

Definition of Faculty

Policy No. 02.08

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a definition of the term "faculty" for Tennessee State University policies which do not otherwise define that term, and to relate faculty status and academic rank.

II. POLICY

- A. Faculty Definitions
 - The term "faculty" shall be limited to regular, full-time personnel at institutions whose regular assignments include instruction, research, and/or public service as a principle activity, and who hold academic rank as professor, associate professor, assistant professor or instructor, senior instructor, or master instructor, and as senior vocational teacher, intermediate vocational teacher, vocational teacher. Institutions may limit, but may not expand the scope of the definition of faculty for the purposes of this policy.
 - a.The term "regular, full-time personnel" as used in the definition of "faculty" is limited to those persons whose appointments are for a complete academic or fiscal year.
 - b. The term "principal activity" as used in the above definition shall mean that the person's regular assignment in the areas of instruction, research and/or public service must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the total assigned duties.
 - c. The terms "instruction," "research," and "public service" shall be limited to those academic activities properly assignable to the institution's current funds expenditures accounts designated as "Instruction,"

"Research," "Public Service," and "Academic Support." The terms exclude those activities properly assigned to accounts for "Student Services" (with the exception of remedial instruction which, at the discretion of the institution, may be treated as regular "instruction"), "Institutional Support," "Operation and Maintenance of Plan," etc.*

- d. The term "faculty" shall not, for the purposes of this statement include members of an institution's instructional personnel defined as "adjunct faculty," part-time teachers, post-doctoral fellows, visiting lecturers, and graduate assistants. "Adjunct faculty" is defined as professional staff members of businesses, industries and other agencies and organizations who are appointed by institutions on a part-time basis to carry out instructional, research or public service functions.
- 2. If not otherwise included within the above definition of "faculty," the term "faculty" may include, provided they hold academic rank, academic department or division chairpersons or directors, academic deans, academic vice presidents, presidents, who have direct line authority over faculty as herein above described, and associates or assistants for the above positions. In addition, the term "faculty" may include persons previously designated as members of the faculty who are assigned to other positions at the institution.
- 3. Academic rank is an element of faculty status, and shall be limited to faculty within the above definition. Academic rank may only be assigned to faculty who meet the minimum rank criteria established under TSU policies, and those policies shall control any promotion in rank.
- 4. Exceptions to this policy can be made upon approval by the President.

*Reference: College and University Business Administration, Chapters 5:2 and 5:6 (NACUBO, 1974)

Reference: TBR Definition of Faculty: 5.02.01.00

Adopted: June 2020