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## Faculty Searches, part II

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# Faculty Searches, part II

Submitted by Kathleen Comerford

10/30/2009

## Question:

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Aside from the two colleges mentioned in the response to the prior RFI, how many lecturer versus tenure-track searches (from traditional sources, exclusive of positions generated by funds from on-line teaching) are going on this year, and what is the breakdown per college (CHHS, COBA, COST, COE, COPH)? How many searches are tenure-track? What is the basis for determining if a position vacated by retirement, dismissal, failure to achieve tenure, or resignation would be converted to a lectureship versus remaining a tenure-track line? Are such conversions permanent?

## Rationale:

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Provost Means' response addressed only a small portion of my prior question, noting the number of lectureships only, and only in CIT and CLASS. He did not respond to what was the basis for converting tenure-track lines to lectureships; he did not comment on whether or not those would ever be converted back.

The original rationale still stands, so I repeat it here: The increase in the number of students--far outpacing any faculty hiring--makes all questions of searches of concern to the University as a whole. Some replacement positions have been earmarked lectureship only, yet others are continued as tenure-track lines. We should know the rationale for these decisions, for the moment as well as for future planning. We should also know whether there is any way that converted positions will be restored to the tenure track--this is an issue of great interest to faculty and students alike. This RFI does not include a request for information on traditional temporary positions, which are in theory at least "placeholders" until tenure-track searches are approved.

## **Response:**

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11/16/2009: The Provost, Dr. Means has responded to your rfi in the following way: There are a total of 51 faculty searches this year. Of this number, 7 are funded from online and premium funds. The remaining 44 positions include 37 (84%) are tenure-track lines and 7 (16%) are lecturer lines. For the lecturers lines the breakdown is CLASS 6; CIT 1. The 37 tenure-track positions breakdown by college as follows: CLASS 14, COBA 4, COE 3, COST 8, CHHS 6, Library 1, and COPH 1.

Positions are converted to lecturer due to enrollment shifts or declines and the primary duties are teaching and/or clinical work. The decision on filling a position with a lecturer of tenure -track line is one that is made in consultation between the Dean and the Provost based on program needs and enrollment projections. Positions remain as lecturer ones until a vacancy occurs at which time the need to fill the position is reviewed by the Dean and Provost.

Of the 626 full-time regular faculty for fall 2009, there are 20 (3.2%) Lecturers--CIT (1), CHHS (1), Library (1), COE (1), COBA (4), CLASS (6), COST (6). We have 570 tenured or tenure-track faculty, the remaining 56 are Non-Tenure Track and include the 20 Lecturers above and 30 Clinical Instructors. Last year we had 13 lecturers.