

## **Boulder Campus Guidelines for the Appointment, Evaluation, and Promotion of Lecturer and Instructor Rank Faculty**

### **General Remarks**

The purpose of this document is to provide to members of the Boulder campus community a set of guidelines for the appointment, evaluation, and reappointment of non-tenure track teaching faculty in the lecturer, instructor, and senior instructor faculty ranks. The genesis of this document was a document moved and adopted by the Boulder Faculty Assembly on April 2, 1998 titled "Instructors' Bill of Rights".

Lecturers and instructors play an integral part in the ability of the Boulder campus to provide the breadth and quality of educational experience expected of an AAU public university. Lecturers and instructors supplement and complement the teaching activities of the tenure-track faculty, and in so doing they allow the tenure-track faculty to engage more students in individualized instructional opportunities in their studios, libraries, and laboratories. They also provide the institution an ability to more rapidly adjust the educational opportunities to meet student needs and preferences than can always be accommodated for by the tenure-track faculty alone. It is important that the campus community recognize the important role played by instructors in enabling the campus to address both its research and its teaching missions. As such, primary units are encouraged to engage instructors and senior instructors in the departmental decision-making process whenever possible and appropriate.

The nature of the instructional mission of the Boulder campus is such that each college and school has a different need and pattern of employment of lecturers and instructors. Accordingly, the different colleges and schools utilize these titles differently, and attach different expectations and compensation to these titles. The guidelines below are meant to influence the application of these titles, not to inhibit their usefulness. Hiring units or individuals with questions concerning the rights and privileges of these titles should consult their deans office or the Office of Faculty Affairs.

All Lecturer, Instructor, and Senior Instructor positions are non-tenure track appointments. As such, they each are considered to be at-will appointments by the University and by the State of Colorado. All appointment letters of at-will employees must carry a description of at-will status. Nothing described in this document is meant to nor may it be interpreted to conflict with the at-will status of these job titles. An excerpt of that at-will statement appears below. The full text of the appropriate offer letter template is available in the Desk Reference for Chairs and Directors.

"The following are additional terms and conditions applicable to your appointment. By State law or University policy, these terms must be included in this letter of offer.

State law specifically requires that you be an employee-at-will in your position and that the following paragraph be included verbatim in this letter of offer:

Your employment contract is subject to termination by either party to such contract at any time during its term, and you shall be deemed to be an employee-at-will. No compensation, whether as a buy-out of the remaining term of contract, as liquidated damages, or as any other form of remuneration, shall be owed or may be paid to you upon or after termination of such contract except for compensation that was earned prior to the date of termination."

Definition of Full-Time: Lecturer and instructor rank faculty have responsibilities, privileges, and benefits defined in part by whether their appointments are to positions which are considered less than 50% full-time, or 50-100% full-time. The percent time of the appointment (% full-time) is based on the college- or school-specific definition of 100% full-time effort, which typically includes three to five 3-credit courses per semester. In larger colleges, full-time expectations may be defined on a discipline-specific basis.

## **I. LECTURER, Lecturer Adjunct**

1. DEFINITION: Lecturers are hired on a semester-to-semester basis, and are not regular faculty appointments. An advanced degree in an appropriate discipline is normally required for appointment to this rank. Appointment may range from less than 50% to full-time. The role of lecturers is extremely important to the University's ability to offer special programs and classes according to the fluctuations of demand and funding from semester to semester.

2. Appointment and reappointment: Appointment as a Lecturer or a Lecturer Adjunct is an at-will appointment, and is subject to the limitations and restrictions defined by Colorado Statute and by the University's "at-will" policy. Campus administration urges that departments show due consideration for lecturers by providing early notification of possible extensions of their appointment, and that units keep the principle of continuity of employment in mind when making teaching assignments. The establishment of a hiring committee is recommended but not required for

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writing all units of appointments which sum to 50% or greater rests with the employee. Costs of benefits will be borne by each unit on a proportional basis. Lecturer Adjunct: As is the case for all faculty adjunct positions, Lecturers Adjunct are not eligible for University health or retirement benefits regardless of the percent time of their appointment.

Lecturers and Lecturer Adjuncts are eligible for parking, bookstore, recreation center, library, and University ID privileges as is consistent with specific campus policies.

Sufficient instructional support, including access to supplies, staff support, and office space for meeting students, shall be provided.

Lecturers and Lecturers Adjunct shall be eligible for most teaching awards.

5. EVALUATION: Units may evaluate the performance of Lecturers in a number of ways, including Faculty Course Questionnaires, class visits, and/or the Faculty Report of Professional Activities. A written statement of policy should be provided from the beginning of employment.

## **II. INSTRUCTOR**

1. DEFINITION: The title of Instructor is a non-tenure track faculty rank position. Instructors normally hold a terminal degree appropriate for the discipline. Appointment may range from less than 50% to full-time. Instructors usually teach undergraduate courses, and may have advising responsibilities and some limited administrative responsibilities in addition. Application to the Graduate School for graduate faculty status is required in order for instructors to teach at the graduate level, including service on graduate committees.

2. Appointment and reappointment: Appointment as an Instructor is an at-will appointment, and is subject to the limitations and restrictions defined by Colorado Statute and by the University's "at-will" policy. A letter of initial appointment which defines the salary and terms of employment will generally be written for a period of one or two years. Letters of reappointment may be written for periods of up to four years. Comprehensive reviews associated with reappointment are required at least once every four years. Workload weighting for purposes of annual merit evaluation will be defined

proportionately. Instructors shall be eligible for annual merit increases as part of the regular faculty merit assessment process.

4. **BENEFITS:** Instructors at 50% time or greater receive health and retirement benefits consistent with those offered to tenure-track faculty. Health benefits are not extended to those instructors whose appointments are initially or which fall below 50% full-time.

Instructors are eligible for most faculty teaching and service awards and may apply for most faculty development fund programs offered to the general tenure-track faculty, such as travel or research/creative work awards. Instructors also are eligible for parking, bookstore, recreation center, library, and University ID privileges as is consistent with specific campus policies.

Sufficient support for the instructional responsibilities of Instructors will be provided, including Library privileges, reasonable use of office staff support, and space for meeting with students. Instructors are encouraged to participate in faculty governance to the full extent permitted by department or primary unit bylaws.

5. **EVALUATION:** Evaluation for annual merit will be based upon the defined workload weighting defined at the time of appointment, unless it is subsequently modified in writing. The criteria used for annual evaluation must be available in writing to all faculty. Annual merit evaluations and comprehensive reappointment evaluations will follow the same procedures as that for the tenure-track faculty as modified to account for the workload weighting.

6. **PROMOTION:** Instructors will normally be considered for promotion to Senior Instructor after a period of seven years of continuous appointment at greater than 50%

2. Appointment and reappointment: Appointment as an Senior Instructor is an at-will appointment, and is subject to the limitations and restrictions defined by Colorado Statute and by the University's "at-will" policy. A letter of initial appointment which defines the salary and terms of employment will generally be written for a period of one or two years. Letters of reappointment may be written for periods of up to four years. Comprehensive reviews associated with reappointment are required at least once every four years. A positive comprehensive review decision will be based upon continued excellent performance in teaching, and meritorious performance in all other areas of the workload distribution. Successful reappointment does not alter the employee's "at-will" status. A workload distribution which defines weightings for teaching, research/creative work, and service activities for purposes of annual merit evaluation will be defined in the letter of appointment or reappointment. The percent time of the appointment (% full-time) will be based on the college- or school-specific definition of 100% full-time effort, for instructors.

3. SALARY: Initial salaries for Senior Instructors will normally be greater than those earned by instructors in their initial appointments. The BFA Task Force recommends a minimum salary of 110% of instructor salary. Senior Instructors are eligible for yearly merit increases in salary.

4. BENEFITS: Benefits are the same as those of instructor-rank faculty, plus the

