

University Promotion, Tenure and Review Appeal Committee (UPTRAC) Report for the Academic Year 2016 -2017

In the summer of 2016 the 2016-2017 University Promotion, Tenure and Review Appeal Committee (UPTRAC) had the following members:

three faculty representatives: Dimitrios Ioannou (VSE), Iosif Vaisman (COS) and Stefan Toepler (SSPG). With the retirement of Paula Petrik, alternate Stefan Toepler served as the third faculty representative. The three Provost tenured administrator appointees were Professor Cody Edwards (Associate Provost for Graduate Education), Professor Mark Ginsberg (Dean, CEHD), and Professor Solon Simmons (VP, Office of Global Strategy).

Two appeals were submitted to the UPTRAC committee in the academic year 2015-2016. The committee met to consider these appeals regarding the negative decision made on applications for renewal, promotion and tenure on July 20 and July 21, 2016. Each of the meetings was attended by an additional committee member nominated by appellants. There was a thorough and extensive discussion of the appeals during these meetings, supported by all the documents provided to UPTRAC. Following exhaustive deliberations, the committee upheld the decision in one case and supported the appeal in another case.

The committee worked during the academic year (one meeting and by email) on improving the procedures for the next cycle and providing clear guidelines to the appellants. The chapter of the Faculty Handbook describing the committee was revised by the Faculty Handbook committee and the revisions were approved by the Faculty Senate. The revised version resolved many problems in the original charter and will facilitate the committee work in the future cycles.