

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY POLICY AND PROCEDURES ON ANNUAL MERIT REVIEWS FOR PTK FACULTY

(As approved by a vote of the PTK Faculty on November 10, 2023)

This policy and procedures on annual merit reviews for PTK Faculty in the Department of Sociology are developed according to University requirements and guidelines. A copy of this policy and procedures will be made available to every PTK Faculty member upon hire.

General Policy

In keeping with University policies, the Chair of the department, with the approval of the Dean, has the authority and responsibility to determine merit increases for PTK Faculty. It is, however, the responsibility of the Chair to follow the procedures developed in this document and approved by a majority vote of the PTK Faculty. These procedures call for participation by a PTK Faculty Merit Review Committee in evaluation of PTK Faculty performance, and for distribution of available merit pool monies according to agreed-upon proportions for specified dimensions of professional activity. All PTK Faculty with a total FTE of 50% or greater are eligible for merit pay in the department, though any merit award may be proportional to the department's contribution to the faculty member's overall salary or % FTE in the department. The department's review will not consider the PTK Faculty member's role and performance in the other unit.

Each year, the Chair will announce to the department any available funds for PTK Faculty merit increases, and will regularly evaluate the salary structure of the department and work with the Dean to address salary compression or salary inequities. Merit monies are distinct from COLA, and promotion increases and are based on the faculty member's performance. Of any merit pool available to PTK Faculty in a given year, 20% is available for the Chair to assign as they see fit to account for special circumstances or equity issues not addressed by the regular committee procedures, including recognizing past performance in a year with little or no merit money. The Chair may also use some of this 20% amount to build up salaries attached to vacant lines. The remaining 80% of the merit pool will be distributed according to the evaluation ratings assigned by the PTK Faculty Merit Review Committee.

Composition and Role of the PTK Faculty Merit Review Committee

The PTK Faculty Merit Review Committee will consist of the outgoing PTK Faculty member of the departmental Policy Committee, plus two members elected by and from the PTK Faculty. The department's Associate Chair will serve as a non-voting ex-officio member and coordinate the committee's work. The Chair will work to encourage reasonable representation of PTK Faculty diversity, and will regularly evaluate the makeup of the PTK Faculty Merit Review Committee over the previous five years, proposing adjustments to the committee's membership as necessary. The PTK Faculty Merit Review Committee will meet and conduct merit reviews annually, regardless of whether merit monies are available in a given year.

Merit Review Process

Each spring semester, the PTK Faculty Merit Review Committee will establish and publicize a timeline for the merit review process, including instructions on how and to whom materials will be submitted. The primary source material for the evaluations will be a merit review form, an updated vitae, and

copies of publications and other relevant research, service, and teaching materials, as appropriate. For PTK Faculty engaged primarily in research and/or administration, the committee will request information about the faculty member's performance from that individual's supervisor, which will form the basis of the committee's assessment.

The PTK Faculty Merit Review Committee will determine the merit points for individual faculty within the broad dimensions of Administration, Service, Teaching, and Research and Other Activities. Each of these dimensions is subdivided into two separate categories, one that pertains to work explicitly noted within a faculty member's contract and one pertaining to work beyond contract duties. For each dimension, faculty members will be awarded a score from 1 to 4 based on how well they perform the duties detailed in their respective contracts. Members can earn a bonus point—or a fraction of a bonus point—for completing work that is a) beyond their contracted duties, and b) important to the continued success of the Department of Sociology and/or the University of Maryland. Thus, it is possible for a person to earn four points in a dimension for doing "excellent" work that satisfies all the expectations of their contract, and a bonus point for doing additional work that goes beyond what is detailed in their contract. While a bonus point cannot result in a score higher than 4 in a given dimension, that bonus point could be used to bring up a score in a different dimension where a faculty member has contracted duties.

The PTK Faculty Review Committee will report its reviews and ratings of each PTK Faculty member to the Chair. The committee will also certify that it has followed this policy and procedures, or else indicate how it has deviated from them and provide a rationale.

Based on the committee's report, the Chair will make a final determination on merit money allocations when merit is available, which will be distributed in dollar amounts per points received, rather than as a percentage of current salary. Since merit pools vary from year to year, average points received over the most recent three years of evaluation will constitute the basis for determining merit increases in any one year. There will be no penalty for periods during the preceding three years when a PTK Faculty member was not employed by the University. While 80% of the merit pool is to be allocated according to the mean ratings of the PTK Faculty Merit Review Committee and 20% can be allocated by the Chair directly, the Chair will report to the committee their final salary determinations. The Chair will also communicate the final determination of each PTK Faculty member's merit allocation, as well as a summary of the PTK Faculty Merit Review Committee's review, to each faculty member in writing. The letter will inform the faculty member that they may request a meeting with the Chair to receive an explanation of the merit pay determination.

Appeals Process

If a PTK Faculty member, after consulting with the Chair, remains aggrieved at the merit determination, they can appeal in writing to the Policy Committee within two weeks of the receipt of the Chair's letter. The Policy Committee can either confirm their previous judgment or raise the number of points awarded in any dimension.