

## UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY

### A “FAST TRACK” PROCESS FOR PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF PROPOSED NEW SENIOR FACULTY APPOINTMENTS OR PROMOTIONS

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#### A. JUSTIFICATION:

- When recruiting candidates for senior faculty appointments (i.e., associate professor and professor) in either basic or clinical sciences, the pool of viable candidates is frequently small, recruitment processes and negotiations may be protracted and, once a candidate accepts the offer, timelines for meeting a mutually desirable appointment start date are frequently short.
- Because of the above, an initial appointment as “Interim Professor” has often been used as a mechanism to allow the faculty member to be placed on the University of Rochester payroll and begin working, while awaiting the assembly and final review of all required appointment materials by the *ad hoc* and Steering Committees.
- Frequent use of such a mechanism creates problems – among them:
  - ❖ It anticipates and presumes endorsement by the *ad hoc* and Steering Committees of a permanent appointment as stipulated in the offer letter.
  - ❖ It has the potential for creating significant conflicts within these committees. Steering Committee members often feel conflicted, as they try to make objective judgments and recommendations free of bias.

The process outlined on the following page is designed to minimize these conflicts. The proposed approach takes advantage of the Office of Academic Affairs’ accumulated experience and expertise in offering to department chairs and center directors an informal assessment of the candidate’s academic credentials for the proposed rank/components prior to the completion of the recruitment process. The goal is to increase the likelihood that provisions in the final offer letter with respect to rank and components will be more consistent with what the ultimate recommendation of the *ad hoc* and Steering Committees might be.

## B. **PROCEDURE:**

- 1) Before an offer letter for a senior faculty appointment (i.e., associate professor or professor) in any of the academic components (Research, Scholarship Institutional Scholarship, Clinical, plus Teaching) is finalized, and optionally before an internal promotion is proposed, the department chair and/or center director will submit to the Academic Affairs office (i.e., Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (SADAA)) the following:
  - (a) A brief memo summarizing: (i) key elements in the candidate's current position, research interests, special expertise and academic/professional contributions; (ii) the candidate's proposed role in the department and medical center with emphasis on the importance of the recruitment/promotion in meeting major programmatic, clinical, and/or research needs; (iii) the candidate's proposed rank, activity components and (when applicable) anticipated administrative leadership role.
  - (b) An up-to-date copy of the candidate's CV.
  - (c) Three to four internal and/or external letters of recommendation.

*Note: This requirement should be easily met. For the former, internal memos to the chair from individuals who may know or who have interviewed the candidate during visits are an appropriate substitute. For the latter, the department should already have on hand the customary number of letters of recommendation in conjunction with the candidate's initial application.*

- 2) Upon receipt, the SADAA will review the above material and then either: (i) make a recommendation, within one week, with respect to the proposed rank and activity components or any other issue that may need to be addressed by the department prior to constructing the final offer letter or chair's letter of recommendation; or (ii) ask one or two members of the Steering Committee (SC) to review the material and make a recommendation to the SADAA within one week. The SADAA will transmit the above (anonymized) recommendation to the department chair/center director. This recommendation may be made via CONFIDENTIAL e-mail and, if the chair agrees, he/she will incorporate the SADAA's recommendation in the offer letter or his/her letter of recommendation for the promotion.
- 3) Once the candidate accepts the offer, in writing, the department will promptly initiate the process to assemble the full complement of materials for the normal appointment or promotion process. When the complete dossier is received in the Academic Affairs' office, the SADAA will appoint the customary 3-member *ad hoc* committee, chaired by the SC member who served in the fast-track process.