Library Faculty Handbook

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Library Faculty Handbook

I. Introduction

I.A Purpose of the Handbook
The purpose of the Mary and Jeff Bell Library Faculty Handbook is to collect the expectations, guidelines, and procedures that apply to library faculty into one document for ease of reference.

The handbook is not intended to dictate the details that must be followed by the faculty; instead, it is designed with sufficient flexibility to meet the specific needs consistently and fairly. Processes included in this handbook are broad in scope.

The handbook does not replace university rules/procedures or university and system policies/regulations, but rather supplements them. In several cases, the handbook refers readers to university rules and procedures published in such documents as the University Handbook of Rules and Procedures. The Library Faculty Handbook may be more restrictive than the university rules/procedures or the university system policies/procedures.

Every new faculty librarian will be oriented to this document, together with the university rules and procedures relevant to librarians, during their first regular semester of employment by their supervisor. All faculty librarians are responsible for making themselves familiar with the contents of this handbook and for asking questions if they need clarification or have concerns.

I.B Review and Approval of the Library Faculty Handbook
The information in this handbook represents current practice within the Mary and Jeff Bell Library. The content will be monitored for compliance with the University Handbook of Rules and Procedures as well as the extent to which the material reflects and supports library faculty activities. The content will be comprehensively reviewed on an annual schedule.

The Library Faculty Affairs Committee has an integral role in the periodic review and revision of the handbook. When edits and revisions are required, the committee will propose a draft for all library faculty to review. An approval from the majority of library faculty is required to move the draft forward for final approval by the Dean of University Libraries.

II. The Handbook

II.A Library Faculty Qualifications
To be appointed as a faculty librarian or archivist, an individual must possess a master’s in library and/or information science from an American Library Association accredited program (or the international equivalent). Programs accredited solely by the American Association of School
Libraries do not satisfy this requirement. Exceptions to the library degree requirement may be granted at the Dean of University Libraries’ discretion, should the position responsibilities warrant it.

II.B Faculty Recruitment and Selection
The library adheres to University Procedure 12.99.99.C0.01 Recruitment and Appointment of Faculty. The following is an outline of the Bell Library’s process for faculty recruitment and selection.

Identify Need
The need to recruit faculty is determined by:

- Business needs: filling empty positions, adding new services requiring a librarian, or making current services more robust
- Accreditation needs
- Academic improvements: for example, adding positions when new academic programs necessitate, or specific expertise is required

The Dean prioritizes faculty needs within budget constraints and recommends positions to the Provost. The Provost approves searches for faculty openings.

Create Position Restriction
The supervisor of the position to be filled develops the position restriction in collaboration with the Dean of University Libraries. The Dean establishes the hiring range for the position in consultation with the supervisor.

Appoint Search Committee
The Dean will appoint a search committee to review applications, identify qualified applicants, conduct interviews, and submit a hiring recommendation. The committee will be composed of library faculty, with faculty from academic departments included on a case-by-case basis, depending on the nature of the position being filled.

One member of the search committee will be designated as chair. The chair has the primary responsibility for communicating with Academic Affairs and library administration concerning the recruitment process.

The search committee will follow current search guidelines provided by the Faculty Recruitment and Records Coordinator in Academic Affairs.

Promote Availability of the Open Position
The library advertises positions (after approval by the Director of Employee Development and Compliance Service) in publications such as:

- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Inside Higher Ed
• American Library Association Joblist
• Texas Library Association Joblist
• Other appropriate channels

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and the Mary and Jeff Bell Library value diversity among faculty, staff, and students, and we are therefore committed to promoting and enhancing diversity in our hiring practices.

Screening of Candidates
The search committee screens all applicants and identifies finalists. Screening may include telephone interview or web-based conference calls. The search committee will recommend finalist(s) to the Dean. References are checked and final candidate(s) are invited to campus for an interview.

On Campus Interview
Campus visits will include meeting with the search committee, the Dean of University Libraries, and other interested parties. The candidate will deliver a presentation to library employees as well as other additional faculty and members of the campus community. The presentation will cover a topic proposed by the search committee and the candidate will respond to questions from the audience.

Each search will be properly documented in accordance with the Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action (EEO/AA) employment guidelines, using forms provided by Academic Affairs and the search committee chair. Information on EEO/AA policies may be obtained from the Employee Development and Compliance Services Office.

Selection
Input from library employees is requested by the search committee chair. The search committee meets and makes a recommendation to the Dean. The Dean makes a recommendation to the Provost, which is routed through the proper faculty recruitment channels.

Offer of Employment
The Dean communicates with the candidate, outlining the major provisions of the offer. If the offer is accepted, the candidate is sent an employment contact by the Provost which includes a description of compensation, professional expectations, and appointment details. The successful applicant must sign and return the contract, indicating their acceptance of the terms. See University Procedure 12.99.99.C0.01 Recruitment and Appointment of Faculty.

II.C Appointment
All faculty librarians will be provided with a letter of appointment each year that will outline the terms and conditions of employment. The notice of appointment at the time of hire will include the librarian’s timeline for eligibility for promotion to the next rank. Specific job responsibilities and functions can be found in the employee’s position restriction in Workday.
II.D Library Faculty Responsibilities

As faculty members at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, all faculty librarians are expected to fulfill certain responsibilities. These responsibilities are detailed in University Procedure 12.01.99.C0.03 Responsibilities of Faculty Members. Not everything in this document applies equally to librarians, but the document provides useful guidelines. It is important to note that adherence to these guidelines does not alone qualify one for promotion or renewal of appointment.

This document is also not comprehensive or exhaustive. Additional responsibilities may be specified in other library policies, and the Dean or the librarian’s supervisor may assign other responsibilities.

What follows is a list of expectations that are not spelled out in detail elsewhere, but do apply to faculty librarians and are therefore important to know.

Librarianship

Librarianship includes the recurring and specialized assigned tasks of faculty librarians in support of the mission and goals of the library and university. These tasks are described in the individual librarian’s job description and will differ based on the particular position. This category may include such activities as reference and research assistance, library instruction, collection development and management, organization of knowledge, preservation, archives management, etc. Librarianship is the heart of the professional librarian’s work.

Scholarship and Creative Activity

This category includes creation and dissemination of new knowledge or other creative activities. This may consist of peer-reviewed publications, presentations at conferences or webinars, published book reviews, external grant projects, and other such contributions to the profession at large. See University Procedure 12.01.99.C0.04 Descriptions of Teaching, Librarianship, Scholarship and Creative Activity, and Service, for additional criteria. Participation in scholarship and creative activity is encouraged for faculty librarians but is not a requirement for evaluation and promotion.

Service

Faculty librarians are expected to serve actively on library and/or university committees as appointed by the Department Head, Dean, or other university authority. Librarians may also provide service to the profession by being an officer or committee member in a professional organization. Community service that employs the faculty librarian’s academic expertise is also encouraged.
Work Schedule
Faculty librarians are expected to work a 40-hour week. Faculty librarians are not eligible for overtime.

Work Location
Librarians may, in coordination with their supervisor, work from an alternate location for up to 20% of their work schedule. Librarians will submit a written request to their supervisor seeking approval for an alternate work location. Work at an alternate location should be planned thoughtfully in order to avoid conflict with other commitments and to minimize the impact on library operations. Flexible work arrangement time does not accrue and cannot be used to work remotely for extended periods of time.

Absence
Faculty librarians work 12-month appointments and qualify for vacation, sick leave, and family and medical leave (FMLA). Details about these benefits are available on the Human Resources website at https://www.tamucc.edu/human-resources/. Librarians will communicate absences to their supervisor and submit required leave requests.

New Faculty Orientation
New faculty librarians are expected to attend university orientation programs at the first opportunity after they begin work. New faculty librarians are strongly encouraged to participate in additional faculty orientation opportunities as they arise, and to think creatively about how such programs could relate to them as members of the TAMU-CC community and not just as librarians.

Attendance at Commencement Ceremonies
Faculty librarians hold 12-month appointments and are required to attend Commencement ceremonies. In a normal year, each librarian will attend two ceremonies, every third year, they will only have to attend one.

Meetings
Faculty librarians are required to attend the following meetings unless they have a conflict:
- Monthly meetings of all librarians with the Dean
- Monthly meetings of all library employees

Office Hours
Faculty librarians are not instructional faculty and as such, do not hold office hours. Faculty librarians are available by appointment to assist with research questions.

II.E Library Faculty Workload
Full-time faculty librarians may engage in a combination of librarianship / archives management, scholarship and creative activity, and service.
The balance of effort devoted to each area of activity will vary from librarian to librarian and be based upon the position description, found in Workday and discussions with their immediate supervisor.

II.F Library Faculty Annual Evaluation

Librarians are evaluated on an annual basis. The annual evaluation covers the year from January through December. The results of the annual evaluation provide evidence for recommendations on merit salary increase and promotion in rank – if the librarian is eligible and chooses to apply for promotion. The Dean of University Libraries is responsible for assuring that all eligible faculty librarians are evaluated.

The annual evaluation will be completed by the librarian’s supervisor, who will then send the evaluation to the librarian for review and schedule a meeting with the librarian. The purpose of the meeting is to review the evaluation and address any concerns or questions as well as to establish goals for the coming year. After the meeting, the evaluation is forwarded to the Dean for review and placed in the librarian’s personnel file. The librarian may respond within two weeks to the evaluation in writing to both the supervisor and the Dean, any response will be placed in the librarian’s personnel file, which is maintained in the Office of the Provost.

Annual evaluations should address the relevant dimensions of performance that are defined in University Procedure 33.99.04.C0.02 Promotion of Full-Time Faculty Members. In addition, annual evaluations should address requirements established in the librarian’s original letter of appointment and all other goals and requirements that may have been added during subsequent annual reviews (see University Procedure 12.07.99.C0.01 Fixed-Term Faculty Members, section 3.2).

To encourage progress in librarianship and service, the librarian and their supervisor will agree on specific, measurable goals at the beginning of the year, which target the dimensions of performance. Goals will be officially agreed upon at the time of annual evaluation, but work on developing these goals may begin at any time. New full-time librarians will be asked to draft goals for the coming year (or portion of the year if assuming duties mid-year) in consultation with their supervisor, within the first month of employment.

In the annual evaluation, ranking levels are assigned to each dimension of performance. These ranking levels are defined generally in 12.01.99.C0.06 Performance Reviews of Full-Time Faculty Members and more specific criteria are provided in this document, in section II.H Rank and Promotion.

In addition to rankings for the dimensions of performance, an overall ranking will be assigned for the annual review period based on the ranking assigned in each evaluation area. An unsatisfactory ranking in Librarianship will result in an unsatisfactory overall ranking. An unsatisfactory ranking in the same evaluation area two years in a row will also result in an unsatisfactory overall ranking. A librarian who receives an unsatisfactory overall ranking for two years in a row will not have their appointment renewed.
If a librarian receives an unsatisfactory ranking in any area, the librarian’s supervisor will work with them to devise a performance development plan to assist the librarian in improving their performance.

The following section describes how the ranking levels will be determined for each dimension of performance.

Librarianship
The criteria for librarianship are outlined in section II.H Rank and Promotion. The professional competencies listed there are considered minimum expectations, with the understanding that not all librarian positions require the same engagement with all of the competencies. In addition to these competencies, the following expectations apply to all librarians:

- Meet department and position-specific expectations.
- Perform library instruction as applicable to meet the objectives of the course, program learning outcomes, and the principles of the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education.
- Participate in the library instruction evaluations survey and other library assessment approaches that may be adopted.
- Be professional and show respect in interactions will all members of the TAMU-CC community and the public.
- Be available to students for consultations on research projects as applicable
- Participate in reference service as applicable
- Increase professional competence through formal or informal study and professional development activities.

Over and above these minimum expectations, librarians will be assessed on librarianship in a holistic, qualitative fashion. One strong area or one major accomplishment would not necessarily outweigh all other indicators of performance.

Rankings
Excellent:
Consistently meets the minimum expectations described and has worked towards all goals established at the beginning of the year and significantly exceeds the standard for librarianship as reflected in:

- A pattern of high-impact innovations and innovative thinking
- A pattern of strong leadership on major projects
- A pattern of superior productivity, far exceeding the goals set for the year under review
- Receipt of awards or commendations for achievements in librarianship
High:
Consistently meets the minimum expectations described and has worked toward all
goals established at the beginning of the year, and exceeds the standard for
librarianship as reflected in:

- Examples of innovation, including implementing new technologies, finding novel
  solutions to work problems, development of new approaches to instruction
- Examples of leadership and/or above-average collegiality and teamwork
- Examples of projects or initiatives completed above and beyond the goals set for
  the year under review
- Receipt of awards or commendations for achievements in librarianship

Meets expectations:
Consistently meets the minimum expectations described and has worked toward all
goals established at the beginning of the year.

Unsatisfactory:
Performance is below minimum expectations for a full-time faculty librarian of
comparable rank.

Scholarship and Creative Activity
While not required, engaging in scholarly and creative activity is encouraged for all
librarians at the Mary and Jeff Bell Library. Research and scholarly activity contribute to
the profession and elevate the presence of faculty librarians in the campus and larger
academic community. General criteria for scholarship and creative activity can be found
in University Procedure 12.01.99.C0.04 Descriptions of Teaching, Librarianship,
Scholarship and Creative Activity, and Service. The definition listed in the procedure
includes the “expansion and application of knowledge and understanding about the
world in which we live.” Professional faculty librarians may engage in some combination
of the following during the course of the evaluation period:

- The production of intellectual contributions and development of a publication
  record which includes contributions to the body of knowledge
- Engages in work that is non-routine, novel, creative or original, showing
  verifiable and significant progress toward a clear product that meets the criteria
  defined in 12.01.99.C0.04
- Special projects requiring substantive endeavor and awareness of current
developments in fields related to librarianship or professional/academic interest
Rankings:
Excellent:
• Evidence of superior productivity, with examples of research and scholarship/creative activity.
• Evidence of superior accomplishment in formal or informal study culminating in a project with substantial benefit to the Library, the University, or the profession.
• Completion of substantial projects beyond the scope of routine job duties with wide impact within the University or for the profession.

High:
• Evidence of productivity for a faculty librarian in scholarship and creative output.
• Evidence of accomplishment in formal or informal study, including examples of the application of new knowledge.
• Completion of special projects which demonstrate originality and/or application of new developments in the field.

Meets Expectations:
Participation in scholarly and creative activity is encouraged and not a requirement for evaluation and promotion. Therefore, there are no minimum expectations set for this category.

Unsatisfactory:
Participation in scholarly and creative activity is encouraged and not a requirement for evaluation and promotion. Therefore, there are no minimum expectations set for this category.

Service
University Procedure 12.01.99.C0.04 Descriptions of Teaching, Scholarship and Creative Activity, and Service defines service as “a variety of activities through which members of the faculty employ their academic expertise for the benefit of University, the community, and the profession.” The procedure further states that service must be counted in promotion for all ranks.

For faculty librarians, minimum expectations for service include:
• Participation in library and department meetings, committee meetings, and library-wide staff development events.
• Participation in commencement ceremonies according to library guidelines.
• Serving actively on all committees as appointed by the Department Head, Dean, or other university authority.
• Participating productively and in a collegial manner in the conduct of all service activities.
Over and above these minimum expectations, faculty may define their own institutional, professional, and/or community service agendas according to their interests and goals. Service will be assessed in a holistic, qualitative fashion by weighing the responsibilities required by the different service activities both in light of the librarian’s rank and a determination by the supervisor of its importance to the library or university mission.

33.99.04.C0.02 Promotion of Full-Time Faculty Members includes service to the university, academic unit, department, colleagues, students, student organizations, and service beyond the campus. Examples of service activities are provided in section II.H of this document.

**Rankings**

**Excellent:**
- A pattern of achievement in service activities, taking on greater responsibilities, such as chairing a committee, serving as an officer, or assuming some other specialized role.
- A pattern of initiative in discovering and pursuing service opportunities.
- Contributions to the library and the profession by serving as a mentor for other library employees in developing their service portfolio.

**High:**
Consistently meets the minimum expectations described above and exceeds the standard for service as reflected in:

- Initiative in seeking out service opportunities.
- Leadership in service activities.
- Breadth of service activity, including a variety of service roles within the library, campus, and community.

**Meets Expectations:**
Consistently meets the minimum expectations described above and has worked toward all goals relating to service established at the beginning of the year.

**Unsatisfactory:**
Performance is below minimum expectations for a full-time faculty librarian of comparable rank.

**Evaluation Process**
The evaluation process for faculty librarians follows these steps:

1. Materials are submitted by the librarian to their supervisor **on or before January 31.**
   a. Required materials include:
      i. An updated CV
ii. A statement which addresses the extent to which the annual goals were met or pursued and highlights specific accomplishments in the dimensions of performance: professional librarianship and service

iii. All instruction evaluations for the year under review

No additional materials will be expected for the purposes of annual evaluation.

2. The librarian’s supervisor will complete an evaluation for the librarian.

3. The librarian’s supervisor will schedule an individual meeting to take place by March 1 to discuss the evaluation. The supervisor will share the evaluation with the librarian for review prior to the meeting.

4. The supervisor will submit signed copies of the evaluation for each direct report to the Dean of University Libraries by April 1. On the occasion that the candidate’s supervisor is the Dean, a single letter and/or meeting with the Dean will suffice. The Dean reviews all faculty librarian evaluations, and a copy of the evaluation will be placed in the librarian’s personnel record.

5. The librarian will have two weeks from the date of their individual meeting, to respond in writing with any objections or comments to the results of their evaluation. The supervisor has ten working days from the date the concern was presented to respond. In the event that a satisfactory conclusion cannot be reached, the librarian may appeal to the Dean. The Dean has ten working days to respond. See University Procedure 12.01.99.C0.06 Performance Reviews of Full-Time Faculty Members, section 3.2 and 3.3.

II.G Merit Compensation and Salary Increases

University Rule 31.01.08.C1 Merit Pay specifies that the university may award salary increases to employees who demonstrate meritorious job performance. University Procedure 31.01.08.C1.01 Merit Pay for Faculty specifies that merit increases for faculty shall be based on the quality of teaching, scholarship and creative activity, service, and other duties specified in University Procedure 12.01.99.C0.03 Responsibilities of Faculty Members. For faculty librarians, merit pay will be based on the quality of librarianship, scholarship and creative activity, and service, included in the dimensions of performance outlined in University Procedure 33.99.04.C0.02 Promotion of Full-Time Faculty Members, section 3.5.

Merit pay for faculty is linked to the annual evaluation process. Faculty achieving an overall performance review ranking of “meets expectations” or higher will be eligible for merit.

The University President decides whether to fund merit increases in any given year. When that occurs, the Dean will assign a dollar amount to each employee based on the individual’s most recent overall performance review rating. The Dean’s proposed distribution of the merit pool is submitted to the provost for final review and approval by the president. If approved, merit awards are paid to library employees through the university system.

Occasionally, an equity salary adjustment may be made based on analysis completed at the central administration level.
II.H Rank and Promotion

University Procedures 12.07.99.C0.01 Fixed-Term Faculty Members and 33.99.04.C0.02 Promotion of Full-Time Faculty Members apply to faculty librarians seeking promotion. Ranks and general expectations for promotion for fixed-term faculty members are defined in University Procedure 12.07.99.C0.01. Procedure 33.99.04.C0.02 outlines the process and requirements for promotion.

Faculty librarians are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the information contained in both procedures. Supervisors are expected to serve as a resource for librarians who have questions about these procedures.

Librarians should plan and prepare for the promotion process and take advantage of the resources available. Library and university documents are crafted to provide useful guidelines for the process. Librarians are encouraged to engage their colleagues, supervisors, and Dean in the preparation for promotion. Evaluations can be used as annual reminders to prepare and assess one’s progress. Librarians that have participated in the promotion process (in their own promotion and as a promotion committee member) are encouraged to offer support and guidance for those making preparations for advancement.

Given individual differences in skills, job descriptions, and stages of career development, individual faculty librarians will reflect differing contributions to the dimensions of performance outlined below. The criteria described below are not intended to prescribe a single image of effective performance. Rather, they provide examples of excellence and effectiveness that will serve as benchmarks for individual planning, goal setting, and evaluation of performance.

The criteria listed below, which include the dimensions of performance, form the basis for promotion consideration. As indicated by the listed criteria, expectations are higher as a faculty librarian progresses in rank. Promotions do not automatically follow years of service at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

1. Degrees held
2. Years at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
3. Years in rank
4. Evidence of performance in librarianship
5. Evidence of scholarship and creative activity
6. Evidence of service

Guidelines for the last three criteria are detailed below. The guidelines are representative and not exhaustive.

Guidelines for Determining Success in Librarianship

Performance of professional assignment for faculty librarians includes the recurring and specialized assigned tasks of faculty librarians in support of the mission and goals of Texas A&M
University-Corpus Christi. Therefore, professional effort, as performed by faculty librarians may include one or more of the following:

- Reference and research assistance to the faculty, staff, and students at the university, as well as to external constituents
- Information retrieval and analysis
- Collection development activities
- Development and maintenance of bibliographic organization and control over the library’s collections
- Instruction in and promotion of the use of information resources and the library
- Management and supervision
- Archival management
- Library computer systems management
- Assessment of library operations and services
- Creates special indices and/or bibliographies and guides to using library materials, divisions/departments, reviews, abstracts, or similar materials
- Prepares original and/or educational displays
- Creates promotional materials and/or activities to publicize the library or promote its use

Professional competencies, as performed by faculty librarians, may include one or more of the following:

- Demonstrates commitment to the library’s mission, goals, and services
- Shows initiative and innovation (e.g., is able to determine and assign work priorities and/or staff duties, can handle increased or new job responsibilities, etc.)
- Effectively plans strategies for current and anticipated use of library resources
- Communicates effectively and works productively with fellow library employees, as well as university students, faculty, and staff
- Participates in information literacy instruction (e.g., teaches/instructs students, faculty, and staff to facilitate full use of and access to the library and its resources)
- Understands overall library operations and one’s own role in providing access to materials and services
- Incorporates current library/information science technologies into library operations and services
- Applies appropriate techniques when acquiring, cataloging, classifying, organizing, and developing library resources
- Demonstrates flexibility in the face of constant change
Guidelines for Determining Success in Scholarship and Creative Activity

Research, scholarship, and creative activity consist of contributions to the body of knowledge and are the basis for most publications. Quality of research can be measured by publication in leading refereed journals, peer recognition via research or publication awards, being invited or selected to present at professional conferences and meetings, contributing to external grant projects, and funding for research. Funding is not a prerequisite to research since unfunded research can offer significant contributions to the profession. Individuals are encouraged to produce intellectual contributions and to develop a publication/presentation record which includes individual contributions to the body of knowledge. Collaboration in research, scholarship, and creative activity is also encouraged.

Publication and professional presentation are the creation of enduring information which is disseminated and available to the public. Emphasis will normally be placed on contributions to the profession of librarianship. Publications and presentations in one’s academic discipline other than librarianship will also be highly regarded.

While not required, engaging in scholarly and creative activity is encouraged for all librarians at the Mary and Jeff Bell Library. Research and scholarly activity contribute to the profession and elevate the presence of faculty librarians in the campus and larger academic community. Research, scholarship, and creative activity, as performed by faculty librarians, can include one or more of the following:

- Performs research in librarianship, or fields of professional/academic interest
- Publishes articles, chapters, book reviews, or similar works in professional sources
- Creates literary or artistic products appropriate to librarianship
- Gives presentations at professional meetings, such as papers, workshops, and poster sessions
- Edits published or unpublished works
- Pursues grants and external funding opportunities

Guidelines for Determining Success in Service

Service to the library, university, and/or profession and community (local, regional, national, or international) and visiting appointments may each be considered on their merits.

Service to the Library

- Chairs library committees
- Serves on library committees
- Works on special projects and library events
Service to the University
- Chairs university committees
- Serves on university committees
- Works on special projects and university events
- Teaches a course, seminar, or workshop
- Works with faculty, student organizations, and individuals as a consultant, advisory, etc.

Service to the Profession and Community (local, regional, national, or international)
- Serves as an officer or committee member for a professional organization or on the planning committee for a professional conference
- Participates in community organizations (e.g., officer, speaker, active member, or consultant) and engages in activities that draw on professional and/or personal expertise (e.g., conducting community education classes in computer skills, genealogy, web design, assisting community members with research, etc.)
- Receives honors, awards, or other evidence of significant community service

Details on the documentation required in the promotion portfolio and a timeline of events in the promotion process are featured in the appendices at the end of this document.

Only full-time members of the library faculty with the rank of Assistant or Associate Faculty Librarian are eligible for promotion. Library faculty are not required to seek promotion to maintain their employment.

Details about the creation, composition, and activities of the Library Promotion Committee can be found in University Procedure 33.99.04.C0.02, section 7.

II.I Faculty Emeritus Status
Criteria for Nomination
In addition to the rules of eligibility established by University Procedure 31.08.01.C1 Faculty and Staff Emeritus, Bell Library has established the following criteria for nominations to emeritus status.

1. All officially retired faculty librarians with a record of long service are eligible for consideration for nomination to emeritus status. As a general rule, over ten years of employment would be considered long service; however, exceptions can be made if individual contributions so warrant.
2. Nominations will not be based solely upon longevity and/or loyalty, but only upon significant contributions to the University throughout length of service.
3. Significant contributions are defined as contributions in librarianship, professional development, or service that go beyond the normal duties and responsibilities of an appointment.
4. Such contributions should include but are not limited to actions that (a) bring credit to the university within the academic and/or broader community; (b) serve the university in times of need, change, or development; or (c) serve a particular department or constituency of the university not ordinarily associated with the duties of appointment.

5. Emeritus status is not ordinarily awarded for a single accomplishment, but for a career pattern of distinguished service.

Procedure for Appointment

1. The president shall make all nominations for emeritus status to the Board of Regents. Faculty candidates for this nomination, however, will be initiated from within the appropriate college or library.

2. When a faculty member officially retires from the university, the department head or Dean will submit their name and supporting materials to the Library Promotion Committee for consideration. Those supporting materials must include the faculty member’s current vita and a letter of support from the Department Head or Dean.

3. After making a preliminary decision on the suitability of a candidate for nomination to emeritus status, the Library Promotion Committee will request in the form of an action item, the faculty’s endorsement of the nomination.

4. If the faculty recommends emeritus status, the Library Promotion Committee will forward the nominee’s name, letter(s) of support, and vita (and any additional supporting materials, if desired) to the Office of the Provost.

5. The Faculty Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate shall review all applications where the library and provost are not in agreement on a candidate’s recommendation, or at the provost’s request, and provide their recommendation to the provost prior to the provost’s final recommendation to the president.

6. The provost shall consider the recommendation of the library and, if appropriate, the Faculty Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate in making recommendations to the president. Recommendations from the president are sent to the Chancellor, who will make recommendations to the Board of Regents for their confirmation.

Privileges

An individual awarded emeritus status may, in addition to the benefits and privileges of all retired staff members, be:

1. Invited to university or division functions in the area of their interest.
2. Eligible to use university services and facilities, including the university library, email, and parking privileges, in accordance with university rules and procedures.
3. Invited to attend division meetings and events, at the discretion of the division; and
4. Invited to participate in activities and to accept appointment on university committees.
II.J External Employment
The library adheres to University Rule 31.05.01.C1 Faculty Consulting, External Professional Employment, and Conflict of Interest; University Procedure 31.05.02.C1.01 External Employment; and the Texas A&M University System Policy 07.01 Ethics.

External work must be reasonable in amount, avoid unfair competition with private enterprise, be conducted at no expense to the System, and not interfere with an employee’s work assignments.

Faculty librarians considering external employment opportunities relevant to their discipline, such as business consulting, should notify their supervisor and contact the Dean’s office to determine the appropriate actions to take, if any. Faculty librarians must receive explicit written permission from the Dean before agreeing to work simultaneously at any other institution. If permission is granted, the Faculty Consulting and External Professional Employment Application and Approval Form must be completed.

Permission to pursue employment in a field outside the librarian’s discipline should be requested using the External Employment Application and Approval Form. Both forms can be obtained from Human Resources and are also on the TAMU System website. Approval must be sought each fiscal year.

II.K Library Faculty Development and Travel Guidelines
The library encourages all faculty librarians to be professionally active and to pursue professional development opportunities. To that end, the library provides funds to support professional development and travel. The amount of reimbursement varies depending on the availability of funds. While each librarian establishes priorities supporting their professional goals and interests, there are some general guidelines that apply.

1. All travel plans and requests must be approved by the librarian’s supervisor and the Dean. Requests specify the date(s) of travel, purpose or reason for travel, costs, how attendance at the desired event will benefit the library and enhance the librarian’s professional development, etc.
2. No travel will occur without the appropriate documentation and paperwork being completed and approved. Travel requests and expense reports must be submitted according to the approved university processes.
3. Travel expenditures must conform to university, system, and state policies.
4. If expenditures exceed approved amounts, the excess costs are the librarian’s responsibility.

Because they are not tenure-track faculty, librarians are not eligible for Faculty Development Leave.
Librarians also have the option, subject to supervisor approval, to participate in virtual conferences from an alternate location, to facilitate immersion in the conference experience and help avoid workplace distractions. Librarians may submit a written request and negotiate with their supervisors to attend a virtual conference from a remote location. As with in-person conference attendance, off-campus attendance of virtual conferences will be balanced with the need to maintain an adequate presence in the library.

Further details on travel policies are available on the Travel Office website.

II.L Business Continuity Planning

The library prepares a Business Continuity Plan which also serves as an Academic Continuity Plan. These documents are updated annually and address the critical functions of the library per University Procedure 34.07.01.C0.02 Academic Continuity Planning. The Business Continuity Plan is available to all library employees in the library’s shared file space in MS Teams > LIB-General-group > Emergency Preparedness channel. It is also available on the University’s Finance and Administration website.

II.M Abandoned Faculty Property

This policy expands on the University Rule 21.99.04.C1 Disposition of Abandoned and Unclaimed Personal Property to outline the process of handling personal belongings left behind by a faculty librarian upon separation from employment at the university.

1. Collection of the abandoned personal property
   a. The supervisor will notify the Office of the Dean and the University Center that the former faculty member left personal property behind.
   b. The supervisor will appoint at least two individuals from the department to box up the abandoned property, create a log of the property, and transfer the property to the University Center for storage until the property can be disposed of according to section two of this document.
      i. The supervisor may appoint individuals from another department if necessary to ensure that at least two people perform this task.
      ii. If college or department staff are available for this task, the supervisor may request their assistance.
   c. The supervisor will attempt to contact the former faculty members or authorized designee within ten business days to pick up the property.
   d. The former faculty member or authorized designees will be given ten business days from initial contact with the supervisor to make arrangements to pick up the personal property from the University Center.

2. Disposition of the abandoned property if the attempt to contact the former faculty member is successful and arrangements have been made for retrieval of the property in the allotted time frame:
   a. The former faculty members or authorized designee may pick up the property during the University Center’s normal business hours, and
a. The University Center must notify the Office of the Dean that the property has been picked up by the former employee or authorized designee.

b. At the department’s discretion, it may ship the property to the former faculty member or authorized designee at either the department’s or faculty member’s/authorized designee’s expense.

3. If the attempt to contact the former faculty member or authorized designee is unsuccessful after the allotted time frame, the University Center will dispose of the property in accordance with University Rule 21.99.047.C1 Disposition of Abandoned and Unclaimed Personal Property.

II.N Grant Awards from College Research Funds
The library does not award research enhancement funds at this time.
Appendices

Appendix A
Preparation of the Promotion Portfolio

The candidate applying for promotion should review the Bell Library Faculty Handbook, including this list of suggested documents, and decide which supporting materials to include based on their job responsibilities and professional achievements.

The candidate should review their personnel file provided by the Office of the Dean to be sure it is accurate and current. The faculty member should verify that all transcripts and copies of diplomas are included in the file. Certified copies are acceptable if original documents are not obtainable. Foreign credentials must be accompanied by certified translations from appropriate agencies. The promotion portfolio sections are outlined in section 5.1 of the Promotion of Full-Time Faculty Members Procedure. Distinct additions in the faculty librarian’s portfolio are noted below:

The candidate provides all documentation listed below unless otherwise specified. On the occasion that the candidate’s supervisor is the Dean of University Libraries, a single letter and/or meeting with the Dean will suffice.

Section I.
A letter from the department chair/supervisor noting the nature of the appointment (teaching, librarianship, scholarship and creative activity, and service including semi-administrative and administrative duties) and any changes in those duties over time.

Section II.
An executive summary (two pages maximum) that clearly illustrates how the candidate’s qualifications meet each of the requirements listed in the Bell Library Faculty Handbook and in section 3.5 of the University Procedure [33.99.04.C0.02 Promotion of Full-Time Faculty Members].

Section III.
Current curriculum vitae

Section IV.
Copies of annual or other evaluations from the supervisor, Dean, and Provost for the period under review and any faculty responses to evaluations (provided by the Dean’s office).

Section V.
Evidence of performance in librarianship
1. A statement of librarianship philosophy and growth (2 pages maximum) discussing improvements, innovations, and changes initiated over the pre-promotion period.
2. Documentation of performance in librarianship.
3. For librarians who provide information literacy instruction, documentation must include copies of instruction evaluations.

Section VI.
Evidence of performance in scholarship and creative activity
   1. A statement explaining contributions and success in scholarship and creative activity (2 pages maximum)
   2. Documentation demonstrating performance regarding scholarship and creative activity.

Section VII.
Evidence of performance in service
   1. A statement explaining leadership and service contributions (2 pages maximum).
      Documentation demonstrating performance in regard to the following service categories: library, university, and profession/community.

Section VIII.
2-3 letters of support. The letters should come from those who have worked closely with the candidate and are most familiar with the candidate’s capabilities in an academic environment (provided by candidate). For librarians seeking promotion to Associate Faculty Librarian, at least one letter should come from someone outside the library. For librarians seeking promotion to Senior Faculty Librarian, at least one letter should come from someone outside the TAMU-CC community.

Section IX.
Other documents in candidate’s personnel file maintained in the Dean’s office (provided by the Dean’s office). See Appendix C at the end of this document for examples of documentation to include in a promotion portfolio.

Material should be organized into a 4-inch (maximum) binder or electronic equivalent (i.e., 750 electronic standard letter-sized pages) providing the evidence for promotion as stated in University Procedure 33.99.04.C0.02. The candidate should carefully select and organize this material with the understanding that the committee is evaluating quality, not quantity. If using a thumb drive, the candidate should organize the materials in folders according to sections, to make it easy for evaluators to review.

The candidate is expected to include copies of their works. If complete copies cannot fit in the binder, the candidate should include at least a portion of the publications, project reports, or
other supporting documents. However, the complete works should be available to the committee on short notice if requested.
Appendix B

Promotion Timeline

The promotion timeline is based on the academic year, August – July. On the occasion that the candidate’s supervisor is the Dean of University Libraries, a single letter and/or meeting with the Dean will suffice.

Prior to the academic year in which the faculty member is eligible for promotion:

- By April 1: The Dean will inform candidates of their eligibility as stated in the Promotion of Full-Time Faculty Members, section 4
- By April 15: The librarian notifies the Dean of University Libraries of their intention to seek promotion

In the academic year in which the faculty member is eligible for promotion:

- August, the Library Promotion Committee is formed
- By September 1: Full promotion portfolio is due
- September: Committee meets to select a Chair
- By September 15: The Committee notifies the Dean of the election of the Chair
- By October 15: The Library Promotion Committee submits their recommendation to the Dean of University Libraries
- October 15 – November 15: During this period, the Dean of University Libraries will write an individual recommendation and meet with the candidate to review the recommendations [Within 5 business days of meeting with the Dean, the candidate may write a response to the recommendations, which become part of the portfolio]
- By December 1: The Dean of University Libraries submits the promotion portfolio with all recommendations and any written responses to the Provost. After the recommendations are forwarded to the Provost, the candidate may no longer withdraw from the promotion consideration
- December 1: The Office of the Provost forwards application materials to the University Promotion and Tenure Committee
- By January 10: The University Promotion and Tenure Committee sends their recommendations to the Office of the Provost
- By January 15: The Provost sends the recommendations to the President
- By January 29: The President’s list of approved candidates is sent to System Academic Affairs (to ensure that the list is received before the Board of Regents Agenda Deadline)
- March Meeting: Board of Regents action on recommendation for promotion
- May 30: Written notification to the candidate of the decision to award promotion
- September 1: Promotion decisions become effective

If denied promotion, the candidate may reapply after one additional year of full-time service has passed, beginning in the academic year that follows the denial of promotion.
Appendix C

Documentation Examples for Promotion Portfolio

In the following section, the dimensions of professional effort, drawn from the promotion document, are matched with work products and types of evidence that could help show achievement in those areas.

These are suggestions of possible documentation to include in a portfolio for promotion. Requirements for the portfolio are listed in *Promotion of Full-Time Faculty Members*, section 5 and in Appendix A of this document. This is not an exhaustive list. It is intended to guide the librarian in selecting suitable materials for the promotion portfolio but should not be regarded as prescriptive or restrictive.

In choosing materials for the portfolio, the librarian should feel free to consult with their supervisor and colleagues for ideas and guidance.

**Librarianship**

Reference and research assistance to the faculty, staff, and students at the University, as well as to external constituencies
- Reference interactions / consultations conducted
- Chat ratings and comments
- Thank you notes from patrons

Information retrieval and analysis
- Unpublished reports and planning documents (ex: web analytics reports, reports on study findings, program reviews, proposals for new services or service changes)

Collection development activities
- Evidence of collection management (materials added/weeded/reorganized)
- Collection development policies created; processes documented

Development and maintenance of bibliographic organization and control over the library’s collections
- Statistics showing number of materials processed
- Training manuals created; processes documented

Instruction in and promotion of the use of information resources at the library
- Data on classes taught and students reached
- Instructional materials (ex: subject guides, course guides, lesson plans, course handouts, tutorials, videos, workshop materials, FAQs written)
- Instruction evaluations
Management and supervision
- In-house policies and procedures
- Training materials adopted (examples: students training materials, library policies, collection development policies, web style guides)

Archival management
- Finding aids created
- Evidence of collections processing

Library computer systems management
- Training/procedures manuals created
- Training materials created
- Workflows designed and implemented
- Software evaluation and implementation

Assessment of library operations and services
- Data collected, analyzed, and reported
- Descriptions of assessment projects undertaken

Outreach and engagement
- Exhibits designed and mounted (can include photographs, lists of included materials, and/or exhibit plans)
- Blog posts (written as part of work responsibilities, i.e., for the library blog)
- Outreach event planning
- Marketing materials
- Social media statistics (followers, posts, tweets, and retweets, etc.)
- Documentation of liaison activities

Professional Development
- Certificate of completion of other evidence of professional development
- Transcripts showing academic work
- Honors, awards, or other evidence of significant professional development

Scholarship and Creative Activity
- Copies of book chapters, articles, or other publications (including works in progress and those submitted but not yet published)
- Copies of presentation slides, conference programs, or other documentation of professional presentations.
- Copies of grant proposals and/or acceptance letters, progress reports, etc.
- Evidence of research projects performed
Service
Examples include evidence of:

Service to the Library:

a. Committee membership and contributions to library committees
b. Documentation of efforts on library projects and events
c. Honors, awards, or other evidence of significant service to the library

Service to the University:

a. Committee membership and contributions to university committees
b. Efforts on university projects or events
c. Teaching a course, seminar, or workshops
d. Working with faculty, student organizations as an officer, speaker, active member, or consultant
e. Honors, awards, or other evidence of significant service to the University

Service to the Profession/Community

a. Participation in professional or community organizations as an officer, speaker, or consultant
b. Activities with professional or community organizations that draw on professional or personal expertise
c. Honors, awards, or other evidence of significant professional/community service