Promotion and Tenure Criteria

The Department of Planetary Sciences and the Lunar and Planetary Laboratory operate in effect as a single unit for the purposes of promotion and tenure. Individuals holding tenurable professorial appointments in the Department/Laboratory have uniform responsibilities to both the research and the educational programs: assessments associated with promotion, retention, and tenure decisions encompass teaching, research, and relevant professional service. Individuals holding academic-professional research appointments normally do not have teaching responsibilities: assessments associated with promotion and retention decisions will normally encompass research and relevant professional service.

The principles, procedures, and requirements for promotion and tenure follow those mandated by the University. Faculty appointments are made in response to programmatic needs and objectives, and on the basis of excellence and vigor in scholarly activity, including research, teaching, and related professional scholarly service or the high promise of excellence and vigor. Promotion and tenure are awarded on the basis of demonstrated intellectual leadership and international distinction in those same activities, and on the basis of reasonable expectation that the candidate will continue a high level of scholarly accomplishment throughout his or her career.

The primary and essential components of scholarly performance are research and teaching. Professional scholarly service is a desirable and important component of scholarship, but normally is not a primary basis for promotion and/or tenure.

Assessments of performance in connection with promotion and tenure involve internal evaluation of the candidate's capabilities, accomplishments, and contributions, evaluation of the candidate's publication record and other evidences of scholarly accomplishments and contributions, and solicitation of independent evaluations from distinguished scholars outside of the University.

Promotion and tenure decisions reflect the Faculty's evaluation of a candidate, the needs, balance, and future development of the Planetary Sciences/LPL program, the goal of excellence, and the dictates of fairness. In the highest sense, promotion and tenure decisions are intended to be responsive to the University's broad role in society and its responsibilities to the State.

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