

Committee on Tenure and Academic Freedom Annual Report 2015-2016

Committee Members: Bill Farr (Chair), Constance Clark (Secretary), Carolina Ruiz, Jill Rulfs, Alex Wyglinski, Marsha Rolle

1. With departmental tenure committees, CTAF reviewed nine tenure cases and made recommendations to the Provost.
2. Met with the provost to discuss individual cases as appropriate.
3. Reviewed four proposals for appointment with tenure and made recommendations to the provost.
4. Notified departmental tenure committees to conduct annual reviews of untenured tenure-track faculty and to certify to CTAF in writing that the reviews had been done.
5. Presented a session on the tenure review process during New Faculty Orientation in August 2015.
6. Held an open meeting on March 23, 2016 with untenured tenure-track faculty to provide information on the tenure process at WPI.
7. Held an open meeting on March 24, 2016 with departmental tenure committees to discuss the tenure review process.
8. Considered one case of alleged violation of academic freedom.
9. Held meetings with departmental tenure committees of departments with candidates for tenure review in 2016-2017 to discuss procedure.
10. Worked on a document that describes current CTAF operating procedures for the tenure process and tenure reviews.
11. Revised letters to external reviewers and professional associates for clarity.
12. Revised letter sent to candidates for tenure and promotion.
13. Considered updates to CTAF and tenure review procedures for untenured tenure-track faculty with joint appointments or significant responsibilities in a program involving more than one department, and solicited comments and advice from relevant department chairs and program directors.