

## Section B Appendix VIII: Faculty Ethics and Advisory Committee

(Placed in new policy format and updated)

Approved By: Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee

Approved: Draft 9/22/20

Responsible Faculty Committee: Faculty Ethics and Advisory Committee

Office Responsible for Administration: Office of University Secretary

**Legend: Proposed changes are highlighted in red.**

Revisions to the Policy Rationale, Policy Statement, and Applicability sections of this document must be approved by the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee.

### POLICY RATIONALE

The Faculty Ethics and Advisory Committee's function is to informally investigate the facts and make recommendations when a faculty member has been accused of conduct inconsistent with the Statement on Professional Ethics (Section B: Appendix V).

### POLICY STATEMENT

#### 1. Investigation

(a) When a faculty member has been so accused of conduct inconsistent with the Statement on Professional Ethics, the faculty member ~~he or she~~ must first seek resolution of the problem from the chairperson, if any, and if still unresolved the dean, and on up through each authority in turn the same as provided for termination cases (refer to ~~by Sec. 9 (a) of the~~ Policy B6 "Academic Freedom and Tenure"). When the matter is still unresolved, the Faculty Ethics and Advisory Committee may be called into action in either of two ways:

**1.1** (i) By the UNM President, ~~of the University,~~ the Provost/Executive Vice President for Health Sciences (EVPHS) ~~Vice President for Academic Affairs of the University,~~ or the Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure, when the assistance of the Faculty Ethics and Advisory Committee's informal investigatory function on issues of professional ethics is desired. When a reference to the Faculty Ethics and Advisory Committee has been made under this subsection (i), the Faculty Ethics and Advisory Committee shall report its recommendations, and the reasons therefore, to the Administrator or Committee making the reference, and to any other parties deemed appropriate by the Faculty Ethics and Advisory Committee.

**1.2** (ii) By a faculty member, graduate, teaching, research, or project assistant who believes ~~that she or he has~~ they been accused of unethical conduct. The Faculty Ethics and Advisory Committee may, at its discretion, refuse to respond to requests for investigation made by individuals under

this subsection (ii), and this discretion may be exercised by the chairperson when it is not convenient to call a meeting of the Faculty Ethics and Advisory Committee. It is intended that the Faculty Ethics and Advisory Committee investigate only serious accusations which have or may have done damage to the accused's reputation. It is not intended that the Faculty Ethics and Advisory Committee be used as a weapon in personal conflicts. When a reference to the Faculty Ethics and Advisory Committee has been made under this subsection (ii), the Faculty Ethics and Advisory Committee may confer with and report to the UNM President, of the University, the Provost/Executive Vice President for Health Sciences (EVPHS) Vice President for Academic Affairs of the University, the applicable dean or chairperson, or department at the discretion of the investigating panel.

**1.3** (b) Investigations by the Faculty Ethics and Advisory Committee shall be conducted by panels of three (3) members. Panels shall be selected by the chairperson.

**1.4** (c) The Faculty Ethics and Advisory Committee may informally investigate a situation even though it is also being heard by the Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure. In such a case the Faculty Ethics and Advisory Committee should normally confer with the Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure about the matter.

**1.5** (d) The Faculty Ethics and Advisory Committee's recommendations and reports, if any, may be made in any form the panel chooses. The panel should confer with the person or Committee requesting informal investigation about the appropriate form of report.

## **2. Membership**

The Faculty Ethics and Advisory Committee shall consist of nine (9) ~~seven~~ faculty members nominated by the Faculty Senate. Members of the committee shall serve for overlapping ~~two-~~ three-year terms. The chairperson shall be elected each year and shall be a tenured faculty member. In the event that a graduate or professional student is accused of unethical behavior, as defined by the Statement on Professional Ethics, with the concurrence of the accused, a graduate or professional student, appointed by the Graduate and Professional Student Association, shall serve on the committee, but only for those meetings or parts of meetings during which a graduate or professional student's behavior is being considered.

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## **APPLICABILITY**

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All UNM faculty, including the Health Sciences Center and Branch Community Campuses.

Revisions to the remaining sections of this document may be amended with the approval of the Faculty Senate Policy Committee, and Operations Committee.
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## **DEFINITIONS**

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There are no specific definitions required by this Policy.

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## **WHO SHOULD READ THIS POLICY**

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- All UNM faculty.
- Academic administrators and staff.
- Administrative staff responsible for policy development.

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## RELATED DOCUMENTS

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*Faculty Handbook:*

[Policy A51](#) "Faculty Constitution"

[Policy A53](#) "Development and Approval of Faculty Policies"

[Policy A60](#) "Faculty Senate Bylaws"

[Policy A67](#) "Faculty Ethics and Advisory Committee"

[Policy C07](#) "Faculty Disciplinary Policy"

[Section B Appendix V](#) "2009 Statement on Professional Ethics"

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## CONTACTS

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Direct any questions about this policy to Office of the University Secretary.

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## PROCEDURES

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There are no specific procedures required by this Policy.

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## DRAFT HISTORY

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[September 22, 2020 – Placed in new policy format, renumbered and revised to update number of members and terms of service](#)

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## HISTORY

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Initial Effective Date: Unknown