

Faculty Senate Resolution: Tenure Review Extension Date Modification due to COVID-19

Last update: 4.7.20 2:45 p.m.

Whereas the novel coronavirus, which causes the disease known as COVID-19, has caused significant complications in UVU's Spring 2020 term, including the transition of all courses and labs to an online format for the remainder of that term;

Whereas faculty members can pause their tenure clock (one year extension) per [policy 637 Faculty Tenure](#);

Whereas per policy 637, if faculty wish to request a one-year extension of their probationary period, they are required to submit that request to their Department Chair by March 15, of their fifth probationary year, a date which has already passed for 2020;

Whereas per policy 637 section 5.10.1, "extensions to the probationary period shall be approved or denied by the RTP committee, department chair, dean, and SVPAA by April 15 of the faculty member's fifth probationary year"; and

Whereas, the extension should apply to those seeking tenure and advancement, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Faculty Senate at Utah Valley University:

1. recommends RTP Chairs, Department Chairs, Deans, and the Office of Academic Affairs consider the ramifications of the unexpected transition in delivery format in all annual faculty evaluations and decisions related to retention, tenure, and promotion;
2. appeals to RTP Chairs, Department Chairs, Deans, and the Office of Academic Affairs to reject oft-held negative perceptions of tenure clock stoppage that exist at UVU;
3. urges Department Chairs, Deans, and the Office of Academic affairs to extend the deadline for a formal request of tenure clock stoppage for the Spring 2020 term to May 1st, 2020, by which date the faculty member shall submit a letter requesting and justifying the extension to the Department Chair;
4. urges RTP Chairs, Department Chairs, Deans, and the Office of Academic Affairs to extend the deadline for evaluation of tenure clock stoppage to June 1st 2020, for faculty members who are in their fifth probationary year, by which date extensions to the probationary period will be approved or denied; and
5. recommends RTP Chairs, Department Chairs, Deans, and the Office of Academic Affairs apply the same extension to faculty members undergoing midterm review during Fall 2020.

Mover:

Seconders: