V. THE APPEALS PROCESS

A. Appeals Committees

1. The President shall appoint an appeals committee. This committee shall consist of nine faculty members holding the rank of Professor, one from each from the eight large colleges (Agriculture and Natural Resources; Arts and Humanities; Behavioral and Social Sciences; Business; Computer, Mathematical and Physical Sciences; Education; Engineering; Chemical and Life Sciences) and one from among the five small colleges (Architecture, Planning, and Preservation; Health and Human Performance; Information Studies; Journalism; Public Policy). No small college shall be represented on the committee more frequently than once in every three terms. Candidates for the committee shall be solicited from the Deans of the Colleges and Schools, from the Senate Executive Committee, and from the faculty at large. No one serving in a full-time administrative position and no one who has participated in the promotion and tenure review process of the appellant shall serve on the campus appeals committee. Appointment to the campus appeals committee shall be for one year, and no one may serve two consecutive terms. Appeals committees shall elect their own chairs. The committee members must maintain absolute confidentiality in their consideration of cases.

2. Special appeals committees at the college, school or campus level shall be appointed by the dean, Provost or President in a manner consistent with the policies, bylaws, or practice of the respective unit.

B. Guidelines and Procedures for Appeals

1. Negative Promotion and/or Tenure Decisions

   a. Mandatory and Non-Mandatory Reviews

   When a candidate for promotion and/or tenure receives notification from the President, dean or chair that promotion or tenure was not awarded, the candidate may appeal the decision by requesting that the President submit the matter to the Campus Appeals Committee for consideration. The request shall be in writing and be made within sixty (60) days of notification of the negative decision. If the request is granted, all papers to be filed in support of the appeal must be submitted to the Appeals Committee not later than one hundred and twenty (120) days after notification.
unless otherwise extended by the President because of circumstances reasonably beyond control of the candidate. In writing these appeals letters, the appellant should be aware that these letters serve as the evidentiary basis for investigations of the validity of the appeal and that, should the President accept the request and refer the appeal to the Campus Appeals Committee, these letters shall be shared by the Campus Appeals Committee with the parties against whom allegations are made and any other persons deemed necessary by the Committee for a determination of the issues.

b. **Grounds for Appeal**

The grounds for appeal of a negative promotion and tenure decision shall be limited to (1) violation of procedural due process, and/or (2) violation of substantive due process.

A decision may not be appealed on the ground that a different review committee, department chair, dean or Provost exercising sound academic judgment might, or would, have come to a different conclusion. An appeals committee will not substitute its academic judgment for the judgment of those in the review process.

Violation of procedural due process means that the decision was negatively influenced by a failure during the formal review for tenure and/or promotion by those in the review process to take a procedural step or to fulfill a procedural requirement established in relevant promotion and tenure review procedures of a department, school, college, campus or system. Procedural violations occurring prior to the review process are not a basis for an appeal and are dealt with under the provisions of paragraph 4 of the introduction to Section IV, Promotion, Tenure, and Emeritus Review.

Violation of substantive due process means that: (1) the decision was based upon an illegal or constitutionally impermissible consideration; e.g. upon the candidate's gender, race, age, nationality, handicap, sexual orientation, or on the candidate's exercise of protected first amendment freedoms (e.g., freedom of speech); or (2) the decision was arbitrary or capricious, i.e., it was based on erroneous information or misinterpretation of information, or the decision was clearly inconsistent with the supporting materials.
c. **Standard of Proof**

An appeal shall not be granted unless the alleged grounds for appeal are demonstrated by a preponderance of the evidence.

d. **Responsibilities and Powers of the Appeals Committee**

1. The appeals committee shall notify the relevant administrators and APT chairs in writing of the grounds for the appeal and meet with them to discuss the issues.

2. The appeals committee shall meet with the appellant to discuss and clarify the issues raised in the appeal.

3. The appeals committee has investigative powers. The appeals committee may interview persons in the review process whom it believes to have information relevant to the appeal. Additionally, the Appeals Committee shall examine all documents related to the appellant’s promotion or tenure review and may have access to such other departmental and college materials as it deems relevant to the case. Whenever the committee believes that a meeting could lead to a better understanding of the issues in the appeal, it shall meet with the appropriate party (with the appellant or with the relevant academic administrator and APT chair).

4. The Appeals Committee shall prepare a written report for the President. The report shall be based upon the weight of evidence before it. It shall include findings with respect to the grounds alleged on appeal, and, where appropriate, recommendations for corrective action. Such remedy may include the return of the matter back to the stage of the review process at which the error was made and action to eliminate any harmful effects it may have had on the full and fair consideration of the case. No recommended remedy, however, may abrogate the principle of peer review.

5. The President shall attach great weight to the findings and recommendations of the committee. The decision of the President shall be final. The decision and the rationale shall be transmitted to the appellant, the department chair,
e. Implementation of the President’s Decision

1. When the President supports the grounds for an appeal, the Provost has the responsibility for oversight of the implementation of the corrective actions the President requires to be taken. Within 30 days of receipt of the President’s letter, the Provost shall request the administrator involved to formulate a plan and a timeline for implementing and monitoring the corrective actions. Within 30 days after receipt of this letter, the administrator must supply a written reply. The Provost may require modification of the plan before approving it.

2. The Provost shall appoint a Provost’s Representative to participate in all stages of the implementation of the corrective actions specified in the approved plan for the re-review, including participation in the meeting or meetings at which the academic unit discusses, reviews, or votes on its recommendation for tenure and/or promotion for the appellant. The Provost’s Representative shall participate in these activities but does not have a vote. After the academic unit completes its review, the Provost’s Representative shall prepare a report on all of the elements of corrective action specified in the approved plan and this report will be included with the complete dossier to be reviewed at higher levels within the University. The Provost’s Representative shall be a senior member of the faculty with no previous or potential involvement at any level of review or appeal pertaining to the consideration of the appellant for tenure and/or promotion except for the participation as Provost’s Representative as defined in this paragraph.

3. The Provost’s request and the administrator’s approved plan of implementation must be included in the dossier from the inception of the review. Re-reviews begin at the level of review at which the violation(s) of due process occurred and evaluate the person’s record at the time the initial review occurred unless otherwise specified by the President. The administrator at the level at which the errors occurred, in addition to evaluating the candidate for
promotion, must certify that each of the corrective actions has been taken and describe how the actions have been implemented. Re-reviews must proceed through all levels of evaluation including Presidential review. The Provost’s review of the dossier will include an evaluation of compliance with the requirements imposed in the President’s decision to grant the appeal. If the Provost discovers a serious failure by the unit to comply with the corrective actions required, the Provost shall formulate and implement a new plan for corrective action with respect to the appellant. In addition, the Provost shall inform (in writing) the administrator of the unit where the failure arose and the Provost shall take appropriate disciplinary action.

f. **Extension of Contract**

In the event that the appellant's contract of employment will have terminated before reconsideration can be completed, the appellant may request the President to extend the contract for one additional year beyond the date of its normal termination, with the understanding that the extension does not in itself produce a claim to tenure through length of service.

2. **Decision Not to Review**

If a faculty member requests his or her first level academic unit to undertake a review for his or her promotion or early recommendation for tenure, and the academic unit decides not to undertake the review or fails to transmit a recommendation by the date announced for transmittals, as specified in IV.F.2, above, the faculty member may appeal to the dean (if in a department) or to the Provost (if in a non-departmentalized school or college) requesting the formation of a special appeals committee to consider the matter. The request shall be made in writing. It shall be made promptly, and in no case later than thirty (30) days following written notification of the decision of the first-level academic unit.

If the dean or Provost determines not to form a special appeals committee, the faculty member may appeal to the Provost (if the decision was the dean's) or to the President (if the decision was the Provost's) requesting formation of the special appeals committee. Request shall be made in writing. It shall be made promptly, and in no case no later than thirty (30) days following written notification of the decision of the dean or Provost.
The grounds for appeal and the burden of proof shall, in all instances, be the same as set forth in V.B.1.b and c, above. A committee shall not substitute its academic judgment for that of the first-level unit. The responsibility of a special appeals committee shall be to prepare findings and recommendations. The committee may, for example, recommend that the dean or Provost extend the deadline for transmitting a recommendation and instruct the first-level unit to forward supporting documents as expeditiously as possible. A decision by a dean or the Provost, upon receiving the findings and recommendations of a special appeals committee, shall be final. A decision by the President shall be final.

3. **Decision Not to Renew**

   When, prior to the mandatory promotion and tenure decision, an untenured tenure-track faculty member receives notification that his or her appointment will not be renewed by the first-level unit, he or she may appeal the decision in the manner described in V.B.1.a above.

4. **Emeritus Standing**

   An unsuccessful candidate for emeritus standing may appeal the decision in the manner described in V.B.1. above.