

**Pattern of Administration  
for  
The Ohio State University  
Department of Evolution, Ecology,  
and Organismal Biology**

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## **I      Introduction**

This document provides a brief description of the Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology as well as a description of its guidelines and procedures. It supplements the [Rules of the University Faculty](#), and other policies and procedures of the university to which the department and its faculty are subject. The latter rules, policies and procedures, and changes in them, take precedence over statements in this document.

This Pattern of Administration is subject to continuing revision. It must be reviewed and either revised or reaffirmed on appointment or reappointment of the department chair. However, revisions may be made at any time as needed. All revisions, as well as periodic reaffirmation, are subject to approval by the college office and the Office of Academic Affairs.

## **II      Department Mission**

The mission of the Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology (henceforth, EEOB or the Department) is to discover, derive, and disseminate an understanding of biodiversity. This includes understanding how evolutionary and ecological processes create variation and pattern in organisms, populations, species, communities, and ecosystems as well as the effects of interactions among that biological diversity. We fulfill this mission through research and teaching; through collaborations across disciplines; in the context of laboratory, museum, field, and modeling studies; and from molecular to global scales. We are dedicated to the application of our basic research to solving applied local and global problems and to promoting understanding of the natural world; we have a rich tradition of blending basic and applied research. Our faculty and staff strive to produce the highest quality research and to prepare excellent scientists, leaders, and well-informed citizens through undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral education and public outreach. We strive for leadership in our scholarly disciplines combined with excellence in the classroom. To those ends, our service to the university and the community is built on the strength of a collegial workplace and the free flow of ideas.

As necessary components of this mission, the Department is committed to continuous improvement through regular scrutiny of the undergraduate and graduate curricula; the hiring of tenure-track faculty and other personnel who enhance or have the strong potential to enhance the Department's quality in the areas of teaching, research, and service; the recruitment and retention of an intellectually diverse workforce and student body; the creation of a welcoming community; and the development and maintenance of a physical and intellectual environment that fosters those activities.

## **III     Academic Rights and Responsibilities**

In April 2006, the university issued a [reaffirmation](#) of academic rights, responsibilities, and processes for addressing concerns.

## **IV     Faculty and Voting Rights**

Faculty Rule [3335-5-19](#) defines the types of faculty appointments possible at The Ohio State University and the rights and restrictions associated with each type of appointment. For purposes of governance, the faculty of this department includes tenure-track, teaching faculty, associated faculty, and research faculty with compensated FTEs of at least 20% in the department. Teaching faculty and emeritus faculty are invited to participate in discussions on non-personnel matters, but may not participate in personnel matters, including promotion and tenure reviews. In general, associated faculty may not vote on any matter unless they are appointed members of a committee or have been invited to vote by agreement of a majority of the faculty.

Tenure track faculty joint appointees whose TIU is in another department may participate and vote on all governance matters except hiring and promotion and tenure reviews.

The department makes tenure-track appointments with titles of Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor. Tenure-track faculty may vote in all matters of departmental governance.

The department makes teaching appointments. Teaching faculty titles are Assistant Teaching Professor, Associate Teaching Professor, and Teaching Professor. On May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, EEOB faculty voted to extend governance rights to teaching faculty. Teaching faculty may vote in all matters of departmental governance except tenure-track faculty promotion and tenure decisions and research faculty promotion decisions. Teaching faculty may participate in discussions of teaching faculty matters including promotion reviews. Any teaching faculty member appointed by the unit may stand for election to serve as a representative in the University Senate subject to representation restrictions noted in [Faculty Rule 3335-7-11\(C\)\(2\)](#).

The department may also appoint research faculty. Research faculty titles are Research Assistant Professor, Research Associate Professor, and Research Professor. Research faculty may comprise no more than 20% of the tenure-track faculty. Research-track faculty may vote in all matters of Department governance except tenure-track promotion and tenure decisions. Emeritus faculty in this department are invited to participate in discussions on non-personnel matters, but may not participate in personnel matters, including appointment, promotion and tenure reviews, and may not vote on any matter.

#### **A Teaching Faculty Appointment Cap**

This department's appointment cap on teaching faculty in relation to the total of tenure-track, clinical/teaching/professional practice and research faculty is established in the [college pattern of administration](#). Teaching faculty may comprise no more than 20% of the total faculty in the department.

#### **B Research Faculty Appointment Cap**

In accordance with Faculty Rule [3335-7-32](#), unless otherwise authorized by a majority vote of the tenure-track faculty in a TIU, research faculty must comprise no more than 20% of the number of tenure-track faculty in the TIU. In all cases, however, the number of research faculty positions must constitute a minority with respect to the number of tenure-track faculty in the unit.

Detailed information about the appointment criteria and procedures for the various types of faculty appointments made in this department is provided in the [Appointments, Promotion and Tenure Document](#).

### **V Organization of EEOB Services and Staff**

#### **A Administrative and Clerical Support**

The Department provides a number of services that assure prompt, efficient, and productive day- to-day operation. These services include: human resources and payroll actions; purchasing of supplies, services, and equipment; reimbursements; travel arrangements for faculty, guests, staff, and students; managerial and financial accounting; scheduling of offerings and scheduling of course-related events; compilation and management of enrollment and teaching statistics; coordination of the graduate program admissions; compilation and management of graduate student statistics; coordination of the promotion and tenure (P&T) process; and secretarial/administrative support of departmental activities. Day-to-day clerical support for individual faculty is also provided as required (e.g., visa processing for faculty or staff; shipping and receiving).

## **B Teaching Support**

The Department provides technical staff support for the preparation and maintenance of the laboratory component of several core courses for our undergraduate majors and clerical support for faculty and TA instructional activities. The Department also works closely with the Center for Life Sciences Education and the Michael V. Drake Institute of Teaching and Learning to provide instructional training for our faculty and graduate students.

## **C Special Unit**

The Department has one special unit – the Museum of Biological Diversity. This unit maintains and develops archival biodiversity collections of vouchered specimens and related data in support of research, teaching and service. It has a faculty director who provides leadership to museum-wide efforts related to outreach, development, and facilities improvement. It also has curators appointed to maintain each of its collections: Acarology, Borror Lab of Bioacoustics, C. A. Triplehorn Insect Collection, Crustacea, Fishes, Herbarium, Mollusks, and Tetrapods.

## **VI Overview of EEOB Decision-Making**

Policy and program decisions are made in a number of ways: by the department faculty as a whole, by standing or special committees of the department, or by the department chair. The nature and importance of any individual matter determine how it is addressed. Department governance proceeds on the general principle that the more important the matter to be decided, the more inclusive the participation in decision-making needs to be. Open discussions, both formal and informal, constitute the primary means of reaching decisions of central importance.

The administration of EEOB consists of a department chair, two vice-chairs, standing committees, and such special committees as may become necessary. Consultation by the chair and/or vice-chairs, in the form of formal or informal conferences and discussions with individuals or groups of faculty members on matters of departmental policy, is encouraged. For purposes of consultation, the following topics may be considered as policy matters: curriculum; recruitment of new faculty; definition of new or replacement faculty positions; budgetary matters; cooperative endeavors with other university units; major space assignments or alterations; shared departmental equipment; assignment of supporting staff; operation of support facilities; and development of teaching and research potentials of faculty and graduate students. For purposes of consultation, certain matters may be discussed more appropriately on an individual basis. Such matters include, but may not be limited to, recommendations for promotion and tenure, salary increases, dismissals, teaching assignments, and leave assignments.

Regardless of the issue(s) involved or individual(s) consulted, communication between the chair and the faculty should occur freely. Policy issues should be vetted with the Advisory Committee to determine whether the issue will be brought to the faculty at a faculty meeting for formal discussion and a vote. In addition, the opinions of interested and involved parties should be solicited. When a clear consensus is reached through broad discussion, the chair will make known to the faculty the decision and ask whether any dissenting opinion exists. If no dissent is brought forward, the decision may be implemented. If dissent is raised, the issue should be brought to a faculty meeting for resolution. In general, any policy matter of import should become an agenda item for the next faculty meeting and should be put to a vote of the faculty.

## **VII Department Administration**

## A EEOB Chair

The primary responsibilities of the chair are set forth in Faculty Rule [3335-3-35](#). This rule requires the chair to develop, in consultation with the faculty, a Pattern of Administration with specified minimum content. The rule, along with Faculty Rule [3335-6](#), also requires the TIU head to prepare, in consultation with the faculty, a document setting forth policies and procedures pertinent to appointments, reappointments, promotion and tenure.

Other responsibilities of the chair, not specifically noted elsewhere in this Pattern of Administration, are paraphrased and summarized below.

- To have general administrative responsibility for EEOB programs, subject to the approval of the dean of the college, and to conduct the business of the department efficiently. This broad responsibility includes the acquisition and management of funds and the hiring and supervision of faculty and staff.
- To plan with the members of the faculty and the dean of the college a progressive program; to encourage research and educational investigations.
- To evaluate and improve instructional and administrative processes on an ongoing basis; to promote improvement of instruction by providing for the evaluation of each course when offered, including written evaluation by students of the course and instructors, and periodic course review by the faculty.
- To evaluate faculty members annually in accordance with both university and department established criteria; to inform faculty members when they receive their annual performance and merit review of their right to review their primary personnel file maintained by EEOB and to place in that file a response to any evaluation, comment, or other material contained in the file.
- After consultation with the eligible faculty, to make recommendations to the dean of the college regarding appointments, reappointments, promotions, dismissals, and matters affecting the tenure of members of the EEOB faculty, in accordance with procedures set forth in Faculty Rules [3335-6](#) and [3335-7](#) and this department's Appointments, Promotion and Tenure Document.
- To see that all faculty members, regardless of their assigned location, are offered the privileges and responsibilities appropriate to their rank; and in general to lead in maintaining a high level of morale.
- To maintain a curriculum vitae for all personnel teaching a course in the department's curriculum.
- To see that adequate supervision and training are given to those members of the faculty and staff who may profit by such assistance.
- To prepare, after consultation with the faculty, annual budget recommendations for the consideration of the dean of the college.

- To facilitate and participate in prescribed [academic program review](#) processes, in collaboration with the dean of the college and the Office of Academic Affairs.

Day-to-day responsibility for specific matters may be delegated to others, but the chair retains final responsibility and authority for all matters covered by this Pattern, subject when relevant to the approval of the dean, Office of Academic Affairs, and Board of Trustees.

Operational efficiency requires that the chair exercise a degree of autonomy in establishing and managing administrative processes. The articulation and achievement of EEOB academic goals, however, are most successful when all faculty members participate in discussing and deciding matters of importance. The chair will therefore consult with the faculty on all educational and academic policy issues and will respect the principle of majority rule. When a departure from majority rule is judged to be necessary, the chair will explain to the faculty the reasons for the departure, ideally before action is taken.

## **B Vice-chairs**

The vice-chairs assist the chair in furthering the department's mission. EEOB has two vice-chairs, the *Vice-chair for Graduate Studies* (VCGS) and the *Vice-chair for Undergraduate Studies* (VCUS).

The specific duties of the vice-chairs are spelled out in their appointment letters but typically include the following:

The VCGS oversees all aspects of the departmental graduate student program. The VCGS serves as chair of the Graduate Studies Committee. They work closely with the Graduate Admissions Committee to recruit and prioritize prospective students, organize and evaluate annual activity reports from graduate students, work with other graduate faculty to develop effective strategies for the mentoring of graduate students, solicit GTA assignment preferences from the graduate students and assigns GTAs to courses, and coordinates the nomination of graduate students for college and university fellowships.

The VCUS maintains curricular oversight and strategic planning, deals with curricular proposals, and represents the department at development, outreach, recruitment, or other special events related to curriculum. The VCUS works with the departmental chair to identify course offering priorities and to make teaching assignments. The VCUS serves as chair of the Curriculum Committee.

## **C Committees**

Much of the development and implementation of EEOB policies and programs are carried out by standing and *ad hoc* committees. The chair is an *ex officio* member of all EEOB committees and may vote as a member on all committees except the Committee of Eligible Faculty.

The standing committees are the Advisory Committee, the Committee of the Eligible Faculty, the Curriculum Committee, the Culture and Community Committee, the Graduate Studies Committee, the Graduate Admissions Committee, the Awards Committee, the Seminar Committee, the Social Events Committee, the Communications Committee, the Peer Review of Teaching Committee and the Junior Faculty Committee.

By the end of Summer Semester, the EEOB chair will draft a listing of standing committee assignments and chairs designate. Faculty and the chairs designate will be given an opportunity to supply input on the draft assignments before the assignments are finalized. The chair, in consultation with the chairs-designate, will make final committee assignments. The chair will nominate individuals for membership

on college committees. For faculty with less than 100% full time equivalent appointments in the department, eligibility for appointment to standing committees will be the same as for those with 100% FTE appointments unless stated otherwise in the memorandum of understanding for that appointment. Appointment to the Committee of the Eligible Faculty is limited to tenure-track faculty whose tenure-initiating unit is EEOB.

Graduate students have a vested interest in the operation and future of the department. In that spirit, there will be graduate student representation on all standing committees except the CEF. Only in circumstances involving personnel decisions or disciplinary hearings should the graduate student representative be excused. Undergraduate student representation is provided on the Curriculum committees.

## **1 Advisory Committee**

To facilitate continuing discussion and input into decisions and actions that affect the faculty, graduate students, and staff of EEOB, the chair will consult with the Advisory Committee on issues of budgeting, staffing, departmental administration, faculty professional leave requests, or other issues that either the chair or the members of the Committee deem sufficient to warrant a meeting. Recommendations of the Advisory Committee are advisory to the chair. Formal votes on recommendations to the chair are not mandatory. However, any member of the Advisory Committee may move to submit a recommendation for approval by a majority vote of the Advisory Committee. If actions by the chair are in contradiction to motions approved by the Advisory Committee by majority vote, the chair must explain that action in writing and this document shall be entered into the minutes of the next faculty meeting.

Each June, the faculty will elect three members, one per faculty rank, from among the tenure- track faculty members. Clinical Teaching faculty will also elect one member. In addition, the EEOB Graduate Student Organization (abbreviated 'GEES') will choose two representatives, and the department staff will elect one representative. The term of service will be one year. Faculty and graduate student members may serve no more than two consecutive terms, after which they will be ineligible to serve for one year.

In addition to its consultative role, the Advisory Committee will serve a first-level function for appeals, investigations, or grievances. In cases where a member of the Advisory Committee has a conflict of interest, the committee will meet in the absence of this individual.

## **2 Committee of Eligible Faculty (CEF)**

The Department's procedures for promotion and tenure and promotion reviews are fully consistent with those set forth in Faculty Rule 3335-6-04 and the Office Academic Affairs' annually updated procedural guidelines for promotion and tenure reviews.

The Committee of Eligible Faculty (see Appointments, Promotions, and Tenure document section III for definitions) is composed of all tenured faculty of higher rank than the candidate, excluding the tenure-initiating unit chair, the Executive Dean, Divisional Dean and Assistant and Associate Deans of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Executive Vice President and Provost, and the President. When the candidate being considered is a professor at another institution, the faculty equal to that rank will constitute the CEF. The Department chair's role in CEF meetings will be limited to responding to requests from committee members for clarifications of procedures, policies, and rules and such other requests for information deemed appropriate by the chair of the CEF.

The chair of the CEF is appointed for a three year term by the department chair. The CEF selects one of its members to be the Procedures Oversight Designee (POD) to monitor the promotion and tenure process and to act in accordance with the university's guidelines relative to Procedures Oversight Designees. The responsibilities of the CEF are detailed in the department's Appointments, Promotion, and Tenure document, Section VII, B, 2-3.

### **3 Curriculum Committee**

The Curriculum Committee is composed of a chair, who is the Vice-chair for Undergraduate Studies; two other tenure-track faculty members; two Clinical Teaching faculty members; a graduate student representative; and an undergraduate student representative. The graduate student representative is selected annually by GEES, and the undergraduate member is selected by the Curriculum Committee.

The duties of the Curriculum Committee are to:

- Oversee all matters related to development of, and changes to, the undergraduate and graduate curricula (working with the GSC on the latter).
- Oversee the undergraduate major programs, including monitoring and appraising the quality of the undergraduate curriculum and undergraduate degree requirements so as to determine what changes might be necessary and report recommendations concerning such changes to the EEOB chair and the faculty at least biennially.
- Ensuring that our undergraduate majors have access to career exploration and education opportunities.
- Monitoring post-graduation outcomes of our undergraduate majors.
- Provide current information regarding course offerings and curricula to the broader university community through the EEOB web site and other media.
- Offer assistance to faculty in curriculum development and course design.
- Review new course or course change proposals submitted to the Department for concurrence and recommend action.
- Monitor changes in enrollments in undergraduate courses and majors and make appropriate recommendations.

### **4 Culture and Community Committee**

The Culture and Community Committee is composed of a chair, two additional tenure-track, teaching, or research faculty members, one staff member, and one graduate student.

The Culture and Community Committee is charged with fostering a healthy, respectful, and inclusive climate within the unit. Its role is to identify opportunities to strengthen collegiality, promote mutual respect, and support practices that allow all faculty, staff, and students to thrive. The committee may recommend initiatives that enhance communication, celebrate accomplishments, encourage collaboration, and improve day-to-day interactions across the unit. While not focused on compliance or policy, the committee provides a forum for dialogue about culture and community well-being, and it advises unit leadership on ways to continually improve the working and learning environment.

### **5 Graduate Studies Committee (GSC)**

The GSC is composed of the Chair, who is the Vice-chair for Graduate Studies, of three EEOB faculty who are members of the Graduate Faculty, and of two graduate students. The graduate student

representatives are elected annually by GEES.

The duties of the GSC include:

- Convene the EEOB Graduate Faculty on an annual basis and present to them motions for approval. Typically, Graduate Faculty meetings will be held in concert with the Department Faculty meetings; however, Graduate Faculty meetings may be called at any time;
- Coordinate the nomination and appointment of faculty to the EEOB Graduate Faculty;
- Coordinate EEOB 8894, the new-student graduate seminar each Autumn Semester;
- Develop, periodically revise, and enforce the rules and regulations set forth in the EEOB Graduate Program Handbook;
- Enforce the rules and regulations set forth in the Graduate School Handbook;
- Serve as a conduit of information from the Graduate School to the graduate students and graduate faculty;
- Nominate graduate students for university-sponsored fellowships;
- Conduct annual review of progress and performance for each graduate student;
- Collect and administer data, including but not limited to graduate student progress, GTA performance reviews, GTA course workloads, and graduate placement;
- Monitor and suggest changes to the graduate curriculum; and
- Complete periodic reviews of the contributions of each member of the Graduate Faculty to the EEOB Graduate Program. Those members of the Graduate Faculty who are not actively involved in the Graduate Program will be subject to removal from the Graduate Faculty.

## **6 Graduate Admissions Committee (GAC)**

The GAC is composed of five members of the EEOB Graduate Faculty and one graduate student. The chair and faculty membership of the GAC are selected by the department chair. The chair of the GSC serves as one of the five regular members of the GAC, but not as chair. The term of the chair is three years. The graduate student representative is elected annually by GEES. The committee is assisted in its work by the Graduate Program Coordinator.

The duties of the GAC include:

- Dissemination of current information on the Graduate Program to prospective students, including resources, admission requirements, and application procedures. This is accomplished through maintenance of an updated Graduate Program website and direct communication with prospective students. The Graduate Program Coordinator has a primary role in these activities.
- Coordination of graduate admission - principally the review and ranking of applications, but also nomination of applicants for fellowships, and notification of applicants of the Committee's decisions. This is accomplished between mid-December and mid-March of each year.
- Leadership in recruitment of graduate students, including communication with the graduate faculty regarding their recruitment plans and organization of the Graduate Recruitment Event.

## **7 Seminar Committee**

The Seminar Committee is composed of four tenure-track or research faculty, chosen by the department chair, and two graduate students selected by GEES. There are two faculty co-chairs. The term of each of the co-chairs is two years; a new co-chair is appointed to begin each Autumn Semester. A co-chair's term as lead co-chair runs from their first Spring Semester through the end of Autumn Semester. The second co-chair then takes over as lead co-chair in Spring Semester. This

alternation ensures continuity of scheduling through summer.

The duties of the Seminar Committee are to:

- Oversee and develop the departmental seminar program.
- Solicit recommendations for speakers from the faculty, staff, and graduate students.
- Craft a seminar schedule each term.
- Promote the seminar series through posters, email notices, and other appropriate means.
- Work with seminar speaker hosts to contact possible speakers and determine their availability.

Speaker hosts are responsible for local arrangements for their invitees and should work with department administrative staff to coordinate their travel and accommodations.

## **8 Awards Committee**

The Awards Committee is composed of a chair, two faculty chosen by the department chair, one clinical faculty or research scientist, one graduate student selected by GEES, and one staff member. The term of the chair is two years.

The duties of the Awards Committee are to:

- Solicit nominations and supporting documentation for graduate student candidates for department, college, or university awards;
- Solicit nominations and supporting documentation for staff candidates for college or university awards;
- Solicit nominations and develop supporting documentation for faculty candidates for college, university, and external awards, including AAAS Fellow and more discipline-specific awards; and
- Work with donors and others to establish new awards and the selection criteria for them.

## **9 Social Events Committee**

The Social Events Committee is composed of three faculty (one serving as chair), one staff member, and one graduate student selected by GEES. The term of the chair is two years.

The duties of the Social Events Committee are to:

- Coordinate a welcome reception for new graduate students, staff, and faculty at the beginning of each Autumn Semester;
- Coordinate a holiday party to be held near the end of Autumn Semester;
- Coordinate a spring picnic to be held near the end of Spring Semester;
- Develop other social events as the Committee and Department see fit.

## **10 Communications Committee**

The Communications Committee is composed of three faculty members (one serving as chair), one staff member, and one graduate student. The staff member also will serve as the Departmental Web Master. The term of the chair is two years and that of the Web Master is an open-ended appointment.

The duties of the Communications Committee are to:

- Work with the Web Master to continually upgrade and revise the departmental web site;

- Work with the College Development Officer and the department chair to develop and implement an aggressive development effort for the department;
- Develop and implement a coordinated effort designed to increase the visibility of the department, its faculty, its graduate and undergraduate students and programs, and its accomplishments both within the university and in the broader life sciences community.

## **11 Peer Review of Teaching Committee**

The Peer Review of Teaching committee consists of four faculty members (one serving as chair). The committee functions to ensure that all requirements pertaining to the review of teaching as stipulated in Section IX.B of the EEOB Appointments, Promotion, and Tenure document are carried out in a timely manner.

## **12 Junior Faculty Committee**

The Junior Faculty Committee is composed of all probationary tenure track faculty, with the most senior of these faculty appointed as chair.

The duties of this committee are to:

- Meet once each semester to discuss common challenges associated with tenure-track positions;
- Compare notes on mentoring committee activities;
- Provide near-peer mentoring to other junior faculty; and
- Meet annually with the EEOB Chairperson, VCGS, and VCUS to discuss topics that are important to the junior faculty.

## **D Special Committees**

Special committees will be formed as necessary. Members and chairs of such committees will be appointed by the department chair in consultation with the Advisory Committee. Assignments to these committees will be based on interests of individual faculty members and needs of the department.

## **1 Faculty Search Committees**

When a faculty position becomes available in the Department, the EEOB chair will identify a faculty member to chair an *ad hoc* search committee. The chair and the search committee chair will name up to four additional faculty members to the committee. A fifth faculty member may be appointed from another academic unit when that person can bring particular expertise to the committee or when the position represents a possibility for collaboration between the department and the second unit. The committee also will include one graduate student elected by GEES. The committee will select one of its members to ensure adherence to university rules and policies. Actions of the search committee will be informed by the university's *Guide to Effective Searches* available at OSU's Human Resources website. The duties of the search committee are detailed in the Department's *Appointments, Promotion and Tenure* document, section IV, B, 1.

## **VIII Faculty Meetings**

The chair will provide to the faculty a schedule of EEOB faculty meetings at the beginning of each academic term. The schedule will provide for at least one meeting per semester and normally will provide for monthly meetings. A call for agenda items and completed agenda will be delivered to faculty by e-mail before a

scheduled meeting. Reasonable efforts will be made to call for agenda items at least seven days before the meeting, and to distribute the agenda by e-mail at least three business days before the meeting. A meeting of the EEOB faculty will also be scheduled on written request of 25% of the faculty. The chair will make reasonable efforts to have the meeting take place within one week of receipt of the request. The chair will distribute minutes of faculty meetings to faculty by e-mail—within seven days of the meeting if possible. These minutes may be amended at the next faculty meeting by a simple majority vote of the faculty who were present at the meeting covered by the minutes.

Special policies pertain to voting on personnel matters, and these are set forth in the EEOB's Appointments, Promotion and Tenure Document.

For purposes of discussing departmental business other than personnel matters, and for making decisions where consensus is possible and a reasonable basis for action, a quorum will be defined as a simple majority of all faculty members eligible to vote.

Either the chair or one-third of all faculty members eligible to vote may determine that a formal vote conducted by written ballot is necessary on matters of special importance. For purposes of a formal vote, a matter will be considered decided when a particular position is supported by at least a majority of all faculty members eligible to vote. Balloting will be conducted by mail or e-mail when necessary to assure maximum participation in voting. When conducting a ballot by mail or email, faculty members will be given one week to respond. When a matter must be decided and a simple majority of all faculty members eligible to vote cannot be achieved on behalf of any position, the TIU head will necessarily make the final decision.

The chair accepts the fundamental importance of full and free discussion but also recognizes that such discussion can only be achieved in an atmosphere of mutual respect and civility. Normally EEOB meetings will be conducted with no more formality than is needed to attain the goals of full and free discussion and the orderly conduct of business. However, Robert's Rules of Order will be invoked when more formality is needed to serve these goals.

## **IX Distribution of Faculty Duties and Responsibilities**

The university's policy with respect to faculty duties and responsibilities is set forth in the Office of Academic Affairs' [Policies and Procedures Handbook](#) Volume 1, Chapter 2, Section 1.4.3. The information provided below supplements these policies.

Faculty assignments are described in the initial letter of offer. Assignments and expectations for the upcoming year are addressed as part of the annual performance and merit review by the chair based on EEOB needs as well as faculty productivity and career development.

During on-duty periods, faculty members are expected to be available for interaction with students, research, and EEOB meetings and events even if they have no formal course assignment. Faculty are expected to schedule office hours for all courses. On-duty faculty members should not be away from campus for extended periods of time unless on an approved leave (see section XII) or on approved travel.

*Telework exception:* Faculty members with responsibilities requiring in-person interaction are to work at a university worksite to perform those responsibilities. Telework and the use of remote, virtual meetings are allowed at the discretion of the chair if such work can be performed effectively and faculty members are able to fulfill their responsibilities. Telework will be encouraged under certain circumstances if it serves the needs of the department, college, university, and/or community. The chair has the discretion to require faculty to work on campus if there are concerns that responsibilities are not being fulfilled through

telework.

The guidelines outlined here do not constitute a contractual obligation. Fluctuations in the demands and resources of the department and the individual circumstances of faculty members may warrant temporary deviations from these guidelines.

A full-time faculty member's primary professional commitment is to Ohio State University and the guidelines below are based on that commitment. Faculty who have professional commitments outside of Ohio State during on-duty periods (including teaching at another institution; conducting research for an entity outside of Ohio State; external consulting) must disclose and discuss these with the department chair in order to ensure that no conflict of commitment exists. Information on faculty conflicts of commitment is presented in the university's [Policy on Outside Activities and Conflicts](#).

In crisis situations, such as life-threatening disease (COVID, for example) or physical dangers (natural disasters, for example), faculty duties and responsibilities may be adjusted by the chair to take into account the impact over time of the crisis. These adjustments may include modifying research expectations in order to maintain teaching obligations. These assignment changes must be considered in annual reviews.

### **A Tenure-track Faculty**

Tenure-track faculty duties and responsibilities reflect the mission and goals of the department, which include support of high quality, comprehensive programs in undergraduate and graduate instruction, generation and dissemination of knowledge, and service to the university and professional and public sectors. Each faculty member will maintain an active program in each of these areas, although the relative contributions to specific areas may vary among faculty members and through time. Instruction must be of high quality as judged by peer review and by evaluation of students. Likewise, research must be of high quality as judged by peer review, particularly through dissemination of knowledge by publication in respected journals and presentations at professional meetings, and by the generation of external funding. Faculty members should serve the university, the public, and their profession. The following guidelines do not constitute a contractual obligation; fluctuations in demands and resources in the department and college, and special circumstances of individual faculty members, may warrant temporary deviations from the guidelines.

Faculty who have professional commitments outside of Ohio State during on-duty periods (including teaching at another institution; conducting research for an entity outside of Ohio State; external consulting) must disclose and discuss these with the chair in order to ensure that no conflict of commitment exists. Information on faculty conflicts of commitment is presented in the OAA Faculty Conflict of Commitment policy available at the OAA website.

For criteria pertaining to promotion and tenure, and promotion reviews, see the Department's Appointments, Promotion, and Tenure document.

### **Teaching**

The Department teaches undergraduate and graduate students from throughout the university. Formal lecture-based courses (with or without laboratory experiences) and research-oriented seminars are offered to serve the needs of undergraduate and graduate students. Formal research courses and research advising and mentoring are offered on an individual basis to undergraduate and graduate students. In addition, tenure-track faculty are responsible for informal teaching and advising of undergraduates whenever

appropriate. Tenure-track faculty serve on examination and thesis/dissertation committees of graduate students, both within the Department and within the university at large; assist with manuscript review and development of grant applications by students; and mentor Graduate Teaching and Research Associates.

The normal level of teaching effort for tenure-track faculty on the Columbus campus with 100% full-time equivalent appointments is two courses per year in EEOB or the Center for Life Sciences Education and participation annually in the EEOB 8894 seminar. This number is anticipated to vary between one and four, however, depending on the faculty member's other activities. Teaching of courses in interdisciplinary programs may substitute for the teaching of EEOB courses, with the agreement of the Department chair.

Other instructional activities in which tenure-track faculty will participate include:

- Mentoring of graduate students in EEOB or other graduate programs;
- Mentoring of graduate students through service on research advisory/exam committees, supervising students doing laboratory rotations, and/or training students from other laboratories in techniques;
- Supervision and mentoring of undergraduate students; advising Honors students; counseling applicants to graduate and professional school; preparation of letters of recommendation;
- Preparation, development, and revision of materials for use in course offering(s), including new research results;
- Supervision and mentoring of Graduate Teaching Associates;
- Recruitment of graduate students into EEOB or other graduate programs; and
- Participation in peer evaluations of teaching.

## **Research**

All tenure-track faculty members are expected to be engaged in scholarship as defined in the TIU's [Appointments, Promotion, and Tenure Document](#). Over a four-year rolling period a faculty member who is actively engaged in scholarship will be expected to publish regularly in high quality peer-reviewed journals as well as in other appropriate venues, such as edited book chapters of similar quality and length as articles.

Scholarly research activities are essential to the continued development of all areas of the biological sciences, and they form an essential part of the department's mission. All tenure-track faculty members are expected to develop and pursue an active, high-quality program of research scholarship that will result in the following:

- Publication of papers, reporting on the results of original research, in high quality peer-reviewed journals;
- Publication of review papers, invited chapters in books, or books; and
- Presentation of original research at national and international meetings, and invited seminars at colleges, universities, and research institutions.

Annual publication rate may vary for a number of reasons, but sustained productivity of high impact scholarship is an important measure of a faculty member's contribution to the department's overall record of research excellence.

Tenure-track faculty also will engage in:

- Preparation and submission of proposals to extramural granting agencies;
- Maintenance of extramural funding sufficient to support the research activities of the laboratory; and

- Mentoring of undergraduate, graduate, and post-doctoral researchers carries with it the responsibility of securing such extramural funds.

Grants obtained from major agencies that rely on peer review demonstrate the ability to attract funding and are one indication of the quality of the research. While pursuit of any source of extramural support is encouraged, those that carry full indirect costs are particularly useful in supporting the development of departmental programs.

Because of the higher teaching loads and substantial reduction in research laboratory space and mentoring opportunities on regional campuses, regional campus faculty have a reduced responsibility in both the quantity of scholarly activity and the need to secure extramural research funds. Nonetheless, maintaining scholarly activity sufficient for advancement in rank on the regional campuses will typically require regular research publications and some extramural support.

## Service

Faculty members are expected to be engaged in service and outreach to the department, university, profession, and community. Typically, this will include service on two committees within EEOB and one outside the unit. This pattern can be adjusted depending on the nature of the assignment (e.g., service as committee chair, service on a particularly time-intensive committee, organizing a professional conference, leadership in an educational outreach activity, service in an administrative position within the department, college, or university).

All faculty members are expected to attend and participate in faculty meetings, recruitment activities, and other department events.

Service loads should be discussed and agreed to during annual performance and merit reviews. When heavy service obligations are primarily volunteer in nature, the TIU head is not obligated to modify the service load of the faculty member (reduce teaching and/or scholarly obligations). If, however, a heavy service load is due to the faculty member's unique expertise, perspective, or voice, this should be noted in the annual performance review letter, considered when distributing the faculty member's other duties, and taken into account for the AMC Process. The department chair should also consider this additional service burden in managing equity of service loads among faculty.

The service component of each faculty member's duties and responsibilities reflects the need for university scholars to contribute to university governance, professional organizations, and society as a whole, and to share in the intellectual and scholarly life of the university. All tenure-track faculty are expected to participate in the following types of service:

- Membership on committees and governance bodies at the level of department, college, or university, serving as chair when appropriate; and
- Significant involvement in professional societies and/or agencies, with the level of service increasing from Assistant Professor (e.g., *ad hoc* reviewer for professional journals and/or granting agencies, symposium organizer, society committee member) to Professor (e.g., editorial board member, agency panel member, elected officer of professional societies).

### i Special Assignments

Information on special assignments (SAs) is presented in the Office of Academic Affairs [Special Assignment Policy](#). The information provided below supplements this policy.

Untenured faculty will normally be provided a teaching release for one semester during their probationary period. Reasonable efforts will be made to award SA opportunities to all other faculty members subject to the quality of faculty proposals, including their potential benefit to the department or university, and the need to assure that sufficient faculty are always present to carry out departmental work. The Advisory Committee will evaluate all SA proposals and make recommendations to the chair. The chair's recommendation to the dean regarding an SA proposal will be based on the quality of the proposal and its potential benefit to the department or university and to the faculty member as well as the ability of the department to accommodate the SA at the time requested.

## **B Teaching Faculty**

The Department of EEOB appoints teaching faculty. These appointments exist for faculty members who focus principally on the education needs for EEOB and/or CLSE courses. Teaching faculty members are expected to contribute to EEOB's research and education missions, as reflected by participation in graduate program development and teaching.

Teaching faculty members are expected to contribute to the university's mission via teaching and service, and to a lesser extent scholarship. Service expectations are similar to those for the tenure-track.

The standard teaching assignment for full-time teaching faculty members is seven courses per academic year.

## **C Research Faculty**

Research faculty members are expected to contribute to the university's mission via research.

In accord with Faculty Rule [3335-7-34](#),

*a research faculty member may, but is not required to, participate in limited educational activities in the area of his or her expertise. However, teaching opportunities for each research faculty member must be approved by a majority vote of the TIU's tenure-track faculty. Under no circumstances may a member of the research faculty be continuously engaged over an extended period of time in the same instructional activities as tenure-track faculty.*

Research faculty expectations for research are similar to those for the tenure-track, albeit proportionally greater since 100% of effort for research faculty members is devoted to research. Specific expectations are spelled out in the letter of offer.

## **D Associated Faculty**

Compensated associated faculty members are expected to contribute to the university's mission via teaching or research depending on the terms of their individual appointments.

Faculty members with tenure-track titles and appointments <50% FTE will have reduced expectations based on their appointment level.

Expectations for compensated visiting faculty members will be based on the terms of their appointment and are comparable to that of tenure-track faculty members except that service is not required.

The standard teaching assignment for full-time lecturers is eight courses per academic year.

## **E Modification of Duties**

The department of EEOB strives to be a family-friendly unit in its efforts to recruit and retain high quality faculty members. To this end, the department is committed to adhering to the College of Arts & Sciences guidelines on modification of duties to provide its faculty members flexibility in meeting work responsibilities within the first year of childbirth/adoption/fostering, or care for an immediate family member who has a serious health condition, or a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the employee's immediate family member is on covered active duty in a foreign country or call to covered active duty status. See the [college pattern of administration](#) for details. See also the OHR [Parental Care Guidebook](#) and the Parental Leave Policy in Section XII.

A faculty member requesting a modification of duties and the department chair should be creative and flexible in developing a solution that is fair to both the individual and the unit while addressing the needs of the university. Expectations must be spelled out in an MOU that is approved by the dean.

## **X Course Offerings and Teaching Schedule**

The department chair will annually develop a schedule of course offerings and teaching schedules in consultation with the faculty, both collectively and individually. While every effort will be made to accommodate the individual preferences of faculty, EEOB's first obligation is to offer the courses needed by students at times and in formats, including on-line instruction, most likely to meet student needs. To assure classroom availability, reasonable efforts must be made to distribute course offerings across the day and week. To meet student needs, reasonable efforts must be made to assure that course offerings match student demand and that timing conflicts with other courses students are known to take in tandem are avoided. A scheduled course that does not attract the minimum number of students required by Faculty Rule [3335-8-16](#) will normally be cancelled and the faculty member scheduled to teach that course will be assigned to another course for that or a subsequent semester. Finally, to the extent possible, courses required in any curriculum or courses with routinely high demand will be taught by at least two faculty members across semesters of offering to assure that instructional expertise is always available for such courses.

In addition to formally scheduled courses, tenured faculty on the Columbus campus are expected to offer at least two graduate student seminars every three years. Probational faculty on the Columbus campus and tenured faculty on the regional campuses are expected to offer at least one seminar every three years. Probational faculty on the regional campuses are not required to teach graduate seminars but are strongly encouraged to do so if they have graduate students. When a faculty member does not plan to recruit graduate students, they are not expected to teach a graduate seminar. These offerings should be tracked on the faculty Annual Report (FAR) and on a table that can be viewed by graduate students and faculty. This will allow graduate students to see what has been offered in the past and to plan for future semesters. Special circumstances that prevent a faculty member from meeting these expectations should be discussed with the department chair as part of the annual review process. Faculty who do not meet these expectations will not be prioritized by the chair in offering admission to new graduate students.

## **XI Allocation of Department Resources**

The chair is responsible for the fiscal and academic health of the department and for assuring that all resources—fiscal, human, and physical—are allocated in a manner that will optimize achievement of unit goals.

The chair will discuss the department's budget at least annually with the faculty and attempt to achieve consensus regarding the use of funds across general categories. However, final decisions on budgetary matters rest with the chair.

Research space shall be allocated on the basis of research productivity, including external funding, and will be reallocated periodically as these faculty-specific variables change.

The allocation of office space will include considerations such as achieving proximity of faculty in subdisciplines and productivity and grouping staff functions to maximize efficiency.

The allocation of salary funds is discussed in the Appointments, Promotion and Tenure Document.

Discretionary funds may become available to the department through a variety of means, including marginal change in teaching or grant activity, release time funds, and development accounts. Responsibility for allocation of these funds resides with the chair. Disbursement of such discretionary funds in excess of \$10,000 should be made only following consultation with the Advisory Committee. Allocation of these funds should be guided by the general principle that they are meant to enhance the department's mission generally, rather than being earmarked to individual faculty. Criteria for graduate student access to department travel awards are detailed in the EEOB Graduate Program Handbook. Faculty requests for travel awards are evaluated by the chair based on financial need, the nature of the scholarly goals of the meeting, and the availability of funds.

Grant funds awarded to individual investigators will not be micromanaged by the department office. The Department Fiscal Manager will monitor the monthly Project Financial Summaries for OSP accounts and the monthly General Ledger statements for other types of grants. It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigators to work with OSP to manage their funds. The department will become directly involved with a Principal Investigator's grant only if it appears to be in danger of running a deficit or in cases of academic misconduct.

## **XII Leaves and Absences**

In general, there are four types of leaves and absences taken by faculty (in addition to parental leave, which is detailed in the [Parental Care Guidebook](#)). The university's policies and procedures with respect to leaves and absences are set forth in the Office of Academic Affairs [Policies and Procedures Handbook](#) and Office of Human Resources [Policies and Forms website](#). The information provided below supplements these policies.

### **A Discretionary Absence**

Faculty are expected to complete a travel request or a [request for absence form](#) well in advance of a planned absence (for attendance at a professional meeting or to engage in consulting) to provide time for its consideration and approval and time to assure that instructional and other commitments are covered. Discretionary absence from duty is not a right, and the department chair retains the authority to disapprove a proposed absence when it will interfere with instructional or other comparable commitments. Such an occurrence is most likely when the number of absences in a particular semester is substantial. [Rules of the University Faculty](#) require that the Office of Academic Affairs approve any discretionary absence longer than 10 consecutive business days (see Faculty Rule [3335-5-08](#)).

## **B Absence for Medical Reasons**

When absences for medical reasons are anticipated, faculty members are expected to complete a [request for absence form](#) as early as possible. When such absences are unexpected, the faculty member, or someone speaking for the faculty member, should let the department chair know promptly so that instructional and other commitments can be managed. Faculty members are always expected to use sick leave for any absence covered by sick leave (personal illness, illness of family members, medical appointments). Sick leave is a benefit to be used—not banked. For additional details see OHR [Policy 6.27](#).

## **C Unpaid Leaves of Absence**

The university's policies with respect to unpaid leaves of absence and entrepreneurial leaves of absence are set forth in OHR [Policy 6.45](#).<http://www.hr.osu.edu/policy/index.aspx>

## **D Faculty Professional Leave (FPL)**

Information on faculty professional leaves is presented in the OAA [Policy on Faculty Professional Leave](#).

The Advisory Committee will review all requests for faculty professional leave and make a recommendation to the department chair based on the following criteria:

FPL proposals submitted by EEOB faculty are first reviewed by the Advisory Committee to evaluate their adherence to university rules and their scholarly merit. Of particular importance is the quality of the proposal and its potential benefit to the department and to the faculty member, as well as the ability of the Department to accommodate the leave at the time requested. The Advisory Committee forwards its review and recommendation to the chair. The chair will conduct a separate review and forward an overall recommendation to the divisional dean.

The chair's recommendation to the dean regarding an FPL proposal will be based on the quality of the proposal and its potential benefit to EEOB and to the faculty member as well as the ability of the department to accommodate the leave at the time requested.

## **E Parental Leave**

The university, the college, and this TIU recognize the importance of parental leave to faculty members. Details are provided in the OHR [Parental Care Guidebook](#), Paid Time Off Program [Policy 6.27](#), and the [Family and Medical Leave Policy 6.05](#).

EEOB strives to be a family-friendly unit in its efforts to recruit and retain high quality faculty members. To this end, the department is committed to adhering to the College of Arts and Science's guidelines on modification of duties to provide its faculty members flexibility in meeting work responsibilities. Eligible faculty will be allowed to take up to one academic semester with modified duties in conjunction with the university's family leave options, which include paid parental, sick, and unpaid leave. If the modification of duties is combined with the university's leave options, this period of leave and modified duties shall not exceed one academic semester. See the [ASC Pattern of Administration](#) for details.

A faculty member requesting modification of duties and the department chair should be creative and flexible in developing a solution that is fair to both the individual and the unit while addressing the needs of the university. Expectations must be spelled out in an MOU that is approved by the divisional dean.

### **XIII Additional Compensation and Outside Activities**

Information on additional compensation is presented in the OAA [Policy on Faculty Compensation](#). Information on paid external consulting is presented in the university's [Policy on Outside Activities and Conflicts](#). The information provided below supplements these policies.

This department adheres to these policies in every respect. In particular, this department expects faculty members to carry out the duties associated with their primary appointment with the university at a high level of competence before seeking other income-enhancing opportunities. All activities providing additional compensation must be approved by the TIU head regardless of the source of compensation. External consulting must also be approved. Approval will be contingent on the extent to which a faculty member is carrying out regular duties at an acceptable level, the extent to which the extra income activity appears likely to interfere with regular duties, and the academic value of the proposed consulting activity to the department. In addition, it is university policy that faculty may not spend more than one business day per week on supplementally compensated activities and external consulting combined.

Faculty with an administrative position (for example, chair, associate/assistant dean, center director) remain subject to the Policy on Outside Activities and Conflicts and with appropriate approval, are permitted to engage in paid external work activities. However, faculty members with administrative positions are not permitted to accept compensation/honoraria for services that relate to or are the result of their administrative duties and responsibilities.

Should an EEOB faculty member wish to use a textbook or other material that is authored by the faculty member and the sale of which results in a royalty being paid to him/her/them, such textbook or material may be required for a course by the faculty member only if (1) the faculty member's department chair and/or dean or designee have approved the use of the textbook or material for the course taught by the faculty member, or (2) an appropriate committee of the department or college reviews and approves the use of the textbook or material for use in the course taught by the faculty member.

Faculty who fail to adhere to the university's policies on these matters, including seeking approval for external consulting, will be subject to disciplinary action.

### **XIV Financial Conflicts of Interest**

Information on faculty financial conflicts of interest is presented in the university's [Policy on Outside Activities and Conflicts](#). A conflict of interest exists if financial interests or other opportunities for tangible personal benefit may exert a substantial and improper influence upon a faculty member or administrator's professional judgment in exercising any university duty or responsibility, including designing, conducting or reporting research.

Faculty members with external funding or otherwise required by university policy are required to file conflict of interest screening forms annually and more often if prospective new activities pose the possibility of financial conflicts of interest. Faculty who fail to file such forms or to cooperate with university officials in the avoidance or management of potential conflicts will be subject to disciplinary action.

In addition to financial conflicts of interest, faculty must disclose any conflicts of commitment that arise in relation to consulting or other work done for external entities. Further information about conflicts of commitment is included in section IX above.

## **XV Grievance Procedures**

Members of the department with grievances should discuss them with the department chair who will review the matter as appropriate and either seek resolution or explain why resolution is not possible. Content below describes procedures for the review of specific types of complaints and grievances.

### **A Salary Grievances**

A faculty or staff member who believes that his/her/their salary is inappropriately low should discuss the matter with the chair. The faculty or staff member should provide documentation to support the complaint.

Faculty members who are not satisfied with the outcome of the discussion with the chair and wish to pursue the matter may be eligible to file a more formal salary appeal (see the *Office of Academic Affairs Policies and Procedures Handbook*).

Staff members who are not satisfied with the outcome of the discussion with the chair and wish to pursue the matter should contact [Employee and Labor Relations](#) in the Office of Human Resources.

### **B Faculty Promotion and Tenure Appeals**

Promotion and tenure appeals procedures are set forth in Faculty Rule [3335-5-05](#).

### **C Faculty and Staff Misconduct**

Complaints alleging faculty misconduct or incompetence should follow the procedures set forth in Faculty Rule [3335-5-04](#).

Any student, faculty, or staff member may report complaints against staff to the chair. The [Office of Employee and Labor Relations](#) in the Office of Human Resources can provide assistance with questions, conflicts, and issues that arise in the workplace.

### **D Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct**

The Civil Rights Compliance Office exists to help the Ohio State community prevent and respond to all forms of harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct.

- 1 Ohio State's policy and procedures related to equal employment opportunity are set forth in the university's [policy on equal employment opportunity](#).
- 2 Ohio State's policy and procedures related to nondiscrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct are set forth in the university's [policy on nondiscrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct](#).

### **E Violations of Laws, Rules, Regulations, or Policies**

Concerns about violations of laws, rules, regulations, or policies affecting the university community should be referred to the [Office of University Compliance and Integrity](#). Concerns may also be registered anonymously through the [Anonymous Reporting Line](#).

## **F Complaints by and about Students**

Normally student complaints about courses, grades, and related matters are brought to the attention of individual faculty members. In receiving such complaints, faculty should treat students with respect regardless of the apparent merit of the complaint and provide a considered response. When students bring complaints about courses and instructors to the department chair, the department chair will first ascertain whether or not the students require confidentiality. If confidentiality is not required, the department chair will investigate the matter as fully and fairly as possible and provide a response to both the students and any affected faculty. If confidentiality is required, the department chair will explain that it is not possible to fully investigate a complaint in such circumstances and will advise the student(s) on options to pursue without prejudice as to whether the complaint is valid or not. See Faculty Rule [3335-8-23](#).

Faculty complaints regarding students must always be handled strictly in accordance with university rules and policies. Faculty should seek the advice and assistance of the department chair and others with appropriate knowledge of policies and procedures when problematic situations arise.

## **G Academic Misconduct**

Faculty members will report any instances of academic misconduct to the [Committee on Academic Misconduct](#) in accordance with the [Code of Student Conduct](#). See also [Board of Trustees Rule 3335-23-05](#).