



Lecturers, Senior Lecturers, and Principal Lecturers Policy

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I. Policy Statement

Lecturers, Senior Lecturers, and Principal Lecturers

The appointment and promotion of lecturers, senior lecturers, and principal lecturers at Georgia Southern University are based upon the experience and academic background of the candidate as well as the instructional needs in the position. The designation applies to non-tenure track positions with special instructional functions. These positions are governed by all provisions of *Board of Regents Policy Manual § 8.3.8.1*, including being capped at no more than 20% of the institution’s full-time equivalent corps of primarily undergraduate instruction. (The 20% includes all lecturers, senior lecturers, and principal lecturers.) The administration shall facilitate a reasonable distribution among departments and schools in usage of these positions across the University.

As described in the *Board of Regents Policy Manual § 3.2.1.1*, lecturers, senior lecturers, and principal lecturers are part of the corps of instruction and members of the faculty. As such, lecturers, senior lecturers, and principal lecturers have access to grievance procedures which are defined in the Georgia Southern University *Faculty Handbook, Section 325*, as available to “all members of the faculty.”

An initial appointment to a lecturer, senior lecturer, or principal lecturer position is for a one-year period. Subsequently, renewal is on an annual basis. In no case will the service as lecturer, senior lecturer, or principal lecturer imply any claim upon tenure. However, as stated in the *Board of Regents Policy Manual § 8.3.4.3*: “Lecturers, senior lecturers, and principal lecturers who have served full-time for the entire previous academic year have the presumption of reappointment for the subsequent academic year unless notified in writing to the contrary.” Notification of non- reappointment will be provided as early as possible, preferably following the schedule for notification of tenure-track faculty, as stated in the Georgia Southern University *Faculty Handbook, Section 306.02*, but no later than the following (*Board of Regents Policy Manual § 8.3.4.3*):

1. For lecturers, senior lecturers, or principal lecturers with less than three years of full-time continuous service in that position at Georgia Southern University, notification of non-reappointment should be as early as possible, but no specific notice is required.
2. For lecturers, senior lecturers, or principal lecturers with three or more years but less than six years of full-time continuous service in that position at Georgia Southern University, notification of non-reappointment should be provided at least 30 calendar days prior to the first day of classes in the semester.

3. For lecturers, senior lecturers, or principal lecturers with six years or more of full-time, continuous service in that position at Georgia Southern University, notification of non-reappointment should be provided at least 180 calendar days prior to the first day of classes in the semester.
4. Previous years of service in positions other than lecturer, senior lecturer, or principal lecturer shall not be included in the calculations to determine the schedule for notice of intention not to renew a faculty member's contract or the availability of a review of that decision.

As stated in the *Board of Regents Policy Manual § 8.3.4.3*, "Lecturers, senior lecturers, or principal lecturers who have served for six or more years of full-time continuous service in these positions at the current institution and who have received timely notice of non-reappointment shall be entitled to a review of the decision in accordance with published procedures" of Georgia Southern University.

Annual Evaluations

Every lecturer, senior lecturer, and principal lecturer shall have an annual review conducted along the same schedule as individuals in the professorial ranks. Any additional requirements for departmental input or constitution of the review committee may be adopted by the individual department and/or college in which they are appointed. For lecturers, senior lecturers, and principal lecturers, annual performance reviews should show achievement in teaching and achievement in at least one of the following areas: (1) service; and/or (2) professional growth and development. The faculty in each unit and college should establish its own formal review process (mechanisms and policies) for lecturers, senior lecturers, and principal lecturers, including definitions of "exceptional teaching ability," "extraordinary value to the institution," and "noteworthy achievement."

As stated in the *Board of Regents Policy Manual § 8.3.8.2*, reappointment of a lecturer who has completed six consecutive years of service to an institution will be permitted only if the lecturer has demonstrated "exceptional teaching ability and extraordinary value to the institution and if the institution determines that there is a continued need for the lecturer." After the sixth year or promotion, a further major review will take place every five years. The intent of this review is to focus on continuing a mutually beneficial relationship between the institution and individual, to provide development opportunities, and to recognize, reward, and enhance faculty performance. Input for evaluating lecturers, senior lecturers, and principal lecturers at these points of major review will follow established unit and college policies as specified in the required policy documents. The departmental review committee shall be composed of at least three members, including both tenured faculty and senior lecturers and/or principal lecturers, if any exist in the unit.

Promotion to Senior Lecturer

To be promoted to senior lecturer, a lecturer must have served in rank for a minimum of six years and have demonstrated through annual performance reviews and other credible evidence noteworthy achievement in teaching and achievement in at least one of the following areas: (1) service; and/or (2) professional growth and development. Recommendations for promotion to senior lecturer are made utilizing the process and documentation described in *Section 311, Promotion Guidelines*, of the *Faculty Handbook*.

In keeping with Board of Regents' policy, promotion to senior lecturer requires approval by the president. Reappointment procedures for senior lecturers follow the same reappointment

procedures as those for lecturers.

Promotion from Senior Lecturer to Principal Lecturer

For senior lecturers to be promoted to principal lecturer, a senior lecturer must have served in rank for a minimum of six years and have demonstrated through annual performance reviews and other credible evidence noteworthy achievement in teaching and achievement in at least one of the following areas: (1) service; and/or (2) professional growth and development. Recommendations for promotion to principal lecturer are made utilizing the process and documentation described in *Section 311, Promotion Guidelines*, of the *Faculty Handbook*.

In keeping with Board of Regents' policy, promotion to principal lecturer requires approval by the president. Reappointment procedures for principal lecturers follow the same reappointment procedures as those for lecturers.

Appeals

The candidate for promotion or retention beyond the sixth year may appeal a negative decision, except in the case of programmatic changes or financial exigency. The appeal must be based on the perception of significant omissions or commissions in the review process, impermissible bias in the review, or procedural errors that precluded an objective, fair review. The appeal must be to the next level of review. The responsible administrator at the appeal level shall review the appeal and make a recommendation. If the decision on appeal is to support the promotion or retention, the review process shall continue through the remaining review levels as if the decision from which the appeal was filed had been positive. If the decision on appeal is against the applicant, a further appeal may be filed. The process of appeals may continue until a final decision by the president.

II. Exclusions

None.