an interest adverse to the claimant may request permission to participate as respondents. If the committee concludes that such interest is substantial, permission to participate will be granted unless the interest of the persons making the request is already being adequately represented and such participation would interfere with prompt and orderly consideration of the complaint.

C. Preliminary Procedures

- 5. The chairperson of the committee shall promptly notify each named respondent of the complaint. In notifying respondents, the chairperson shall include a copy of the complaint and a copy of these procedures. The chairperson may also notify other persons of the complaint if the chairperson believes they may wish to participate in the proceedings as respondents.
- 6. A COMPLAINT MAY BE DISMISSED BY THE COMMITTEE AT ANY TIME AFTER IT IS SUBMITTED UPON A DETERMINATION BY THE COMMITTEE OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:
 - A. THE COMPLAINT INVOLVES NEITHER A SUBSTANTIAL QUESTION OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM NOR A SUBSTANTIAL ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE.
 - B. THE MATTER COMPLAINED OF HAS BEEN RESOLVED TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE CLAIMANT.
 - C. THE CLAIMANT IS NOT DIRECTLY OR SUBSTANTIALLY AFFECTED BY THE MATTERS OF WHICH HE OR SHE COMPLAINS AND IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR THE COMMITTEE TO PROCEED WITH INVESTIGATION OF THE MATTER ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE.
- 7. The parties shall be given prompt written notice of the dismissal of a complaint. Dismissal shall not preclude the claimant from resubmitting a complaint on the same or related matters in the future.
- 8. The committee may postpone consideration of a complaint for a specified time or indefinitely if it determines any of the following:
 - A. Such postponement is in the interest of both the parties and the university and the parties consent thereto.
 - B. A DECISION ON THE SAME ISSUES AS THOSE ASSERTED IN THE COMPLAINT OR ON RELATED ISSUES IS PENDING BEFORE ANOTHER UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE OR OFFICIAL, OR OTHER FORUM WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE UNIVERSITY, AND DECISION BY SUCH OTHER COMMITTEE OFFICIAL OR OTHER FORUM WILL RENDER THE COMPLAINT MOOT OR PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO THE COMMITTEE IN RESOLVING THE ISSUES BEFORE IT.
 - C. THE CLAIMANT WILL NOT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY DELAY IN ANY SIGNIFICANT WAY AND THERE ARE STRONG REASONS TO CONCLUDE THAT PRESENT CONSIDERATION OF THE COMPLAINT IS PREMATURE.
- 9. The parties shall be given prompt written notice of the postponement of consideration of a complaint, such notice to state a time at which or after which the committee will consider the complaint. Notice of postponement shall state whether the committee will consider the

COMPLAINT AT THE LATER TIME ON ITS OWN MOTION OR WHETHER IT WILL CONSIDER THE COMPLAINT ONLY IF BROUGHT AGAIN TO THE COMMITTEE ON RESUBMISSION BY THE CLAIMANT.

D. HEARINGS

- IO. THE CHAIRPERSON OR THE COMMITTEE MAY DESIGNATE ONE OR MORE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE TO MAKE PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO THE COMPLAINT.
- II. A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY MAY BE CONDUCTED IN AN INFORMAL AND EXPEDITIOUS MANNER OF ANY PERSON OR PERSONS WHOM THE DESIGNATED MEMBER, THE CHAIRPERSON, OR THE COMMITTEE SUGGEST.
- 12. If the committee decides to hear a complaint, it shall indicate whether the hearing shall be conducted in a formal or informal manner according to these procedures. The claimant and respondent shall be informed of that choice. The committee is free to reverse its choice at any time upon notice to the claimant and respondent.
- 13. NEITHER FORMAL NOR INFORMAL HEARINGS SHALL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC OR TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY; HOWEVER, ON REQUEST OF A CLAIMANT OR RESPONDENT, THE COMMITTEE MAY PERMIT NOT MORE THAN TWO OBSERVERS NOMINATED BY THE REQUESTING PARTY. AN OBSERVER SHALL NOT BE A PARTICIPANT IN THE HEARING AND SHALL NOT BE RECOGNIZED TO SPEAK AT ANY HEARING.
- 14. Any interference with the orderly or careful consideration by the committee at a hearing shall result in the immediate adjournment of the hearing by the chairperson. The chairperson then may meet with persons causing a disruption and, if necessary, condition their return to the hearing upon assurance of no further disruption.
- 15. The claimant and respondent have a right, unless waived, to appear at and participate in any hearing which investigates a complaint. No person other than committee members may appear at or participate in committee deliberations upon a complaint.
- 16. The committee will determine which persons it wishes to interview at any hearing, after consultation with the parties and with due regard for the need both to proceed expeditiously and to assure full and fair consideration of the claims of the parties. Whenever possible, advance notice of witnesses to be interviewed will be given to all parties.
- 17. ALL MATERIALS SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY A PARTY OR OTHERWISE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL PARTIES PRIOR TO THE MEETING AT WHICH THEY ARE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE. FOR GOOD CAUSE, HOWEVER, THE COMMITTEE MAY ALLOW A PARTY TO SUBMIT WRITINGS OR DOCUMENTS NOT PREVIOUSLY MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE OR OTHER PARTIES.

- 18. THE CLAIMANT SHALL BEAR THE BURDEN OF PERSUADING THE COMMITTEE OF THE PROBABLE ACCURACY OF THE COMPLAINT.
- 19. The committee shall act by majority vote of a quorum of the committee. A quorum shall be at least 60% of the eligible members. For purposes of this computation, eligible members do not include members who are physically disabled from attending, are on formal leave, or who have recused themselves from hearing the particular matter. The secretary shall record the persons present at any committee hearing and the results of a vote upon any issue. The secretary shall identify the committee member casting a vote whenever so requested by the voting member. No proxy voting or absentee voting shall be permitted.

INFORMAL HEARING

- 20. An informal hearing shall be conducted by discussion in any manner which appears to the committee to promote an orderly and clear understanding of the questions raised in the complaint.
- 21. The contents of an informal hearing shall be recorded by the secretary of the committee in summary fashion. A tape recorder may be used at the hearing to assist in preparing such summary.

FORMAL HEARING

- 22. A FORMAL HEARING SHALL BE RECORDED BY SUITABLE AUDIO TAPE RECORDING DEVICE, AND THE TAPES SHALL REMAIN IN THE POSSESSION OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE AT ALL TIMES.
- 23. The tapes may be erased or destroyed a reasonable period of time after disposition of the complaint and any other action relating to the complaint within or without the university. The chairperson shall first give written notice to the claimant and respondent of intent to erase or destroy the tapes.
- 24. The claimant shall proceed first with the presentation of evidence which may include calling witnesses. When the claimant has concluded with the evidence he or she wishes to present, the respondent may present evidence which may include the calling of witnesses. Any witness called by a party shall be subject to questioning by the opposing party and by members of the committee as well as by the party calling the witnesses. The committee may also call witnesses or submit evidence on its own motion. Witnesses called by the committee may be questioned by the claimant and the respondent as well as by members of the committee.
- 25. CLAIMANT AND RESPONDENT SHALL EACH HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE REPRESENTED AND COUNSELED BY

ANYONE OF HIS OR HER CHOICE, BUT AT HIS OR HER OWN EXPENSE. REPRESENTATION MAY BE BOTH LEGAL AND ACADEMIC COUNSEL. PRIOR TO THE INITIAL MEETING OF ANY FORMAL HEARING, THE CHAIRPERSON SHALL INFORM THE CLAIMANT AND RESPONDENT OF THE RIGHT TO REPRESENTATION.

E. DISPOSITION

- 26. As soon as practicable after the conclusion of a hearing, the committee shall meet to reach a disposition of the complaint.
- 27. A DISPOSITION SHALL BE IN WRITING AND SHALL PROVIDE A CONCISE STATEMENT OF THE FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS WHICH UNDERLIE THE DISPOSITION.
- 28. Copies of the disposition shall be sent to the claimant and respondent, and, if applicable, their representatives. Copies of the disposition shall also be sent to the president of the university and the Academic Senate
- 29. THE COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS BY MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE ACADEMIC SENATE. THE COMMITTEE HAS NO POWER TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS, TO DIRECT ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY ANYONE OR OTHERWISE TO ENFORCE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

ADOPTED BY ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND TENURE COMMITTEE, MARCH 15, 1979.

AMENDED 5/10/83 BY ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND TENURE COMMITTEE

- 1. Approved by the Academic Senate 10/3/88 and by the Institutional Council 10/10/88.
- 2. Sections 5 through 9 were approved by the Academic Senate on 1/8/90 and the Institutional Council on 3/12/90.
- 3. ADDED BY ACTION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE ON OCT. 3, 1988.
- 4. LANGUAGE RESTORED BY ACTION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE ON OCT. 3, 1988.
- 5. Approved by the Academic Senate 10/3/88 and by the Institutional Council 10/10/88.