

Report on Proposed Bylaw Change for the School of Engineering
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Article I, Section 2: The pertinent section currently reads:

“The title ‘Professor of the Practice’ shall be held by a person with an eminent background in the practice of engineering, whose total appointment period at this rank will not exceed five years. Individuals holding ‘of the Practice’ appointments are not eligible for tenure of the Faculty of Engineering.”

The revised section, approved by the faculty of the School of Engineering at their October 28, 2009 meeting, would read (*changes noted by italics*):

“The title ‘Professor of the Practice’ shall be held by a person with an eminent background in the practice of engineering. *An individual holding an ‘of the Practice’ appointment for a total period exceeding three years is expected to maintain active involvement in the profession. Professors of the Practice* are not eligible for tenure in the Faculty of Engineering.”

Article I, Section 3 currently reads:

“Members of the Faculty of Engineering whose titles include the words “Visiting”, “Adjunct”, “of the Practice”, or “Research” may not vote in deliberations of this Faculty.”

The revised section, approved by the faculty of the School of Engineering at their October 28, 2009 meeting, would read:

“Members of the Faculty of Engineering whose titles include the words “Visiting”, “Adjunct”, or “Research” may not vote in deliberations of this Faculty.”

Rationale

- The “Professor of the Practice” (PoP) differs from a tenure-eligible position. In SOE, tenure-eligible positions carry responsibilities usually expressed as 40% teaching, 40% research, and 20% service. PoP positions are usually expressed as 80% teaching and 20% service.
- PoP’s are not engaged in research on Tufts time, rather they are expected to continue to be active in their profession outside of Tufts. Their non-Tufts activities such as leadership in national organizations, management consulting, project engineering, and entrepreneurship are desirable as the PoP brings relevant ideas back into the classroom.
- PoP’s are proposed and reviewed by an engineering department. The department completes two-year reviews and forwards their recommendations to the Dean of SOE.
- PoP’s are not replacements for core university positions, but are an opportunity to augment departmental outcomes using real-world hands-on experience. PoP’s have a different perspective on the discipline maintained by their continued professional involvement.
- Learning the balance between classroom activity and continued professional involvement often takes time. By eliminating a set time limit, successful PoP’s can continue their contribution to Tufts.
- AAUP does not object to this type of position as long as its requirements are explicitly different from tenure-eligible positions.