The Film Studies Department’s Expectations for Promotions Conferring Tenure

Adopted March 2015
Approved by the Advisory Committee April, 2015

Promotion to Associate Professor

The Film Studies department evaluates cases for tenure with regard to the three canonical areas of Teaching, Scholarship, and Colleagueship. The department places special emphasis on teaching, and expects candidates to maintain consistent and strong records in the area. Evaluation is based on reading student assessments, class visitation, and the candidate’s statement on teaching. Assistant Professors are assigned a teaching mentor to offer guidance and feedback throughout their pre-tenure careers. In addition, the chair or a designee will visit classes for the purpose of evaluation as part of the standard review, reappointment, and tenure processes.

With regard to scholarship, what matters most for promotion conferring tenure is producing work of high quality, that is, work that is significant to our discipline. Assistant professors are assigned a scholarship mentor when they arrive at Wesleyan. The mentor will offer guidance and feedback throughout their pre-tenure careers. In making recommendations for promotion conferring tenure, the tenured professors of the Department, informed by outside experts, are the judge of whether work is significant or not.

Relevant in the case of promotion to associate professor is work in film studies completed since arrival at Wesleyan. Work in film studies typically takes the form of articles (published in journals or scholarly collections) or books. In cases in which a book is the principal basis for promotion to associate professor, the Department normally
expects that a successful candidate will present a completed book manuscript of genuine significance that has been accepted for publication by a well-regarded press at the time the candidate submits materials for promotion. Otherwise, the Department normally expects that a successful candidate will present a significant number of high-quality articles, some of which will have been published in well-regarded peer-reviewed journals or collections, and some accepted in well-regarded peer-reviewed journals or collections.

Disciplinary significance of the publications is more relevant than their quantity. That said, typical patterns for a successful case include: 5-7 articles, or a completed and accepted book manuscript and 1-2 articles, or 4-6 articles and an edited volume. In addition, the Department expects that successful candidates for promotion will have a clear and promising direction for their continuing research that is spelled out in a detailed research statement and evident in ongoing work. Our expectations for tenure candidates who work in creative (rather than scholarly) fields are discussed in a separate document.

We recommend that the candidate be in regular communication with his or her mentor regarding the pace, quantity, and quality of the artistic/scholarly record.

With regard to colleagueship, we expect strong evidence of service to the Department and the University. In addition, the Department values outreach and service to the community, the discipline, and to alumni.

This document refers to the Film Studies Department’s expectations only. For a fuller understanding of the processes and University-wide expectations, candidates should also consult the Faculty Handbook, as well as the President’s statement on promotion to full professor and promotion.
The Film Studies Department’s Expectations for Promotions not Conferring Tenure

Adopted March 2015
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A. Promotion to Full Professor

The Film Studies department evaluates cases for promotion with regard to the three canonical areas of Teaching, Scholarship, and Colleagueship. The department places special emphasis on teaching, and expects candidates to have maintained or improved their track record since receiving tenure. Evaluation is based on reading student assessments, class visitation, and the candidate’s statement on teaching. The full procedure for evaluating teaching is described in a separate document.

With regard to scholarship, what matters most for promotion is producing work of high quality, that is, work that is significant to our discipline. In making recommendations for promotion, the full professors of the Department, informed by outside experts, are the judge of whether work is significant or not.

Relevant in the case of promotion to full professor is work in film studies completed since the granting of tenure. Work in film studies typically takes the form of articles (published in journals or scholarly collections) or books. In cases in which a book is the principal basis for promotion to full professor, the Department normally expects that a successful candidate will present a completed book manuscript of genuine significance that has been accepted for publication by a well-regarded press at the time the candidate submits materials for promotion. Otherwise, the Department normally expects that a successful candidate will present a significant number of high-quality articles, some of which will have been published in well-regarded peer-reviewed journals.
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B. Promotion of Adjuncts

The Film Studies Department considers Adjunct Faculty primarily as teaching resources for technologically demanding aspects of our program. As a new and developing department, Film Studies has depended on Adjuncts to help fulfill its obligations to students in terms of class access, and to help us respond to emerging technologies.

Tenured and Tenure-Track faculty members form the core of the Department and create a
consistent and rigorous curriculum informed by significant scholarly and creative activity. Adjuncts help fill out the framework set by the core faculty, keep the Department’s offerings fresh, and share in the task of advising film majors. Our ability to rotate Adjunct personnel ensures that we can respond to fluctuating student interests, technological change, and necessary curricular adjustments. Flexibility with regard to retention is an important facet of Adjunct positions. The department does not expect to consider the regular promotion of Adjuncts, where such promotion involves an extended commitment to an individual teacher. As with reappointment, promotion of Adjuncts will be carefully considered on a case-by-case basis. Promotion of non-tenure track faculty is not the Department norm.