

College of Arts and Sciences

Promotion and Tenure Procedures for Teaching STS Faculty

In choosing external reviewers, chairs might need to do a bit more diligence than this process typically requires in order to ensure that the external reviewers are faculty who are known to be pedagogically advanced in their field. The reviewers may have published pedagogical oriented pieces, for example. They might not necessarily be faculty at R1 universities. Instead, the chair may need to look for reviewers from institutions that specialize in undergraduate education. The chair should also be sure to educate the external reviewers about what the STS title series means in our university and what the faculty member is actually being judged on with regards to promotion and tenure. In other words, explicitly ask the reviewers to address the candidate's teaching to the best of their ability. Similarly, internal writers in the department should be reminded of this as well.

Chairs may also rely more heavily than is typical on reviewers/letter writers who are external to the department but internal to the university. For example, faculty members in other departments who have collaborated with the tenure candidate or who are familiar with their work. Remember, these individuals may only be asked to write letters if the candidate approves.

External reviewers should be sent the teaching statement and all evidence of teaching excellence (e.g., the complete teaching portfolio) in addition to the research statement and materials. Please advise candidates to include as much evidence of teaching excellence as possible in their portfolios.