

Department of Physics Policy on Research Faculty

Introduction:

In January 2005, the University Faculty Senate passed University Senate Document 04-4 as Amended and Approved January 24, 2005 ([University Senate Document 04-4](#)). This document, titled "Proposal for Non-Tenure Track Research Faculty within Purdue University" established the employment classification of Research Faculty. The new non-tenure track faculty classification of "research faculty" is expected to assist the university in recruiting and retaining top research scholars whose primary responsibilities will be to support and enhance the discovery mission of the university. Guidelines for the implementation of these non-tenure track faculty positions were delineated in a memo from the Office of the Vice President for Research dated July 25th, 2005 ([VPRs Implementing Guidelines for Research Faculty Positions](#)). This policy is intended to establish within the Department of Physics the procedures for appointing, mentoring, evaluating, and promoting research faculty and establishing the rights and privileges of the position within the department.

1 Physics Department Policy

1.1 Hiring

Procedures and standards for appointment of research faculty will be similar to those for tenure track faculty commensurate with the rank (i.e. assistant, associate, or full). A committee appropriate for the research area will be formed and candidates will be evaluated subject to the same scholarly criteria as applied to tenure track faculty.

The renewable appointment of a research faculty member shall have a duration of not more than 3 years and shall not exceed the duration of the research funds that support the position.

1.2 Promotions

The Department of Physics shall provide regular performance reviews through the standard procedures applied to all faculty as described in the Department of Physics Promotions and Procedures Policy approved on February 22nd, 2007. Each research faculty member shall have a primary and secondary mentor assigned to them and it is the responsibility of the mentors to meet with the research faculty member periodically to provide advice and guidance regarding their activities. The mentors will provide feedback to the Head.

A Research Assistant Professor that has been in rank for six (6) years will be required to have a positive vote of the department's primary committee to continue in that rank.

Given the research nature of this track the performance review will focus strictly on the faculty members scholarly achievements.

1.3 Rights and Privileges:

Research faculty within the Department of Physics do not have membership in the primary committee. Participation of research faculty in departmental committees will be at the discretion of the Head. Research faculty may supervise Ph.D. students and they may serve as the co-Chair of a Ph.D. thesis committee.

Office and/or laboratory space will be assigned depending on the needs of the research faculty's scholarly program subject to the decision of the Department Head and availability within the department.

Research faculty will be subject to all of the rules and guidelines of Purdue University and the College of Science and to all Department policies, except as noted above.