

The UAF Faculty Senate passed the following at Meeting #184, September 10, 2012:

Background:

The following resolution was first passed at Faculty Senate Meeting #146 in November 2007, and was endorsed by a letter distributed to the UAF faculty in Fall 2008. Since then the Provost has annually provided this resolution to all Faculty Review Committees. The Faculty Senate reaffirmed this resolution (as written) at Meeting #176 in September 2011. For the academic year 2012-2013, the Administrative Committee submits an updated resolution to the Faculty Senate Meeting #184 on September 10, 2012.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the members of Faculty Review Committees are called upon under the concept of shared governance to provide professional review of other faculty candidates undergoing Tenure, Promotion and Comprehensive review (Pre and Post-tenure);

WHEREAS the faculty portion of the review process must be fair and reasonable in order to maintain the reputation of the University and the integrity of the academic process; and

WHEREAS open and transparent Committee deliberations facilitate fair and reasonable review;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the UAF Faculty Senate strongly requests that all Faculty Review Committees choose to follow the traditional option of allowing a candidate for Tenure, Promotion or Comprehensive Review to opt for an “open” meeting, and that “mandatory closed” meetings be avoided, including during the 2012-2013 review cycle.

RATIONALE:

1. Faculty Review Committee meetings are first designated “open” or “closed” by the Committee. If the Committee votes to allow “open” meetings, then the choice moves to the candidate, consistent with all other relevant UAF rules and procedures. If the Committee votes for a “closed” meeting, then the candidate has no choice in the matter.
2. Open meetings provide strong incentives for fair and reasonable review, including the oversight of the candidate. This increases confidence in the process.
3. If the candidate is present at the meeting, the Committee can query the candidate for clarification of the file, which can greatly reduce the number of false assumptions and errors during deliberation.
4. Open meetings are educational. Candidates who opt to attend their review have the opportunity to learn about academic traditions and practices.
5. Attendance can reduce candidates’ anxiety and uncertainty about the process.

 9/10/2012
President, UAF Faculty Senate Date