SIGNATURE SHEET FOR EVALUATIVE CRITERIA
APPROVED CRITERIA SHALL HAVE ALL REQUIRED SIGNATURES

Department/Office: Geology

Department Chair/Head: Harold C. Connolly Jr.

Academic Year (circle): 15-16 16-17 17-18 18-19 19-20

Date Sent to Dean/Supervisor: 5/5/17

Signature

Dean/Supervisor: 

Date

Approved

Y/P/N

Add'l Admin:

Provost/designee:

5/5/17

Y/P/N

President/designee: 

Y/P/N

Y = Approved
P = Approved pending modifications
N = Not approved

For P or N decisions, the departmental committee should be provided with the reasons for non-approval, as well as suggested changes to the criteria within a reasonable time to ensure timely approval for first year candidates.

DIRECTIONS: Sign each line and print or stamp name below the line. This signature page must accompany the evaluative standards throughout the entire approval process, and serves as a record that all levels have contributed to the approval process. After all levels have approved the evaluative standards, this cover page and the criteria shall be duplicated, and a copy sent to the Senate office for archiving. The original criteria packet is returned to the Department/Office.

SUGGESTED TIMETABLE:

Departmental approval, sent to Dean/Supervisor: September 25 (earlier if possible)

Dean provides feedback regarding criteria: October 9

Final administrative approval and forwarding to Senate, Department, and Dean: November 1
Criteria for Tenure and Recontracting
Department of Geology
Luke Trusel, Ph.D.

Tenure and Recontracting Committee

A committee shall be composed according to the Recontracting and Tenure Memorandum of Agreement. The department chair/head shall be a member of the committee.

Criteria For Evaluation

I. Teaching Effectiveness – 45%
   a. Committee's evaluation of formal teaching activities, including:
      i. Peer observations
      ii. Student evaluations and candidate's response
      iii. Curricula, courses and teaching materials developed by the candidate
      iv. Candidate's self evaluation of teaching activities
   b. Candidate's plans for growth and development of future teaching activities

II. Research/Scholarship Activity – 44%
   a. Committee's evaluation of candidate's research activities, including:
      v. Publication record
      vi. Funding record
      vii. Other research-related activities
      viii. Evidence of research impact
      ix. Candidate's self evaluation of research activities
   b. External reviews, in the case of tenure and promotion
   c. Candidate's plans for growth and development of future research activities

III. Service: Contributions to the University and Wider Community – 11%
    a. Committee's evaluation of candidates service activities, including:
       i. Service to Department of Geology
       II. Service to School of Earth & Environment/Jean and Ric Edelman Fossil Park
       III. Service to University
       IV. Service to scholarly community
       V. Informal teaching; Scholarly service to broader community
       VI. Candidate's self-valuation of service activities
    b. Candidate's plans for growth and development of future service activities

Teaching
45 percent

Formal Teaching: In order to achieve tenure, faculty members must demonstrate that they are excellent and dedicated educators. Evidence for effective teaching may include student evaluations, peer observations, and the candidate's own reflections upon their evaluations, pedagogical approach, and materials. Formal teaching includes traditional classroom, laboratory, and field instruction, as well as mentoring activities on campus and on field trips.
Faculty are encouraged to integrate available university resources in their teaching. It is recognized that our faculty will represent diverse scholarly expertise, and the content of our curriculum is broad. As such, the most effective and impactful use of such university resources will vary from candidate to candidate and course to course. When possible and appropriate, however, incorporation of the Jean and Ric Edelman Fossil Park is strongly encouraged. Teaching that takes advantage of other university resources, including (but not limited to) the Edelman Planetarium, the observatory, and the Virtual Reality Care, is also encouraged.

Faculty are encouraged to embrace online teaching and should strive to develop at least one online or hybrid (partially online) course.

Contributions to the development of new curricula, including graduate and undergraduate majors, minors, certificates of undergraduate study, and courses is a key educational undertaking, particularly for faculty joining newly-formed or forming departments, and counts as both a teaching and a service activity.

Teaching collaborations with faculty both internally and externally are encouraged. The involvement of graduate students or postdoctoral associates in undergraduate pedagogy is encouraged. The development of innovative pedagogical methods is valued. If pedagogical research is conducted and published, it will be counted as a teaching activity and not as research.

Research/Scholarship Activity
44 percent
In order for faculty to achieve tenure and promotion, they must demonstrate a sustained record of excellence and productivity in their fields of study. They must also have laid the foundation, including planning and previous research success, for a productive research agenda that extends beyond the awarding of tenure or promotion.

Research includes a variety of scholarly activities, which include peer-reviewed publications, grant submissions and related activity, applied projects of a scholarly nature, and conference presentations.

The impact of scholarly activities may vary and various activities carry differing weight, with respect to achieving tenure.

Peer-reviewed publications:
Peer-reviewed publications in reputable scholarly journals are of the highest importance. Candidates should appropriately explain the scholarly impact of each publication. Impact factors, h-indices scores, number of citations, number of downloads, media coverage, editorial highlights/features, and other metrics can also be used to illustrate the impact of publications. It is recognized that top disciplinary journals in particular fields may carry lower impact factors than broad-topic journals. Nevertheless, publication within top disciplinary journals is important.

Peer-reviewed book chapters and peer reviewed conference proceedings are appropriate scholarly contributions, but carry less weight than peer-reviewed journal publications.

Authorship: First authorship or sole authorship publications traditionally carry the most weight. In the geosciences, relative weight is then usually indicated by author order, unless co-authors are listed in alphabetical order. Last authorship is usually reserved for the least important contributor, though this may vary for some sub-disciplines of the geosciences. Co-authoring peer-reviewed publications with undergraduate and/or graduate student co-authors is encouraged and enhances the value of the publication from an institutional standpoint. As such, for each publication, the candidate should clearly explain their role and contributions to the study.
Non-peer-reviewed publications and other scholarly works (e.g., workshop reports, publically-available datasets and analytical software/code) may be considered as a research contribution for tenure, if an adequate case can be made, by the candidate, for their scholarly value. Such publications, however, may constitute a contribution to teaching or service, depending on their nature. It is incumbent upon the candidate to identify the most appropriate category for such work and appropriately justify their inclusion of the material in said category.

Books: Sole and co-authored books, published by a university press or major publishing house, may constitute a major accomplishment. Engaging in a book project, prior to the awarding of tenure, should be carefully considered and weighed against the need for publishing peer-reviewed journal articles, which are essential for a successful tenure application. Books that introduce new scholarly information and/or synthesize information in new and significant ways will be considered as contributions to the faculty member's research portfolio. Books that primarily review or consolidate existing works, such as textbooks and children's books, will be viewed as part of the candidate's scholarly and teaching output, but (depending on content) might not constitute a contribution to the candidate's research output.

Research Funding: Candidates are expected to demonstrate the feasibility and sustainability of their research agenda. It is important to exhibit a sustained effort in applying for grant funding and faculty members working towards tenure are expected to apply for federal funding on a regular basis to the extent necessary to sustain or advance their research agenda. We acknowledge that funding opportunities may be limited at particular funding agencies and programs (e.g., NASA and NSF sub-programs) in some years. The Department also understands these programs, particularly in Earth and climate sciences, are influenced by prevailing political administrations and agendas. Federal research awards should nevertheless be sought when available and necessary as they add a commonly recognized external validation of candidate's research agenda, in addition to financial support. State, local, and foundational awards will also be valued. Additionally, research support generated through philanthropy will also be evaluated positively. Candidates are encouraged to creatively seek a variety of avenues of support for their research.

Faculty members are encouraged to take advantage of internal funding opportunities, which are important for program building and proof-of-concept studies. Internal awards, however, will be weighted lower than external grants, if they are peer-reviewed and competitive. If they are not peer-reviewed and competitive, they will not be recorded as accrued to research funding.
Research Expectations For Reappointment and Tenure

Pre-tenure reappointment
For recomtracting submissions prior to the submission for tenure, the faculty member should provide evidence of:

I. A well-constructed research plan that includes near-term and long-term goals. This may include:
   a. Publication and collaboration strategy
   b. Funding strategy
   c. Plans to advance a research agenda (e.g., analytical framework that may include hypotheses, data, methods, etc.)
   d. Plans for fieldwork
   e. Equipment plans and needs

II. Consistent and methodical attempts to secure research funding

III. A vigorous record of scholarly manuscript submissions

Tenure
To qualify for tenure a candidate is expected to have demonstrated a sustained record of high-level achievement in his or her scholarly field. The candidate should also have become a recognized authority in his or her field as documented by research/scholarly achievements and service to the broader community, and should, by the time of tenure consideration, have developed a robust program of research poised to make future advances. It is the candidate’s responsibility, within the application materials, to elucidate the significance of their research within their discipline and its broader impact to science and society.

Specifically, the tenure committee will look for:

a. A robust record of peer-reviewed publications
b. Acquisition of adequate funds to support the candidate’s research objectives and a consistently strong track-record of applying for extramural funding.
c. Evidence that the candidate has developed a strong and sustainable research program/group/lab, that includes the participation of undergraduate and graduate (when available) students
d. An ambitious and achievable plan for future research
e. Evidence that the candidate has become a recognized scholar in their field, with some evidence of a national or international reputation, among scholars as evidenced that includes but not limited to invited scholarly contributions to major peer-reviewed journals, organization and convening symposiums/workshops/conferences, invited editor of a book or scientific series, and/or service as a panelist or lead on federal funding panels

External Review:
The Memorandum of Agreement requires that candidates for tenure hired after July 2014 provide an evaluation of their research by an external reviewer at another institution with expertise appropriate for assessing the candidate’s research.

The department will consider and encourages more than one reviewer’s comments, if the candidate agrees. A minimum of four solicited reviewers, while voluntary, is considered appropriate. The candidate will provide a list of a minimum of 8 potential external reviewers from which the Chair of the T&R committee will select a maximum of 4 to solicit reviews from.

The department will ask the external reviewer(s) to comment on:

I. The quality of the candidate’s scholarship
II. The appropriateness of the volume of research production
III. The quality and appropriateness of the candidate’s funding sources
IV. The candidate's standing in the field, including
   a. Scholarly reputation
   b. Accomplishments relative to scholars of similar experience at equivalent public institutions

External reviewers will be provided the candidate's complete T&R application file, the MOA, information about the university's research infrastructure (both positive and negative), the candidate's teaching load, and will be asked to take these factors into account.

Service: Contributions to the University and Wider Community
11 percent

Service to the department, school, university, academic discipline, and broader public is expected from all tenure-track professors.

Pre-tenure
Pre-tenure service is expected to be limited and certain functions, such as serving on tenure committees or serving as department chair are prohibited. Pre-tenure faculty are expected to participate in routine departmental meetings and certain departmental, school, and university committees. Pre-tenure faculty are expected to participate in course and curriculum development and are encouraged to engage in various forms of STEM outreach and scholarship-based outreach.

Notes on Post-tenure Service
Post-tenure faculty are expected to bear their share of faculty leadership and administrative responsibilities. These duties may include serving on tenure and promotion committees, on faculty senate, on variously high-level departmental, school, or university committees, or as department chair. High-level service to one's discipline is appropriate for post-tenure faculty, such as serving as a journal editor or organizing conferences. Senior-level faculty members are expected to demonstrate leadership on scholarly issues both within the university, in their fields of study, and in society.

Informal Teaching: Scholarly service to the broader community
Informal teaching is based on the faculty member's areas of specialization and includes a wide range of activities. Examples include talks to K-12 school groups, civic groups, university seminars and assemblies, and political forums, such as testifying before a governmental panel. Scholarly engagement with the media in all its forms (both traditional media and new media) is a highly-valued activity and an important method of disseminating scholarly information, enhancing the public discourse, and boosting awareness of the university and its programs and activities. Giving public talks is encouraged. Invited talks in high-profile public venues, particularly those later distributed on the Internet, are a highly-valued service activity. It is acknowledged that research and scholarly achievements form the bedrock of impactful informal teaching activities, and as such, informal teaching should be expected to grow as the candidate's research program progresses and the candidate moves toward and beyond tenure.

Collegiality, Professionalism and Intellectual Responsibilities

While not a separate criterion, collegiality, professionalism, and intellectual integrity influence the efficacy of a professor. Thus, teaching, scholarship, and service occur within a framework of professional expectations. A faculty member's responsibility, with respect to their discipline, is to seek and to state the truth as they see it. At the same time, faculty members must accept the obligation to exercise critical self-discipline and judgment in using and transmitting knowledge. Intellectual honesty is expected of all faculty members. Faculty members must adhere to all University, state, and other applicable ethics requirements.
Faculty members are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner and must engage other faculty members, members of the administration, staff, and students with courteousness and respect at all times. Faculty members must hold themselves and their students to the highest levels of academic integrity. Faculty members are also expected to respect the confidential information of students and colleagues. Faculty members are expected to take appropriate action if instances of discrimination or harassment are observed that directly effect students, faculty or staff.