Penn State Standing Joint Committee on Tenure

The Standing Joint Committee on Tenure is one of the most important committees at Penn State. To serve on this committee as a faculty member you must be nominated to the University Faculty Senate and elected by that body.

Role of the Committee

The Standing Joint Committee on Tenure acts solely in an advisory capacity to the President on matters pertaining to the dismissal of tenured or tenure-eligible faculty. It holds hearings to receive evidence and adjudicate the matter and to provide the President with a reasoned opinion and recommendation for action with respect to the request to dismiss a faculty member.

Committee Structure and Terms of Service

1. The Standing Joint Committee on Tenure consists of five members.
   a. Three tenured faculty elected by the elected faculty members of the University Faculty Senate.
   b. Two members appointed by the President of the University.

2. The chair will be chosen by the committee from the elected tenured faculty members and will serve a one-year term as chair.

3. Terms of service
   a. The three elected tenured faculty members serve three-year terms.
   b. The two appointed members serve a one-year term.

4. Other requirements
   a. No member of this committee may serve concurrently on the University Promotion and Tenure Review Committee and/or the Senate Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities.
   b. While every effort will be made to schedule meetings and hearings during the workday, given the time sensitive nature of the concerns brought to the committee, the work of the committee may take place in the evening and on the weekend. Members who serve on this committee are expected to be responsive to emails and flexible in regard to scheduling.

Eligibility

1. All tenured faculty.

Committee workload
1. The committee does not have a regular meeting schedule. It is called into session by the President when there is a case for it to review.

2. The committee can go multiple years without a case.

3. When the committee does get a case, the commitment is intense.
   
   a. There are three to four initial meetings, each lasting 90 minutes.
   
   b. Then there will be at least two (possibly more) full-day meetings in which the case is heard.
   
   c. Outside of meetings, documents pertaining to the case must be reviewed. While the time will vary, committee members should expect to devote about 2-4 hours to this task.

For more information on current membership, relevant policies, and other details on the position, please go to the University Faculty Senate website:

https://senate.psu.edu/senators/other-committees/standing-joint-committee-on-tenure/