

Graduate Faculty  
Appointment and Reappointment  
Criteria and Standards

Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology  
College of Agricultural

Date Approved by Department: 8/14/03

Department Head/Chair: John Adrian

Date Approved by Graduate School: Sept 24, 2003

Dean, the Graduate School: Steve M. ...

Background

Currently, the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology has 16 Level 2 and 8 Level 1 members of the Graduate Faculty.

I. Levels of Membership

The Department recognizes three levels of membership on the Graduate Faculty.

Level 1: The faculty member may teach at the 6000 level, may serve on both masters and doctoral committees and may direct masters theses.

Level 2: The faculty member may participate in the activities delineated for Level 1 and may also teach at the 7000 and 8000 levels and direct doctoral dissertations.

Level 2 A: The full-time administrator who originally held Level 2 membership in the Department may continue graduate program participation and Graduate Faculty status without a vote by the Level 2 graduate faculty within the Department and without having to satisfy the other usual Level 2 criteria. Level 2 A precludes administrators from directing doctoral students (without special exceptions granted by the Dean of the Graduate School) but permits directing masters students, teaching graduate courses, and being members of graduate committees at both levels.

II. Criteria and Standards for Initial Appointment and Reappointment.

Level 1:

Initial Appointment:

A. The candidate should hold the highest degree commonly awarded in the field (Ph.D.) and a faculty appointment of Assistant Professor or above. If the candidate does not have this degree and appointment, exceptional

achievement is expected. (a special exception is granted to Farm Business Management, Extension Economists, who possess Masters degrees and three years experience in their position.)

Reappointment:

- A. Prior Service at either Level 1, Level 2, or Level 2A
- B. Candidate has during the term of appointment contributed to the graduate program through:
  - 1. Maintaining a level of teaching quality commensurate with departmental peers in graduate courses as evidenced by relevant student evaluations,
  - or
  - 2. Contributing in an active and positive fashion to graduate advisory committees served upon,
  - or
  - 3. Providing sound and competent direction to students directed at the masters level.

Level 2:

Initial Appointment:

- A. The candidate should hold the highest degree commonly awarded in the field (Ph.D.). If the candidate does not have this degree, exceptional achievement is expected.
- B. The candidate must hold faculty rank at the Assistant Professor level or above.
- C. The candidate should have three (3) years of experience, participating regularly in graduate programs in Agricultural Economics, Rural Sociology, or closely related fields at Auburn or at another institution of higher education, or demonstrated in some other outstanding way her/his ability to direct graduate level research.
- D. The candidate should have served on at least three (3) examining committees. These may be three (3) final master's examinations or three (3) doctoral examinations (general or final) or a combination of these.
- E. The candidate shall have a record of scholarly publication. The publication requirement will be satisfied typically by publication of at least three (3) full-length research articles in reputable refereed journals. ("Reputable journals" are those identified as such by faculty in Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology.) The research methodology in these articles should reflect methodology appropriate to the nominee's field of specialization. The nominee must be senior author on at least one of these publications. The publication of a book or research monograph can satisfy this requirement completely or in part if it makes a scholarly contribution to the author's field of specialization. Such publications must clearly demonstrate the author's research competence.
- F. In cases where the Candidate has established a significant scholarly record, and demonstrated in some other outstanding way her/his ability to direct doctoral students, the Graduate Dean may approve a reduction in the requirements for C and D above. A request to the Graduate Dean to approve such a reduction would be initiated by the Department Head / Chair in writing after a positive vote by a

majority of the Level 2 faculty in the Department. Evidence of other significant professional scholarly commitment may include any one, or any combination of such activities as: (a) presenting papers before learned and professional organizations; (b) writing book reviews, scientific and industrial reports, short notes, popular articles, or similar materials; (c) rendering any type of consulting service which provides evidence of the scholar's professional standing and competence in her/his special field; (d) participating in the activities of appropriate scholarly scientific and professional organizations by holding offices or serving in other responsible capacities; (e) performing significant administrative duties connected with the graduate program of a department or of the university; or (f) attainment of extramural support that is evidence of professional standing.

#### Reappointment

During the present term of appointment, the candidate shall have met the criteria and minimal standards outlined under sections D and E under Criteria and Standards for Initial Appointment.

#### Level 2 A:

##### Initial appointment:

The candidate must be a full-time administrator who originally held Level 2 membership status within the Department.

##### Reappointment:

Level 2A membership status is available during the term of full-time administrative service and up to four (4) years after the member returns to a full-time faculty assignment.

#### III. Term of Appointment

Level 1: The term of appointment shall be 5 years.

Level 2: The term of appointment shall be 7 years.

Level 2A: The term of appointment shall be the time served as a full-time administrator plus a maximum of four (4) years.

Note: A faculty member appointed to Level 1 may be nominated for Level 2 status at any time. Faculty members serving at Level 2 can be nominated for reappointment at Level 1 or Level 2 during the last 6 months of their current term. Full time administrators or ex-administrators on Level 2A status may request Level 2 status at any time.

#### IV. Procedures for Nomination: Initial Appointment and Reappointment

Level 1: The Department Head/Chair shall nominate candidates for initial appointment or for reappointment. The nomination dossier should contain a copy of the nominee's updated tenure and promotion document (as outlined in the Faculty Handbook, pp. 3:14-3:17,

Information supplied by the candidate) or a current vita which contains equivalent material. The Department Head/Chair shall also complete a standard nomination form which outlines the department's criteria and standards and how the nominee has specifically met those criteria and standards. The Department Head/Chair in signing the nomination form certifies the accuracy of information contained in the nomination package and that the procedures, criteria and standards contained within the approved departmental plan have been followed and met. The Department Head/Chair will forward the nomination to the Graduate School for review and action by the Graduate Dean.

Level 2: Procedures shall be the same as for Level 1 with one additional step. Prior to forwarding the nomination to the Graduate School, nomination materials shall be reviewed by all Level 2 graduate faculty members within the Department. Following the review, the Department Head/Chair shall call for a vote by all Level 2 graduate faculty by secret ballot relative to support or non-support of the nomination. If a positive vote by a simple majority of the Level 2 faculty in the Department is recorded, the nomination may continue. The result of the vote, as well as the number of Level 2 graduate faculty within the Department, shall be transmitted with nomination material to the Graduate School for review and action by the Graduate Dean.

Level 2A: The candidate for Level 2 A status shall provide a written, signed, and dated request for such status. The Department Head/Chair shall complete and sign a standard nomination form which certifies the candidate holds Level 2 membership. The Department Head/Chair will forward the nomination form and a copy of the candidate's request to the Graduate School for review and action by the Graduate Dean. (When the candidate is the Department Head/Chair, the Graduate Dean certifies prior Level 2 Status.)