

**Plan of Governance  
Appendix J**

**Policy on Appointment, Evaluation and Promotion  
of Professional Track Faculty (PTK)**

**Department of Environmental Science and Technology  
University of Maryland College Park**

**Approved February 24, 2016  
Modification 1, Approved September 5, 2018  
Updated April 13, 2022**

**I. Definition of Faculty Ranks as set forth in II-1.00(A)**

As of September 1, 2018, there are five tracks for professional faculty; the instructional track with titles such as A) lecturer; the outreach track with titles such as B) specialist, and C) clinical professor; and the research track, with titles such as D) research scientist and E) research professor.

**A) Lecturer Track**

This policy applies to faculty members who hold the rank of Junior Lecturer, or higher, have a 50% or greater appointment for nine (9) months or more, and have their appointment in the Department of Environmental Science and Technology or an affiliated unit. The Department head will serve as the first level administrator for any PTK faculty directly assigned to ENST. If the faculty member is assigned to a specific subunit of ENST, the corresponding unit head shall serve as the first level administrator for promotion as long as the unit head holds tenure or affiliate status in ENST.

1) Junior Lecturer

In instances when a graduate student is given a faculty appointment to teach, the title Junior Lecturer shall be used. Upon completion of the graduate program, Junior Lecturers are eligible for promotion to Lecturer. Appointments to this rank are typically for terms of up to one year and are renewable for up to six years.

2) Lecturer

The title Lecturer will ordinarily be used to designate appointments of persons who are serving in a teaching capacity for a limited time or part-time. The normal requirement is a Master's degree in the field of instruction or a related field, or equivalent professional experience in the field of instruction. Appointments to this rank are typically one to three years and are renewable.

3) Senior Lecturer

In addition to having the qualifications of a Lecturer, the appointee shall have an exemplary teaching record over the course of at least five years of full-time instruction or its equivalent as a Lecturer (or similar appointment at another institution) and shall exhibit promise in developing additional skills in the areas of research, service, student

mentoring, or program development. Appointments to this rank are typically one to five years and are renewable.

4) Principal Lecturer

In addition to the qualifications required of the Senior Lecturer, appointees to this rank shall have an exemplary teaching record over the course of at least 5 years full-time service or its equivalent as a Senior Lecturer (or similar appointment at another institution). Professional experience may be considered as a substitute for up to 3 of the 10 years of teaching required for Principal Lecturer, but at least 7 years of teaching experience is required to reach the rank of Principal Lecturer. The Principal Lecturer shall also demonstrate excellence in the areas of research, service, student mentoring, or program development. Appointments are typically made as five-year contracts. Appointments for additional five-year terms can be renewed as early as the third year of any given five-year contract.

**B) Specialist Track**

This policy applies to faculty members who hold the rank of Specialist or higher, have a 50% or greater appointment for nine (9) months or more, and have their appointment in the Department of Environmental Science and Technology or an affiliated unit. The Department head will serve as the first level administrator for any PTK faculty directly assigned to ENST. If the faculty member is assigned to a specific subunit of ENST, the corresponding unit head shall serve as the first level administrator for promotion as long as the unit head holds tenure or affiliate status in ENST.

1) Faculty Specialist

The appointee shall hold a Bachelor's degree in a relevant area and show potential for excellence in the administration and/or management of outreach. Faculty Specialists are expected to engage in activities such as developing curriculum and/or innovative means for delivering curriculum, lead implementation efforts, evaluation and data analysis efforts, coordination of multi-agency workgroups, supervising the non-research activities of graduate or post-doctoral students, serving as grant writers or authors of other publications for an academic or research program, conducting specialized outreach duties. Appointments to this rank are typically one to three years and are renewable.

2) Senior Faculty Specialist

In addition to showing superior ability to administer outreach, as evidenced by successfully discharging responsibilities such as those of the Faculty Specialist, the appointee shall hold a Master's degree or have at least 3 years full-time experience as a Faculty Specialist (or similar appointment at another institution), or its equivalent. Appointments to this rank are typically one to five years and are renewable.

3) Principal Faculty Specialist

In addition to a proven record of excellence in managing and directing an outreach or research program, the appointee shall hold a Ph.D. or have at least 5 years of full-time experience as a Senior Faculty Specialist, or its equivalent. Appointments are

typically made as five-year contracts. Appointments for additional five-year terms can be renewed as early as the third year of any given five-year contract.

### **C) Clinical Professor Track**

This policy applies to faculty members who hold the rank of Assistant Clinical Professor or higher, have a 50% or greater appointment for nine (9) months or more, and have their appointment in the Department of Environmental Science and Technology or an affiliated unit. The Department head will serve as the first level administrator for any PTK faculty directly assigned to ENST. If the faculty member is assigned to a specific subunit of ENST, the corresponding unit head shall serve as the first level administrator for promotion as long as the unit head holds tenure or affiliate status in ENST.

1) Assistant Clinical Professor

The appointee shall hold, as a minimum, the terminal professional degree in the field, with training and experience in an area of specialization. There must be clear evidence of a high level of ability in clinical practice and teaching in the departmental field, and the potential for clinical and teaching excellence in a subdivision of this field. The appointee should also have demonstrated scholarly and / or administrative ability. Appointments to this rank are typically one to three years and are renewable.

2) Associate Clinical Professor

In addition to the qualifications required of a Clinical Assistant Professor, the appointee should ordinarily have had extensive successful experience in clinical or professional practice in a field of specialization, or in a subdivision of the departmental field, and in working with and/or directing others (such as professionals, faculty members, graduate students, fellows, and residents or interns) in clinical activities in the field. The appointee must also have demonstrated superior teaching ability and scholarly or administrative accomplishments. Appointments to this rank are typically one to five years and are renewable.

3) Clinical Professor

In addition to the qualifications required of a Clinical Associate Professor, the appointee shall have demonstrated a degree of excellence in clinical practice and teaching sufficient to establish an outstanding regional and national reputation among colleagues. The appointee shall also have demonstrated extraordinary scholarly competence and leadership in the profession. Appointments are typically made as five-year contracts. Appointments for additional five-year terms can be renewed as early as the third year of any given five-year contract.

### **D) Research Scientist Track**

This policy applies to faculty members who hold the rank of Assistant Research Scientist or higher, have a 50% or greater appointment for nine (9) months or more, and have their appointment in the Department of Environmental Science and Technology or an affiliated unit. The Department head will serve as the first level administrator for any PTK faculty directly assigned to ENST. If the faculty member is assigned to a specific subunit of ENST,

the corresponding unit head shall serve as the first level administrator for promotion as long as the unit head holds tenure or affiliate status in ENST.

1) Assistant Research Scientist

The appointee shall hold, as a minimum, the terminal professional degree in the field. This rank is generally parallel to Assistant Professor. Appointees shall have demonstrated superior scientific research ability. Appointees should be qualified and competent to direct the work of others (such as technicians, graduate students, other research personnel). An earned doctoral degree will be a normal minimum requirement for appointment at this rank. Appointments to this rank are typically one to three years and are renewable.

2) Associate Research Scientist

This rank is generally parallel to Associate Professor. In addition to having the qualifications required of the Assistant Research Scientist, appointees shall have significant scientific research accomplishments, show promise of continued productivity, and have the ability to propose, develop, and manage research projects. Appointments to this rank are typically one to five years and are renewable.

3) Research Scientist

This rank is generally parallel to Professor. In addition to having the qualifications required of the Associate Research Scientist, appointees shall have established a national and, where appropriate, international reputation for outstanding scientific research. Appointees should provide tangible evidence of sound scholarly production in research, publications, professional achievements, or other distinguished and creative activity. Appointments are typically made as five-year contracts. Appointments for additional five-year terms can be renewed as early as the third year of any given five-year contract.

### **E) Research Professor Track**

This policy applies to faculty members who hold the rank of Assistant Research Professor or higher, have a 50% or greater appointment for nine (9) months or more, and have their appointment in the Department of Environmental Science and Technology or an affiliated unit. The Department head will serve as the first level administrator for any PTK faculty directly assigned to ENST. If the faculty member is assigned to a specific subunit of ENST, the corresponding unit head shall serve as the first level administrator for promotion as long as the unit head holds tenure or affiliate status in ENST.

1) Assistant Research Professor

This rank is generally parallel to Assistant Professor. Appointees shall have demonstrated superior research ability and potential for contributing to the educational mission through teaching or service. Appointees should be qualified and competent to direct the work of others (such as technicians, graduate students, other research personnel). An earned doctoral degree will be a normal minimum requirement for appointment at this rank. Appointments to this rank are typically one to three years and are renewable.

2) Associate Research Professor

This rank is generally parallel to Associate Professor. In addition to the qualifications required of the Assistant Research Professor, appointees shall have extensive successful experience in scholarly or creative endeavors, the ability to propose, develop, and manage major research projects, and proven contributions to the educational mission through teaching or service. Appointments to this rank are typically one to five years and are renewable.

3) Research Professor

This rank is generally parallel to Professor. In addition to the qualifications required of the Associate Research Professor, appointees shall have demonstrated a degree of proficiency sufficient to establish an excellent reputation among regional and national colleagues. Appointees should have a record of outstanding scholarly production in research, publications, professional achievements or other distinguished and creative activity, and exhibit excellence in contributing to the educational mission through teaching or service. Appointments are typically made as five-year contracts.

Appointments for additional five-year terms can be renewed as early as the third year of any given five-year contract.

## II. Procedures for Promotion

Promotion recommendations originate with the faculty member. The faculty member may initiate promotion review as early as the semester before becoming eligible for promotion, but must complete the submission of applications for promotion by May 1 in order for the promotion to take effect for the following academic year. The promotion process includes the following steps:

- 1) Submission of Materials. The candidate for promotion writes a formal letter to the Department Chair or Unit Head, as appropriate, outlining how s/he meets the basic qualifications for the next rank (as outlined in the descriptions in Faculty Ranks) and how s/he has performed the duties specified in his/her appointment contract. This letter shall be accompanied by a Curriculum Vitae or Resume, and supporting materials as available. Additional materials supporting advising, student mentoring, research, or service may be submitted if relevant to the faculty rank or appointment contract. Required submission materials will be determined by the unit head as appropriate based on the candidate's appointment contract.
- 2) The Department Chair or Unit Head will form a committee of at least three members, assigning one committee chair and two faculty members that are all at or above the rank to which the candidate seeks promotion. At least one member of this committee must be PTK faculty. The committee may be made up of all PTK faculty or may be a combination of tenure track faculty, PTK faculty, and administrators. If there are no PTK faculty within the Department or Unit that are at or above the rank to which the candidate seeks promotion, the PTK faculty member(s) can be drawn from outside of the Department or the most senior PTK faculty in the Department or Unit can become members of the committee. Other members of the committee can also be drawn from

outside of the Department or Unit, as appropriate. The committee will take a vote on the promotion application and will write a short summary of the decision within 30 days of receipt of the materials.

- 3) The committee chair will submit the candidate's application materials and the committee's short summary to the Department Chair or Unit Head within 5 days of completion of the review.
- 4) The Department Chair or Unit Head reviews the Application Materials and committee summary and may ask the Committee for clarification and/or additional information. The Department Chair or Unit Head may also contact the candidate for clarification and/or additional information.
- 5) If the Department Chair or Unit Head supports promotion, s/he writes a letter to the Dean of AGNR recommending the promotion. The decision of the Department Chair or Unit Head shall be made within 10 days of receipt of the Application Materials and committee summary. The Dean will make a final recommendation to support or deny the application. Once approved by the Dean, the candidate will be notified by the Department Chair or the Unit Head of the approval in writing. This promotion shall be accompanied by an increase in compensation, subject to State budget constraints and directives from USM. If the Department Chair, Unit Head, or Dean does not support promotion, the candidate is not promoted and the Department Chair or Unit Head notifies the candidate in writing of this decision with a description of the reasons why the candidate was not promoted. Promotion decisions above the Senior Lecturer and Senior Faculty Specialist level must also be approved by the Provost. If the candidate is unsuccessful, s/he can reinitiate the process in no less than one academic year.
- 6) In the event of a negative decision, the candidate may appeal the decision based on procedural grounds. All appeals shall be handled by the Office of Faculty Affairs.
- 7) Faculty members can request an expedited review for promotion. These requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis for individuals who demonstrate superior performance in all duty areas over a shorter period of time.

### **III. Mentoring**

Mentoring of PTK faculty is important to their success, and is required by the University of Maryland (see <https://faculty.umd.edu/main/leadership-development/faculty-mentoring>). The ENST department has developed detailed policies and procedures for faculty mentoring, which are included in Appendix M of the Plan of Governance.

### **IV. Approvals**

Approved by majority vote of faculty on February 24, 2016.

Modifications approved by faculty vote on September 5, 2018.

Modifications approved by faculty vote on April 13, 2022.