

Policy 6-303: Reviews of Tenure-Line Faculty Members (RPT Criteria, Standards and Procedures). Revision 23. Effective Date July 1, 2017

I. Purpose and Scope

To establish criteria, standards, and procedures for reviews of tenure-line faculty members for purposes of retention, promotion, and tenure decisions (RPT). To implement policies of the Utah State Board of Regents regarding such reviews, including [Regents Policy R4811, Academic Freedom, Professional Responsibility, Tenure, Termination, and Post-Tenure Review.] To establish departmental retention, promotion, and tenure advisory committees and describe their functions. To describe certain functions of the Senate Faculty Review Standards Committee, the University Promotion and Tenure Advisory Committee, the Senate Consolidated Hearing Committee, and the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Faculty Rights, and functions of University officers (department chairpersons, deans, cognizant vice presidents, and the President, as related to retention, promotion, and tenure reviews.

This Policy governs performance review processes for all faculty members appointed to any tenure-line faculty position in any academic unit of the University (except processes for periodic post-tenure reviews of tenured faculty, which are governed by Policy 6-321). The rights associated with the status of retention in a tenure-track position, or holding a tenured position, are described in other University Regulations, including Policy 6-311. Review processes for faculty members appointed to career-line, adjunct or visiting faculty category positions (as described in Policy 6-300), or for persons in non-faculty academic employee positions (as described in Policy 6-309), are separately governed by [Policy 6-310]. Review processes for persons holding any special "named position" such as an endowed chair are separately governed by [Policy 9-003: Endowed Chairs].

(EndNote 1: *Adaptation for variations in organizational structure.*)

(EndNote 2: *Adaptation for The University of Utah Libraries.*)

II. Definitions

- A. The faculty categories of "*tenure-line*," "*tenure-track*," and "*tenured*," are defined for purposes of this Policy as described in [Policy 6-300](#): The University Faculty--Categories and Ranks.
- B. The faculty appointment status of "*tenure*" is defined for purposes of this Policy as described in [Policy 6-311](#): Faculty Retention and Tenure.
- C. The academic units of "*academic department*," "*academic college*," and "*interdisciplinary academic program*," are defined for purposes of this Policy as described in [Policy 6-001](#): Academic Units and Academic Governance.

III. Policy: Reviews of Tenure-line Faculty Members (RPT)

Overview: This Policy governs the criteria, standards, evidence and procedures for certain types of reviews of tenure-line faculty members both pre-tenure and post-tenure. Parts III-A to III-J govern reviews conducted during the pre-tenure probationary period leading up to the granting of tenure, and also any reviews for purposes of promotion in rank conducted after granting of tenure. Part III-K governs reviews for granting of tenure at the time of initial appointment. Regular periodic post-tenure reviews of tenured faculty members (other than reviews for the purpose of granting a promotion in rank) are governed by separate Policy 6-321.

A. Retention, promotion, and tenure (RPT) reviews

1. Purpose

- a. Retention. A probationary period is normally required for all individuals appointed to tenure-track faculty positions prior to the granting of tenure. Annual reviews shall be scheduled during this probationary period to

evaluate the academic performance of non-tenured individuals, to provide constructive feedback on their academic progress, to retain those who meet the applicable standards for retention, and to terminate the appointment of those who do not meet the standards of the department and the expectations of the University during the probationary period after their initial appointments. (See University [Policy 6-311](#), and Board of [Regents Policy R481](#) regarding termination of appointment, notice of termination, and the terminal appointment period.)

- b. Promotion. Promotion in rank is the acknowledgment by the University of continuing and increasing professional competence and responsibility in teaching, research and creative work, and University and public service.
- c. Tenure. Granting tenure implies a commitment by the University to defend faculty members' academic freedom. Likewise, faculty members who are granted tenure make an equally strong commitment to serve their students, their colleagues, their discipline, and the University in a manner befitting a responsible academic person. (See [Policy 6-311](#).) Granting tenure is regarded as the University's most critical personnel decision. Except for extraordinary instances, when specific and persuasive justification is provided, tenure will not be granted to faculty members prior to their advancement to the rank of associate professor. It is therefore imperative, before such commitments are made, that a responsible screening process be followed to ensure that the most highly qualified candidates available are granted tenure.

2. Criteria, Standards, Evidence and Procedures (RPT)

- a. Development and approval of statements of RPT criteria, standards, evidence, and procedures ("RPT Statements").
 - i. Each department (or college) shall formulate and when appropriate revise a Statement of criteria, standards, evidence and procedures to

be used in retention, promotion, and tenure ("RPT") reviews. These RPT Statements shall address the qualifications of candidates with respect to the primary criteria areas of (1) teaching, (2) research and other creative activity, and (3) University, professional, and public service. These Statements shall be consistent with applicable provisions of University Regulations, especially including Policies 6-303, [6-311](#) (Retention and Tenure), and [6-316](#) (Code of Faculty Rights and Responsibilities), as well as professional codes if appropriate, and with the purpose of the University of Utah as stated in Chapter 1, Section 1, of the State Higher Education System Regulations. The Statements shall include the rationale for the criteria and standards, and a description of evidence to be used in assessing performance relative to selected standards for each criterion. The Statements shall include a description of departmental procedures which are required by University Regulations (or instead provide specific references to the pertinent provisions of those Regulations), and a description of departmentally selected procedures on which University Regulations permit departmental variation, such as the selection of either a six-year or seven-year normal probationary period, and number and scheduling of mid-probationary formal retention reviews (Part III-A-3), timing of eligibility for post-tenure review for further promotion in rank (Part III-B-2-d), the procedures for informal reviews (Part III-B-1-a) any rules for allowing non-voting faculty participants in meetings of the departmental RPT advisory committee (Parts III-E-1 and III-K-1), any requirement of external evaluations for reviews other than tenure or promotion reviews (Part III-B-2), procedures for selecting a set of external evaluators (Part III-D-9), and any procedures for assigning to individuals or special committees specified responsibilities within RPT proceedings (e.g., mentoring, peer reviews of teaching, file preparation, file review, or preparation of reports). Each revision of a Statement shall specify the date on which its requirements become effective for all newly

appointed candidates, and describe any delay period ('grandfathering') or consent procedure for making changed requirements applicable for reviews of existing faculty members.

- ii. Each Statement and any revision of a Statement must be approved by majority vote of the tenure-line faculty of the department, the dean, and jointly finally approved by the cognizant senior vice president and the Senate Faculty Review Standards Committee. Two or more departments within a multi-department college may jointly adopt a single RPT Statement, and in such cases the required approval of the faculty shall be by majority vote within the tenure-line faculty of each joining department. If all departments within the college so join, the Statement shall be treated as a "college-wide RPT Statement," operative within all of the departments. In its role in approving RPT Statements, the Senate Faculty Review Standards Committee acts as delegee of the authority of Academic Senate, pursuant to [Policy 6-002-III-D-1-k](#), and in accord with that Policy the Committee, in consultation with the cognizant vice president, may establish a regular schedule for reexamination and revision of RPT Statements, initiate reviews of Statements on its own initiative or in response to requests from faculty members or administrators, prepare guidance materials for use in developing and approving Statements, and otherwise assist departments with development of Statements, including by identifying and sharing best practices developed by other departments.
- iii. An RPT Statement fully approved becomes the governing Statement for that department until replaced by a fully-approved revised version. The department chairperson shall make contents of the current governing Statement available to all tenure-line faculty members. Pertinent contents of the governing Statement shall be provided to all committees and individuals participating in RPT proceedings and all committees or individuals making any recommendation or decision in

an RPT proceeding shall do so consistent with the governing University Regulations and the substantive criteria, standards and evidence set forth in the governing RPT Statement.

b. Criteria and evidence.

- i. The primary *criteria* of teaching, research/creative activity, and service shall be assessed for retention, promotion, and tenure in terms of standards incorporating both the quantity and quality of work achieved. Departmental RPT Statements shall identify types of *evidence* to be used as means of assessing quantity and quality appropriate to the discipline or profession.
- ii. Any departmental expectation of accomplishment of or potential for obtaining external funding support (and the rationale for imposing such expectation) shall be described with particularity in the departmental statement.
- iii. In carrying out their duties in teaching, research/other creative activity and service, faculty members are expected to demonstrate the ability and willingness to perform as responsible members of the faculty, as defined in the Code of Faculty Rights and Responsibilities ([Policy 6-316](#)). Assessments of teaching, research/other creative activity and service may consider the candidate's conduct as a responsible member of the faculty.

c. Standards. Insistence upon the highest attainable standards for faculty members is essential for the maintenance of the quality of the University as an institution dedicated to the discovery as well as the assimilation and transmission of knowledge. Departmental RPT Statements and the decisions based upon them shall emphasize the University's commitment to the achievement and maintenance of academic excellence.

- i. Teaching and research/other creative activity. For granting of tenure, it is indispensable that there be a cumulative record demonstrating sustained effectiveness in each of the two areas of teaching and research/other creative activity, and additionally, excellence in a combination of those areas. This set of requirements may be met through articulation and application of departmental standards that require either (i) effectiveness in one area and excellence in the other, or (ii) effectiveness in each area and combined achievements in the two areas that taken overall constitute excellence. Departments shall select, clearly articulate, and apply the selected standards in a manner that is appropriate to the characteristics and standards of the discipline and the intended roles of faculty members within the department. A department may select standards higher than these minimum requirements if clearly described in the departmental RPT Statement. For retention during the probationary period, the record for the two areas must demonstrate reasonable potential for meeting the standards established for tenure. For promotion in rank, the record for the two areas must demonstrate continuing professional growth at a level appropriate to the particular rank. Departmental RPT Statements shall clearly describe the standards applicable for each rank.
- ii. University, professional, and public service. Recognition shall be accorded faculty members for the quality and extent of their public service. Demonstration of effective service at a level appropriate to rank is essential for retention, promotion, and tenure. A department may select higher standards if clearly described in the departmental RPT Statement.
- d. Prior accomplishments. Candidates in a tenure-line faculty appointment may have accomplishments achieved prior to their probationary period at the University of Utah be considered as relevant to the demonstration of their achievement of the applicable RPT criteria and standards. Prior

accomplishments, such as research publications or teaching experience, shall not substitute for a continuing record of accomplishments during the probationary period at the University of Utah. The burden is on the candidate to demonstrate that these achievements satisfy the RPT criteria and standards. (For evaluation process, see [Policy 6-311-III-Section 4-C-1.](#))

[User note: In Revision 21 of this Policy, the existing description of the voting membership and chairperson of the departmental RPT Advisory Committee which previously appeared in Part III-A-3 was moved to Part III-E-1 below (to be incorporated with the description of the actions of the Committee). And the summary descriptions of the RPT pre-tenure probationary period and procedures for changing the length of a probationary period (details of which are governed by other Policies) were added into Policy 6-303-III-A-3, to better guide departments in formulating RPT Statements and better inform RPT candidates regarding those important topics.]

3. RPT pre-tenure probationary period and schedule of reviews.

As more fully described in and governed by the following cited Policies:

- a. The normal pre-tenure probationary period, (i) for candidates initially appointed at the rank of Assistant Professor or Instructor is seven years (unless the department within the approved RPT Statement has adopted the alternative of six years), and (ii) for candidates initially appointed at the rank of Professor or Associate Professor is five years. ([Policy 6-311-III-Section 4-B](#))
- b. There shall be (i) a final formal review for tenure during the final year of the probationary period, (ii) normally either one or two mid-probationary-period formal reviews for retention (with the number and normal

scheduling to be specified in the approved RPT Statement), and (iii) informal reviews in all other years. (Part-III-B below)

- c. The probationary period length (and accordingly the schedule of formal reviews) for a particular candidate may be varied on the grounds and through the procedures prescribed regarding (i) shortening based on "credit for prior service" or "extraordinary progress toward tenure" ([Policy 6-311-III-Section 4-C-1](#)), or (ii) extending, based on "leave of absence," "effect of administrative assignments," or "extraordinary circumstances" ([Policy 6-311-III-Section 4-C-2](#)), or under the terms of other relevant Regulations, including those regarding Faculty Parental Benefits ([Policy 6-315](#), [Policy 8-002](#)) or Part Time Status ([Policy 6-320](#)).

B. Informal or Formal Reviews.

All tenure-track faculty members shall be reviewed annually to assess their achievement in teaching, research/other creative activity, responsibility, and service. Informal annual reviews are required in each year in which a formal review is not held. More extensive, formal reviews are required for mid-probationary retention reviews; final probationary year reviews (consideration for tenure); consideration for termination at any point in the probationary period (such as triggered reviews); and promotion decisions. (A chart of the timing and review requirements is set forth below at [Policy 6-303-III-D-12](#))

1. Informal reviews. Informal reviews must minimally include 1) a face to face meeting between the candidate and the department chair (or a designee, as per department rules) to discuss the candidate's progress based on the file; 2) involvement, determined by the department, from the RPT advisory committee (and academic program if relevant); and, 3) a written report to be made available to the candidate, the members of the RPT advisory committee and the department chair.

- a. Procedures. The department RPT Statement must prescribe specific requirements for informal reviews. Minimally, it must state the required documentation and who provides it, procedures for preparing and distributing the written report, the nature of the involvement by the RPT advisory committee (and interdisciplinary academic program if relevant), procedures and criteria for appointment of a chair's designee, if any, and the timetable for the annual reviews. Departments may elect to include in their Statements more extensive review procedures than the minimum required. Procedures for first-year reviews shall be described separately if differing (typically less extensive) from informal reviews of later years.
 - b. Actions after the report. Candidates shall have the opportunity to make a written response to the report. The report and the response, if any, are then filed in the candidate's cumulative file with a copy of each sent to the dean. The informal review concludes at this point.
 - c. Triggering formal retention reviews. If a tenure-track faculty member does not demonstrate clearly adequate progress to the reviewers in an informal review, the department chair or department RPT advisory committee in consultation with the reviewers may trigger a formal RPT review after giving the candidate written notice of such a review and its timing. The formal RPT review may proceed either in the following year or as soon as the file is completed (including the solicitation and receipt of external evaluation letters if applicable) but no sooner than 30 days after written notice of the review is provided to the candidate.
2. Formal reviews. Formal reviews must provide a substantive assessment of the candidate's research or other creative activity, teaching and service to date. Formal reviews require a vote of the full RPT advisory committee. External evaluations, as discussed below ([Policy 6-303-III-D-9](#)), are required for tenure and promotion reviews. Departments, through departmental RPT Statements, may also mandate external evaluations for mid-probationary

and/or triggered reviews. When such external evaluations are not mandated, candidates still retain the right to have external letters solicited unless quality of research or creative activity is not an issue in the review (e.g., a triggered review focused solely on teaching) and provided that such request is made before the review commences.

- a. Mid-probationary retention reviews. All tenure-track faculty members shall have at least one formal, mid-probationary review in their third or fourth year, as determined by departmental rules. Department RPT Statements must prescribe the number of reviews and the year(s) in which they occur.
- b. "Triggered" reviews. The results of an informal review may "trigger" a formal review earlier than ordinarily prescribed by departmental rule if an informal review has demonstrated inadequate performance or progress, as described in [Policy 6-303](#)-III-B-1-c above.
- c. Tenure. Tenure-track faculty members must be reviewed for tenure by the final year of their probationary period. As summarized in Part III-A-3 above (and directly governed by [Policy 6-311](#)-III-Section-4):
 - i. Deadline for tenure review. The final year is the fifth year for candidates appointed at the ranks of associate professor or professor and the seventh year for those appointed at the rank of assistant professor (unless the department has established, through its RPT Statement, a six year probationary period for assistant professors).
 - ii. Request for earlier review. Within limits specified by the departmental RPT Statement and [Policy 6-311](#), candidates may request a review for tenure earlier than the year of the mandatory review.
- d. Promotion in rank.
 - i. Timing for tenure-track faculty. Tenure-track faculty members are usually reviewed for promotion to a higher rank concurrently with their

tenure reviews. Under unusual circumstances, tenure-track faculty members may request a review for promotion earlier than the year of the mandatory tenure review.

- ii. Timing for tenured faculty. Tenured faculty members may request a review for promotion within limits specified by the departmental RPT Statement.

C. Notice to involved individuals (RPT procedures).

1. Notice to candidate. Each candidate for retention, promotion, or tenure shall be given at least 30 days advance notice of the department RPT advisory committee meeting and an opportunity to submit any information the candidate desires the committee to consider.
2. Notice to department faculty and staff. At least three weeks prior to the convening of the departmental RPT advisory committee, the department chairperson shall invite any interested faculty and staff members in the department to submit written recommendations for the file of each candidate to be considered, stating as specifically as possible the reasons for each recommendation.
3. Notice to student advisory committee. Prior to the convening of the departmental RPT advisory committee, the department chairperson shall notify the college's representative to the Student Senate and the department student advisory committee(s) (SACs) of the upcoming review and request that the department SAC(s) submit a written report evaluating teaching effectiveness and making RPT recommendations as appropriate with respect to each candidate to be considered, stating as specifically as possible the reasons for each recommendation. The SAC evaluation and report should be based on guiding principles approved by the Senate Faculty Review Standards Committee and provided to the SAC by the department chairperson. The SAC shall be given at least three weeks to prepare its

- report, but upon failure to report after such notification and attempts by the department chairperson to obtain the reports, the SAC's recommendations shall be deemed conclusively waived and their absence shall not thereafter be cause for complaint by faculty members appealing an adverse decision.
4. Notice to interdisciplinary academic program. When a candidate for retention, tenure or promotion in a department is also a member of an interdisciplinary academic program through a shared-appointment agreement with the department (as described in [Policy 6-001-III-A](#)), the department chairperson shall notify the chair/director of the academic program of the action to be considered at the same time that the faculty candidate is notified. Academic program faculty as defined by an approved RPT Statement of Procedures established by the program (and not participating in the departmental review committee) shall meet to make a written recommendation which shall be sent to the department chair in a timely manner.

D. Candidate's file (RPT Procedures).

Proper preparation and completeness of each candidate's file are essential for the uninterrupted progress of a RPT review through all the stages of the review process. Required components and their timing are identified in the table below in [Policy 6-303- III-D-12](#).

1. Structure of the file. The file is envisioned as a notebook in the department office, which is growing throughout a faculty member's probationary period at the University. However, a physical notebook is not the only method allowable - for example an electronic file or other format may be used alone or as a supplement. The file shall be cumulative and kept current as described in the following sections.
2. Curriculum vitae. The candidate's file is expected to provide a current and complete curriculum vitae (CV), which is organized in a clear and coherent manner, with appropriate dates of various items and logical groupings or

- categories related to the department's RPT criteria. The CV should be updated annually, but not during the course of a given year's review. During a review, new accomplishments may be reported and documented as a part of any of the reports or responses in the regular process.
3. Evidence for research/creative activity and evidence for teaching.
 - a. The candidate is expected to provide evidence for review of research and other creative activity, updated annually, consistent with the department's description of evidence considered appropriate for this criterion, as provided in the RPT Statement.
 - b. The RPT Statement shall describe the types of evidence to be included in the file appropriate for evaluation regarding the criterion of teaching. These shall include multiple indicators of quality of teaching, consistent with the University's commitment to "assess its courses and instruction in multiple ways" ([Policy 6-100-III-N](#)). In addition to the minimum requirements of (i) course evaluation results, developed using the University's approved "Course Feedback Instrument and Report" pursuant to [Policy 6-100-III-N](#) (and filed per Part III-D-4 below), and (ii) SAC report (developed and filed per Part III-C-3 and D-7), the types of evidence should ordinarily include (iii) assessments from peer observations and analyses of teaching and teaching materials conducted by peer observers qualified by experience and familiarity with the methods of teaching and subjects appropriate for the discipline and department. The Senate Faculty Review Standards Committee and office of the cognizant vice president advise and guide departments regarding best practices for methods of assessing teaching quality, to be incorporated in the approved RPT Statements in keeping with the University's commitment to high quality education.
 4. Past reviews and recommendations. The department chair shall include the recommendations from all previous reports submitted by all voting levels in

- formal reviews, i.e. SAC, department and college RPT advisory committees, letters from chairs, deans, vice presidents, the president and recommendation from UPTAC (if present), and teaching evaluations and letters or reports from all informal reviews. The past reviews and recommendations in a file for a post-tenure review for promotion to Professor shall include the candidate's vita at the time of the previous promotion (or at appointment if hired as Associate Professor), all reports and recommendations from tenured faculty reviews, and teaching evaluation summaries since the previous promotion (or appointment). If that promotion or appointment was more than five years earlier, teaching evaluation summaries should be included for at least the most recent five years. (See [Policy 6-100-III-N](#) regarding the "Course Feedback Instrument and Report forms" approved by the Academic Senate for use in development of teaching/course evaluation summaries the chairperson shall include in the candidate's file.)
5. Evidence of faculty responsibility. Letters of administrative reprimand and the latest findings, decisions, or recommendations from University committees or officials, arising from relevant concerns about the faculty member should also be included in the candidate's file.
 6. Recommendation from academic program. In the event that an interdisciplinary academic program with which the department has a shared-appointment agreement regarding the candidate produces a recommendation as under [this [Policy 6-303-III-C-4](#)], the department chairperson shall include the recommendation in the candidate's file before the department faculty RPT advisory committee meets to consider the case.
 7. Recommendation from the department student advisory committee. If the department SAC produces a recommendation as under [Policy 6-303-III-C-3](#), the recommendation shall be placed in the candidate's file by the department chairperson before the department RPT advisory committee meets to consider the case.

8. Other written statements. Any other written statements - from the candidate, faculty members in the department, the department chairperson, the college dean, staff, or interested individuals--which are intended to provide information or data of consequence for the formal review of the candidate, must be placed in the file by the department chairperson before the department faculty RPT advisory committee meets to consider the case.
9. External evaluations. The purpose of external evaluations is to provide an objective assessment of the quality of the candidate's work and its impact on the academic and/or professional community at large. Along with the actual review, the external evaluator should describe his/her qualifications and relationship to the candidate. The department chairperson should make sure that any letters of evaluation from outside the department are requested early enough for the letters to arrive and be included in the candidate's file before the program and department RPT advisory committee meetings. Before external letters of evaluation are requested, the faculty member being reviewed shall be presented with a departmentally prepared form containing the following statements and signature lines:

I waive my right to see the external letters of evaluation obtained from outside the department for my retention/ promotion/tenure review.

signature date

I retain my right to read the external evaluation obtained from outside the department for my retention/promotion/ tenure review.

signature date

That form, with the candidate's signature below the statement preferred by the candidate, shall be included in the candidate's review file. When the candidate reserves the right to read the external letters of evaluation, respondents shall be informed in writing that their letters may be seen by the faculty member being reviewed.

10. Candidate's rights. Candidates are entitled to see their review file upon request at any time during the review process, except for confidential letters of evaluation solicited from outside the department if the candidate has waived the right to see them. If a candidate wishes to comment on, or to take exception to, any item in his/her initial formal review file, the candidate's written comment or exception must be added to the file before the department RPT advisory committee meeting is held.

11. Review of file. The candidate's file shall be made available to those eligible to attend the departmental RPT advisory committee meeting a reasonable time before the meeting, which may be specified in the department RPT Statement.

12. Table of Minimum University Requirements for Reviews.

Type	Retention			Tenure	Promotion to Associate or “full” Professor”
Category	Informal	Formal	Formal	Formal	Formal
When	Annual	Triggered –b,c	Mid-Probationary	End of Probation, or see U-Policy 6-311	Typically end of probation or when meets department standards
Involved Parties:					

External reviewers	No	As per departmental rule-a	As per departmental rule-a	Yes	Yes
Academic Program, if appropriate	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
SAC	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Department RPT	Representation-d	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Department chair-f	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
College RPT	No			Yes	Yes
Dean	Receives Report	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Candidate includes in file: (minimum requirements)					
Curriculum Vitae	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Department includes in file: (minimum requirements)					
SAC report	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
External Letters (could be internal to University but external to department)	No	As per departmental rule-a	As per departmental rule-a	Yes	Yes
Past Reviews and Recommendations-e	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Academic program report	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Comments from others	Optional	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Student Course Evaluations	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
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- a. Candidates retain the right to have external letters be solicited in a formal review if quality of research or creative activity is an issue in the review. See [Policy 6-303-III-D-9](#) above.
 - b. This triggered review may occur in the same year as the review or in the subsequent year.
 - c. The required components for triggered and mid-probationary reviews may be identical or different, as determined by department rule.
 - d. This representation occurs through the type of involvement set forth in departmental rule. See [Policy 6-303- III-B-1](#) above.
 - e. Reports from all voting levels in all RPT reviews and letters or reports from all annual reviews. [Policy 6-303- III-D-4](#)
 - f. A designee may be used for informal reviews in large departments' reviews as noted in [Policy 6-303-III-B-1](#).
- E. Action by the department retention, promotion, and tenure advisory committee (RPT Procedures).
- 1. Meetings, membership, and chairperson of the departmental RPT Advisory Committee. The department chairperson shall call a meeting of the departmental RPT advisory committee to conduct reviews.
 - a. Committee voting membership:
 - i. Retention. In each department all tenured faculty members, regardless of rank, are eligible to participate in the consideration of and to vote on recommendations in individual cases on matters of retention. Other faculty members may participate in the consideration of candidates for retention if allowed by department rules, but may not vote.

- ii. Promotion. In each department all tenure-line faculty members of equal or higher rank than that proposed for the candidate for promotion are eligible to participate in the consideration of and to vote on recommendations in individual cases on matters of promotion. Other faculty members may participate in the consideration of candidates for promotion if allowed by department rules, but may not vote.
 - iii. Tenure. In each department all tenured faculty members, regardless of rank, are eligible to participate in the consideration of and to vote on recommendations in individual cases on matters of tenure. Other faculty members may participate in the consideration of candidates for tenure if allowed by department rules, but may not vote.
 - iv. Small academic unit rule. Any department (or division) advisory committee making a formal RPT recommendation must include at least three members eligible to vote by tenure status and rank. If the unit does not have at least three eligible members, the department (or division) chairperson must recommend to the dean one or more faculty members with the appropriate tenure status and rank and with some knowledge of the candidate's field from other units of the University of Utah or from appropriate emeritus faculty. In advance of the chairperson's contacting such faculty members, the chairperson shall notify the candidate of the potential persons to be asked, and the candidate must be offered the opportunity to comment in writing on the suitability of the potential committee members. The final selection rests with the dean.
 - v. Single vote rule. No individual may cast a vote in the same academic year in any candidate's case in more than one capacity (e.g., as member of both department and interdisciplinary academic program, as member of both department and college advisory committees, as member of both department and administration).
- b. Chairperson. The chairperson of the department RPT advisory committee shall be elected annually from the tenured members of the department or,

in the School of Medicine only, the chairperson may also be elected from the department's career-line faculty members with the rank of Associate Professor or Professor. In this election all tenure-line faculty members of the rank of professor, associate professor, assistant professor, and instructor shall be entitled to vote. The department chairperson is not eligible to chair this committee.

2. Committee secretary. A secretary of each meeting shall be designated by the chairperson of the department RPT advisory committee and shall take notes of the discussion to provide the basis for developing a summary.
3. Quorum. A. quorum of a department advisory committee for any given case shall consist of two-thirds of its members except that any member unable to attend the meeting because of formal leave of absence or physical disability shall not be counted in determining the number required for a quorum.
4. Absentee voting. Whenever practicable, the department chairperson shall advise all members on leave or otherwise absent of the proposed action and shall request their written opinions and votes. Absent members' written opinions shall be disclosed at the meeting and their votes will be counted the same as other votes. Absentee votes must be received prior to the meeting at which a vote is taken by the department advisory committee.
5. Limitations on participation and voting. Department chairpersons, deans, and other administrative officials who are required by the regulations to make their own recommendations in an administrative capacity may attend and, upon invitation by majority vote of the committee, may submit evidence, judgments, and opinions, or participate in discussion. By majority vote the committee may move to executive session, from which nonvoting participants may be excluded. Under the single-vote rule (Part III-E-1-a above), department chairpersons, deans, and other administrative officials who cast RPT votes in their administrative capacities shall not vote at the department level.
6. Committee report. After due consideration, a vote shall be taken on each candidate for retention, promotion, or tenure, with a separate vote taken on each proposed action for each candidate. The secretary shall make a record

- of the vote and shall prepare a summary of the meeting which shall include the substance of the discussion and also the findings and recommendations of the department advisory committee. If a candidate is also a member of an interdisciplinary academic program through a shared-appointment agreement and per [Part III-C-4 above] the program produces a recommendation, the department advisory committee report shall reflect the department's discussion and consideration of the report and recommendation of the academic program.
7. Approval of the committee report. This summary report of the meeting, signed by the secretary and bearing the written approval of the committee chairperson, shall be made available for inspection by the committee members. After allowing an inspection period of not less than two business days nor more than five business days, and after such modification as the committee approves, the secretary shall forward the summary report to the department chairperson and the candidate, along with a list of all faculty members present at the meeting.
 8. Confidentiality. All committee votes and deliberations are personnel actions and should be treated with confidentiality in accordance with policy and law.
- F. Action by department chairperson (RPT procedures)
1. Recommendations. After studying the entire file relating to each candidate, the department chairperson shall prepare his/her written recommendation to be included in the file on the retention, promotion, or tenure of each candidate, including specific reasons for the recommendation.
 2. Notice to faculty member. Prior to forwarding the file, the department chairperson shall send an exact copy of the chairperson's evaluation of each faculty member to that faculty member.
 3. Candidate's right to respond. The candidate shall have the opportunity at this time, but not the obligation, to add a written statement to his/her formal review file in response to the summary report of the department RPT advisory committee and/or the evaluation of the department chairperson. Written notice of this option shall be included with the copy of the chairperson's

evaluation, which is sent to the candidate. If the candidate chooses to add such a statement to the file, that statement must be submitted to the department chairperson within seven business days, except in extenuating circumstances, of the date upon which the chairperson's evaluation is delivered to the candidate. If the candidate submits a written statement to the department chairperson within this time limit, the candidate's statement shall be added to the review file without comment by the chairperson.

4. Forwarding files. The department chairperson shall then forward the entire file for each individual to the dean of the college.

G. Action by dean and college advisory committee (RPT procedures)

1. Referral of cases to the college advisory committee / membership of committee. Each college shall establish a college RPT advisory committee and define its membership. The definition of membership shall specify whether there must be representation from all or fewer than all departments within the college, and whether or in what way representatives from a department are to participate or not participate in matters involving candidates from the representatives' departments, consistent with [Part III-E-1-a of this Policy] (single vote rule). The definition of membership shall be included in the charter of the college council (governed by [Policy 6-003](#)), or may be included in a college-wide RPT Statement (described in part III-A-2 of this Policy).
 - a. Retention. The dean at his/her discretion may request the college advisory committee to review and submit recommendations on any candidate for retention. However, if termination of a candidate is recommended by the SAC, or the department advisory committee, or the department chairperson, the dean shall transmit the entire file on that candidate to the college advisory committee.
 - b. Promotion or tenure. The dean shall forward the entire file on all cases dealing with promotion or tenure to the college advisory committee.

- c. Attendance and participation at meetings. Neither the dean nor the chairperson of the department concerned shall attend or participate in the deliberations of the college committee except by invitation of the committee.
 - d. Recommendations of the college advisory committee. The college advisory committee shall review the file of each case referred to it and shall determine if the department reasonably applied its written criteria, standards and procedures to each case. The college committee shall make its recommendations on an individual's retention, promotion, or tenure, based upon its assessment whether the department's recommendations are supported by the evidence presented. The college committee shall use the department's criteria and standards (or college criteria and standards if the college has college-wide instead of departmental criteria and standards) in making its assessment. If documents required by policy are missing, the college committee may return the file to the department for appropriate action. The college committee shall advise the dean in writing of its vote and recommendations.
2. Recommendations of the dean. The dean shall then review the entire file for each candidate for retention, promotion, or tenure and shall make recommendations in writing, stating reasons therefore, and shall forward the file, including all the recommendations, to the cognizant senior vice president (for academic affairs or for health sciences).
3. Notice to faculty members. Prior to forwarding the file, the dean shall send an exact copy of the college advisory committee's report of its evaluation and an exact copy of the dean's evaluation of each faculty member to that faculty member and to the department chair.
4. Candidate's right to respond. The candidate shall have the opportunity at this time, but not the obligation, to add a written statement to his/her formal review file in response to the report of the college advisory committee's evaluation

- and/or the dean's evaluation. Written notice of this option shall be included with the copy of the dean's evaluation which is sent to the candidate. If the candidate chooses to add such a statement to the file, that statement must be submitted to the dean within seven [calendar] days, except in extenuating circumstances, of the date upon which the dean's evaluation is delivered to the candidate. If the candidate submits a written statement to the dean within this time limit, the candidate's statement shall be added to the review file without comment by the dean.
5. Forwarding files. The dean shall then forward the entire file for each individual to the cognizant senior vice president.
- H. Action by cognizant vice president, and the University Promotion and Tenure Advisory Committee (RPT procedures)
1. Referral of cases to the University committee. The cognizant senior vice president shall forward to the University Promotion and Tenure Advisory Committee ("UPTAC") [see [Policy 6-304](#)] for its review and recommendation the files in all cases in which the college is organized and functions as a single academic department ("single-department college") or there is a differing recommendation from any of the prior review levels--the student advisory committee, the interdisciplinary academic program, the department RPT advisory committee, the department chairperson, the college RPT advisory committee, or the college dean. The cognizant senior vice president, in his/her sole discretion, may also send any other RPT case to UPTAC for its review and recommendations. UPTAC provides advice to the senior vice president.
 2. Recommendations of the University Promotion and Tenure Advisory Committee. The committee shall review the entire file for all cases referred to it, and after due deliberation shall submit its recommendations with reasons and its vote to the cognizant senior vice president.

- a. In cases reviewed only because they arise from single department colleges, UPTAC shall determine whether the college reasonably applied its written criteria, standards and procedures to each case and whether the college's recommendations are supported by the evidence presented.
 - b. In cases in which there were differing recommendations from the prior reviewing entities, UPTAC shall identify the source(s) of the differences or controversy, determine how each level addressed the issues in controversy, and assess the degree to which the file is sufficiently clear to support any conclusive recommendation.
 - c. In cases which are reviewed at the discretionary request of the senior vice president, UPTAC shall review the file to respond to the specific issues identified by the senior vice president.
 - d. In making all reviews, UPTAC shall perform its duties consistent with requirements of [Policy 6-304](#) (including disqualification of interested members), and UPTAC shall consider only the material in the file. UPTAC shall summarize its assessment of the issues identified in a, b, or c above in a written report to the senior vice president, but not report a conclusion of its own on the candidate's overall qualification for retention, promotion, or tenure.
3. Consideration by the senior vice president. The cognizant senior vice president shall review each file, including the recommendations (if any) of the University Promotion and Tenure Advisory Committee. If the senior vice president determines that the file is incomplete or unclear, he/she may return the file to the department with a request to clarify specific matters, materials, and/or issues. All levels of review shall reconsider the file and their votes if appropriate, with the candidate responding in writing at the normal points in the process. (SAC need not reconsider the file unless teaching is the issue in question.)

4. Senior vice president's decision. In cases of positive retention decisions, the senior vice president's decision shall be the University's final decision. In all cases of promotion and tenure and in cases of retention when termination is recommended, the senior vice president shall prepare a final recommendation to the president with respect to the candidate's retention, promotion, and/or tenure, stating reasons therefore.
 5. Notice of senior vice president's recommendation. In positive retention cases, the senior vice president shall transmit the final decision and the report of the University Promotion and Tenure Advisory Committee (if any) to the candidate, the department chair, and the dean. In all other cases, prior to forwarding the file to the president, the senior vice president shall send an exact copy of the report of the University Promotion and Tenure Advisory Committee (if any) and an exact copy of the senior vice president's recommendation with respect to that faculty member to the candidate, the dean, the department chairperson, and the chairpersons of the departmental RPT advisory committee and the Student Advisory Committee, together with a copy or summary of Policy 6-303-III-I (Appeal of recommendation). The chairpersons of the departmental RPT and student advisory committees shall notify the members of their committees in an expeditious manner of the senior vice president's recommendation. The senior vice president shall not submit the final recommendation to the president until at least fourteen [calendar] days have elapsed following the giving of such notice, so that parties may notify the senior vice president's office if they intend to appeal.
 6. Extension of time limits. The time limits provided by this subsection H may be extended by the senior vice president in the interest of justice.
- I. Appeal of recommendation with respect to retention, promotion, and/or tenure (RPT procedures).
1. Appeal by faculty member RPT candidate. A faculty member RPT candidate may appeal to the Senate Consolidated Hearing Committee (SCHC) for review of an unfavorable final recommendation with respect to retention,

promotion, and/or tenure by following the procedures provided in [Policy 6-011](#) and upon the grounds enumerated in that section. The SCHC is the hearing body for an appeal brought on any grounds, including academic freedom, but if the candidate alleges that the unfavorable recommendation violates academic freedom, then the SCHC shall refer that part of the appeal to the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Faculty Rights for pre-hearing consideration and report, as per [Policy 6-010](#).

2. Other appeals. Appeals of the vice president's recommendation on promotion and/or tenure may also be initiated by the department SAC, a majority of the departmental RPT advisory committee, the department chairperson, or the dean, when the vice president's recommendation opposes their own recommendation. The appeal is made to the Senate Consolidated Hearing Committee and should follow the Procedures provided in Policy 6-011, and upon the grounds enumerated in that section. Authorized parties initiating an appeal may have access to the entire file except that the faculty member RPT candidate may not see external letters which he/she waived the right to read.

J. Final action by president (RPT procedures)

1. Action in absence of review proceedings. If no proceedings for review have been initiated under [Policy 6-303-III- I](#) within the time provided therein, the recommendation of the vice president with respect to retention, promotion, and/or tenure of a faculty member shall be transmitted to the president for action. After reviewing the recommendation, giving such consideration to the documents in the candidate's file as the president deems necessary under the circumstances, the president shall make a final decision granting or denying retention, or granting or denying promotion, and/or tenure, and shall advise the candidate, the cognizant vice president, the dean and the department chairperson of that decision, stating reasons therefore.
2. Action after conclusion of review proceedings. If proceedings for review have been timely initiated under subsection III-I of this Policy, the recommendation

of the vice president with respect to retention, promotion, and/or tenure shall be placed in the candidate's file but shall not be transmitted to the president for action. Except as provided in [subsection J-3], below, the president shall not consider the merits of the matter and shall not take final action with respect thereto until the pending review proceedings have concluded. Upon conclusion of the review proceedings, the president shall review the file and make a final decision consistent with [paragraph J-1], above.

3. Notice of termination. When review proceedings have been timely initiated under subsection III-I of this Policy, the president, on recommendation of the cognizant vice president, may give a candidate advance written notice of termination pursuant to [Policy 6-311-Section 5](#). Such notice shall be effective as of the date it is given if a final decision to terminate the faculty member's appointment is subsequently made by the president, on or before the termination date specified in the notice, but shall have no force or effect if a final decision is made by the president on or before that date approving retention, promotion, and/or tenure or otherwise disposing of the case in a manner that does not require termination.

K. New appointments with tenure-expedited procedures for granting tenure

Tenure may be granted at the time of initial appointment of a faculty member (commonly known as 'hiring with tenure'). See Policy 6-311-III-Section 3-B. When a decision regarding tenure is to be considered contemporaneously with a decision regarding initial appointment, the procedures for the appointment and initial rank decisions are governed by Policy 6-302, and the procedures for the tenure decision are as described here in this Policy in Section III-K.

Section K allows the use of expedited procedures for tenure decisions arising in circumstances in which more complex and lengthy procedures are inappropriate.

1. For purposes of expedited decisions on granting of tenure at the time of initial appointment of a candidate, the voting membership of the department RPT

- advisory committee shall consist of all tenured faculty members of the department, regardless of rank (subject to the single vote rule, Part III-E-1-a-v). If allowed by departmental rule described in the departmental RPT Statement, other faculty members may participate in consideration of the candidate, but shall not vote on the tenure decision.
2. The chairperson of the department shall provide interested persons with notice of scheduled meetings of the committee, and invite them to submit information for consideration by the committee. Notice may be given orally, or in writing as circumstances permit, and should be given as early as practicable under the circumstances. Notice shall be given to the candidate, the department faculty and staff, and student representatives (including any members of the student advisory committee who are available, and/or other students determined by the department chairperson to adequately represent student interests). If it is contemplated that the candidate will also become a member of an interdisciplinary academic program through a shared-appointment agreement (see Part III-C-4 above) with the tenure-granting department, notice shall also be provided to the chair/director of that academic program, who may in turn give notice to members of that program.
 3. The candidate's file shall include information submitted by the candidate, faculty, staff, and student representatives of the department, and representatives of any related interdisciplinary academic program, and other information determined by the department chairperson or department RPT chairperson to be relevant. It shall include a curriculum vitae, available evidence of research/creative activity, available evidence of teaching effectiveness, and a report from student representatives, and may include available evidence regarding faculty responsibility. The file shall include letters of evaluation from at least three external evaluators. It shall be presumed that the candidate waives any right to see such external evaluation letters, unless the candidate submits to the RPT chairperson a written request for access to any letters prior to the time the letters are submitted.

4. The actions of the department RPT committee and the department chairperson shall proceed as described in Parts III-E and F of this Policy, except that i) the RPT committee chairperson may set a shortened period for inspection of the report of the RPT meeting, ii) the candidate need not be provided copies of either the committee report or the chairperson's recommendation, and iii) the candidate need not be given an opportunity to respond to either the committee report or the chairperson's recommendation.
5. The actions of the dean and college RPT advisory committee shall proceed as described in Part III-G, except that the candidate need not be provided copies of the committee's or the dean's recommendations, and the candidate need not be given an opportunity to respond to either recommendation.
6. The actions of the vice president and UPTAC shall proceed as described in Part III-H for a tenure decision, except as follows. UPTAC reviews all recommendations of tenure accompanying new appointments, regardless of college or of votes by prior levels. UPTAC may delegate its responsibilities to a subcommittee formed for purposes of such expedited proceedings, and its reports may be made in abbreviated form. The candidate need not be provided copies of either the committee's report or the vice president's recommendation. The student representatives need not be provided such copies, but when practical shall be informed of the recommendations of UPTAC and the vice president. The vice president may submit the final recommendation to the president immediately (without awaiting notice from any person of an intent to appeal).
7. In expedited proceedings neither the candidate nor any other person has a right of appeal of either a favorable or unfavorable recommendation of the vice president. The final action of the president shall be taken as provided in Part III-J.

L. Tenured Faculty Reviews ("TFR").

[User note: Periodic post-tenure reviews of tenured faculty members (other than for the specific purpose of considering promotion-in-rank) are now governed by new Policy 6-321, beginning July 1, 2017.]

EndNote 1: Adaptation of Policy 6-303 for variations in organizational structure of academic departments and colleges.)

- a. The provisions here in Policy 6-303 are stated in terms appropriate for the most widely adopted form of organizational structure of academic units, in which a tenure-line faculty appointment is made in a subdivision known as an "academic department," which is organized together with related subdivisions in a parent "multi-department academic college." In that structure, [Policy 6-311](#) provides that tenure is established in an academic department. There are several variations in organizational structure relevant to appointments and tenure of faculty, as explained in [[Policy 6-001](#) Academic Units and Academic Governance, and [Policy 2-004](#) (Organization of the University)]. See also [2-005](#) (Officers of the University).
- b. These provisions in Policy 6-303 shall be interpreted for appropriate adaptation to accommodate such relevant variations in organizational structure, including the following:
 - i. Where necessary, the term "department" shall refer to an academic subdivision within a parent multi-department college, which operates as equivalent to a department but is known by another name, including any "free-standing division" or "school." See [Policy 6-001](#), and [Policy 2-004](#).
 - ii. Where necessary, the term "college" shall refer to an academic organization which operates as equivalent to a college, but is known by another name, including a "school." See [Policy 6-001](#), and [Policy 2-004](#).

- c. For colleges that have no formal internal academic subdivisions (known commonly as 'single-department colleges' or 'non-departmentalized colleges'), appointments and tenure are established in the college. See [Policy 6-001](#), [Policy 2-004](#), and [Policy 6-311-1](#). Accordingly, the procedures described here for development of criteria and standards, and making and reviewing of retention, promotion and tenure decisions, shall be modified appropriately, including as follows:
- i. Formulation of criteria, standards and procedures for retention, promotion, and tenure reviews, described here in 6-303-III-A-2 and elsewhere, shall be conducted by the college (including approval of the governing RPT Statement by majority vote of the tenure-line faculty of the college, and the dean).
 - ii. The functions described here in 6-303-III-A and elsewhere as being performed by a department-level RPT advisory committee shall be performed by a college RPT advisory committee. The description of the membership and leadership of the committee shall be interpreted to include appropriate modifications, including that the college dean is ineligible to serve as committee chair, and that committee members shall be drawn from the college faculty.
 - iii. The functions described here in 6-303-III-B-1, and III-F and elsewhere as being performed by a department chairperson shall be performed by the college dean (see [Policy 2-005](#)-Section 5-F), including such activities as holding meetings with RPT candidates.
 - iv. The functions described here in 6-303-III-C-3 and elsewhere as being performed by a department-level student advisory committee shall be performed by the college SAC.
 - v. The actions described here in 6-303-III-G, and elsewhere as being performed by a college dean and college-level RPT committee shall be

inapplicable. Instead, RPT actions from a single-department college shall be forwarded for review at the level of the cognizant vice president and appropriate committees as provided in Section III-H and elsewhere.

- vi. For tenured faculty reviews (TFR), the functions described here in 6-303-III-L shall be performed by the dean and tenure-line faculty of the college.

(EndNote 2: Adaptation of Policy 6-303 for University Libraries.)

[Reserved.] [Note to users: As of 2014, a project is underway to develop content providing for adaptation of RPT and TFR procedures for the University Libraries, as part of a larger project of updating and revising multiple Regulations regarding the Libraries and library faculty members. That content may be proposed to be included in a Note within Policy 6-303, or in a new University Regulation.]

[Note: The parts this Regulation (listed below) are Regulations Resource Information – the contents of which are not approved by the Academic Senate or Board of Trustees, and are to be updated from time to time as determined appropriate by the cognizant Policy Officer and the Institutional Policy Committee, as per Policy 1-001 and Rule 1-001.]

IV. Rules, Procedures, Guidelines, Forms and other Related Resources

- A. Rules
- B. Procedures
- C. Guidelines

[Checklist](#) & Guideline for Department RPT Statements

University RPT Standards Committee Approval Process Overview ([Approval Process Handout](#))

[University RPT Standards Committee Guide on Articulating Department RPT Statements](#)

D. Forms

E. Other related resource materials

[Supplemental Rules](#) (Department Statements of RPT Criteria Standards & Procedures)

[Resource](#) information

V. References

(Reserved)

VI. Contacts

The designated contact officials for this Policy are:

- A. Policy Owner (primary contact person for questions and advice): the Associate Vice President for Faculty—Academic Affairs, and the Associate Vice President for Health Sciences.
- B. Policy Officer: the Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the Sr. Vice President for Health Sciences.

These officials are designated by the University President or delegee, with assistance of the Institutional

Policy Committee, to have the following roles and authority, as provided in University Rule 1-001:

"A 'Policy Officer' will be assigned by the President for each University Policy, and will typically be someone at the executive level of the University (i.e., the President and his/her Cabinet Officers). The assigned Policy Officer is authorized to allow exceptions to the Policy in appropriate cases.... "

"The Policy Officer will identify an 'Owner' for each Policy. The Policy Owner is an expert on the Policy topic who may respond to questions about, and provide interpretation of the Policy; and will typically be someone reporting to an executive level position (as defined above), but may be any other person to whom the President or a Vice President has delegated such authority for a specified area of University operations. The Owner has primary responsibility for maintaining the relevant portions of the Regulations Library... [and] bears the responsibility for determining -requirements of particular Policies... ." University Rule 1-001-III-B & E.

VII. History

Renumbering: Renumbered as Policy 6-303 effective 9/15/2008, formerly known as PPM 9-5.1.

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B. Earlier versions:

Revision 22: Effective dates April 14, 2015 to June 30 2017

Legislative History of Revision 22

Revision 21: Effective dates May 14, 2014 to April 13, 2015

[Legislative History](#) of Revision 21

[Revision 20](#): Effective dates July 1, 2010 to May 14, 2014

[Legislative History](#) of Revision 20

[Revision 19](#): Effective dates July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2010

[Legislative History](#) of Revision 19 (Part A - Memo)

[Legislative History](#) of Revision 19 (Part B - Drafting notes)

[Revision 18](#): Effective dates May 16, 2005 to June 30, 2007

[Revision 17](#): Effective dates March 21, 2005 to May 15, 2005

[Revision 16](#): Effective dates June 9, 2003 to March 20, 2005

[Revision 15](#): Effective dates December 28, 1990 to June 8, 2003