School of Arts & Sciences Regulations Concerning Research Professorships

The following regulations shall apply to appointments of research professors of all ranks in the School of Arts and Sciences:

1. The research professorships shall be governed by Part B of Section III of the Washington University Policy on Academic Freedom, Responsibility, and Tenure.

2. Initial Appointments

Initial appointments as research professors shall be made to individuals with academic qualifications that are equivalent to the corresponding tenure and tenure-track positions in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences in terms of promise and achievement in research and scholarship.

Initial appointments to the rank of Research Assistant Professor shall be submitted by the Chairperson for the approval of the Dean of the Faculty.

Initial appointments to the ranks of Research Associate Professor or Research Professor shall receive the same review procedures as initial appointments to regular tenured faculty position, including a review by the Advisory Committee on Tenure, Promotion, and Personnel.

3. Reappointments

Research Assistant Professors may serve at that rank for the equivalent of the maximum tenure-track probationary period in Arts & Sciences. As with tenure-track faculty, Research Assistant Professors may request that the Department Chair and Dean of the Faculty grant a one-year extension of the ordinary seven-year maximum time in rank if the faculty member can establish that the additional year will be used for professional activities that advance her or his candidacy for promotion. Likewise, time spent on an approved family or medical leave will not count toward the maximum time in rank. Any such extension or adjustment to the time in rank must be approved in writing by the Dean of the Faculty.

Research Associate Professors and Research Professors may be reappointed indefinitely.

4. Promotion

For promotion from Research Assistant Professor to Research Associate Professor, the individual must have shown significant progress in achieving an independent scientific or scholarly career, comparable to that expected of a regular Associate Professor. Recommendations for such promotions shall be forwarded to the Dean of the Faculty, who shall review the recommendation with the advice of the Advisory Committee on Tenure, Promotion, and Personnel.

For promotion to Research Professor, the candidate should have achieved a level of scholarship equivalent to that of the corresponding tenure rank. Recommendations for such
promotions shall be forwarded to the Dean of the Faculty, who shall review the recommendation with the advice of the Advisory Committee on Tenure, Promotion, and Personnel.

5. Graduate Dissertation and Oral Committees

Faculty members on research appointments may not be used in place of tenure-track members on Dissertation and Oral Defense Committees for students in the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences. When recommended by the Major Department or program and approved by the Dean of the Graduate School, research-track personnel may be added to supplement the normal number of tenure-track faculty.

6. Voting Rights

Fulltime Research professors shall be voting members of the Arts & Sciences Faculty.

7. Directed Research

Section III.B.2 of the University’s Policy on Academic Freedom, Responsibility, and Tenure provides that research professors may give instruction, other than the teaching of courses, to graduate or undergraduate students on subjects in the area of his/her expertise. Consistent with that policy, research professors may supervise and serve as the primary instructor for students’ directed research in areas of their expertise, including on such projects for which the students may receive course credit.

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