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ARTICLE 8
PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

8.1 General Principles. Performance evaluations are used to assess, recognize, and facilitate improvement in Employees' performance. This strengthens the University's workforce by providing a periodic and formal exchange of information between supervisors and employees regarding progress, accomplishments, and when applicable, areas needing improvement. Performance evaluations also provide an opportunity to clarify work standards, discuss training and development needs, set goals for the next year, and identify the support needed to reach such goals.

8.2 Purpose and Scope of Evaluation.

(a) Purpose. An annual evaluation is a subjective assessment of an individual's performance based on objective criteria.

(1) Annual evaluations for faculty members focus on performance in functions such as teaching, research, service, and other duties that may be assigned.

(2) Annual evaluations for academic professionals focus on the performance of all assigned duties.

(3) In addition, all Employees are evaluated based on the terms of their individual contract, duties under the Collective Bargaining Agreement, and on their contributions to the orderly and effective functioning of the University and their academic department/unit.

(b) Scope.

(1) Evaluators should state goals for the upcoming year and should endeavor to assist the Employee in correcting any performance deficiencies reflected in the annual evaluation.

a. Employees are encouraged to accept and seek such assistance, if needed.

b. The Evaluator may informally coach or counsel the Employee with the goal of improving performance. Such advice is not disciplinary, nor may it be part of the evaluation file.

(2) Performance Evaluations must:

a. Fully consider information in the faculty member's dossier and any other faculty evaluative information that is provided and disclosed to the Evaluator, and;

b. Be consistent with the Evaluation Guidelines, and reasonably consistent with the Review Panel's guidance.

c. Take into account the quality of the performance, as well as the proportions and nature of the assignments.

- 38 **d.** Not evaluate an employee for a work assignment that is given, or
39 implied to be given, in the area of research without the involvement
40 of the Employee’s supervisor and the agreement of the Employee.
- 41 **e.** Evaluate how well an employee fulfilled the work duties they were
42 assigned. Evaluators may take into consideration work that goes
43 beyond the faculty member's assigned duties but remain within the
44 professional responsibilities of a faculty member.
- 45 **f.** An evaluation may not penalize a faculty member for having less
46 than twelve (12) credit hours of work assigned. See 7.3.
- 47 **(3)** Academic professionals have, as part of their job description, other duties
48 as assigned. Significant duties assigned under this heading must be issued
49 in writing (via email) and are included in the expectation of performance.
50 Minor requests that are within the appropriate scope of the individual’s job
51 may be given verbally.
- 52 **(4)** Each Evaluator completing a performance evaluation must articulate
53 sufficient and specific grounds or reasons to substantiate any rating other
54 than “Meet Expectations.”
- 55 **(5)** Evaluations shall not be arbitrary nor capricious and the evaluation shall
56 reflect the reviewer’s best judgment of the individual’s performance.
- 57 **(c)** Promotion Appraisals.
- 58 **(1)** Faculty Members may request, at the time of the submission of the
59 Evaluation Information Sheet (see Section 8.3(b)), an appraisal regarding
60 their progress toward promotion, if applicable.
- 61 **(2)** The appraisal is intended to provide a current assessment of the strengths
62 and weaknesses of the Faculty Member’s candidacy for promotion and
63 provide assistance and counseling in progressing toward promotion.
- 64 **(3)** The Evaluator shall include the promotion appraisal as a separate addendum
65 to the annual evaluation, but the promotion appraisal shall not be part of the
66 justification for the ratings assigned for the annual evaluation.
- 67 **(4)** Such appraisals regarding progress toward promotion are non-binding on
68 the University and shall not be subject to the grievance process.
- 69 **(5)** Such appraisals shall not be included in the employee’s personnel file and
70 shall not be considered or used during the promotion process.

71 **8.3** Annual Evaluation. Employees are evaluated at least once annually, except as described in
72 Sections 8.3(g) and (h).

- 73 **(a)** The annual evaluation period will cover all employment occurring from February
74 1 through January 31, regardless of the employment start date.
- 75 **(b)** The Employee must submit the Evaluation Information Sheet (see Section 8.7) to
76 the Evaluator, with a copy to the Provost’s Office, no later than February 15.
- 77 **(c)** On or before May 1, the Evaluator must:

- 78 **(1)** Complete the performance evaluation;
- 79 **(2)** Provide a copy of the Evaluation to the Employee, and;
- 80 **(3)** Discuss and review the evaluation with the Employee (the Employee may
81 choose to not discuss the evaluation). The discussion will be scheduled by
82 the Evaluator during normal business hours, unless both parties agree to a
83 meeting outside of normal business hours.
- 84 **(d)** On or before May 1, the Employee must acknowledge receipt of the performance
85 evaluation by signing the evaluation. The evaluation shall make clear to the
86 employee that this is only to acknowledge the receipt of the evaluation and does
87 not represent acceptance of the contents of the evaluation. The Evaluator must sign
88 the evaluation and submit the signed evaluation to the Provost's Office.
- 89 **(e)** On or before May 15, the finalized performance evaluation must be added to the
90 Employee's evaluation file in the Provost's Office unless the employee and the
91 Provost's Office have agreed to postpone a review meeting until after May 15 (see
92 8.6 (c)).
- 93 **(f)** Revised evaluations
- 94 **(1)** If errors, omissions, or other documentable issues with the evaluation are
95 discovered, the chair, division director if present, Provost, or Provost
96 designee may issue a revised performance evaluation to replace the original
97 evaluation. However, a revised evaluation may only be issued within 120
98 days of the finalized evaluation being added to the Employee's evaluation
99 file (see 8.3 (e)) except by mutual agreement of the Employee and the
100 University.
- 101 **(2)** If the performance evaluation contains indisputable factual errors or
102 omissions (e.g. an SAI result or DFW rate is misreported), the chair,
103 division director if present, Provost, or Provost designee will issue a
104 corrected performance evaluation to replace the original evaluation.
- 105 **(3)** The Evaluator and Employee must acknowledge receipt of the revised or
106 corrected performance evaluation by signing the revised or corrected
107 evaluation. The University would retain both evaluations and would
108 indicate on the original evaluation that it had been replaced by the revised
109 or corrected evaluation.
- 110 **(g)** The performance of an Employee must be evaluated annually, with the following
111 permissible exceptions:
- 112 **(1)** Employees that have resigned;
- 113 **(2)** Faculty members in the terminal year of the contract, or;
- 114 **(3)** Faculty members whose employment began less than ninety (90) days prior
115 to the end of the evaluation period.

116 **8.4** Probationary Evaluation. In addition to the annual evaluation, the academic professional
117 must receive a probationary evaluation after ninety (90) days of employment in their
118 position.

119 (a) In the absence of a completed probationary evaluation, a probationary employee
120 will default to a “satisfactory” rating.

121 (b) If the academic professional’s probationary period ends between October 1 and
122 January 30, the employee’s immediately following annual performance evaluation
123 may be skipped. If skipped, the employee must be evaluated during the next annual
124 evaluation period.

125 **8.5** Evaluators.

126 (a) Faculty Evaluators are the Department Chair or Division Director that has been
127 assigned personnel management responsibility by the Provost for the Employee’s
128 area. When the Evaluator is a Division Director, the Division Director will seek
129 advice and context from a department chair for each of the faculty members in the
130 unit. The Assistant Librarian and Wellness Counselor are evaluated by their
131 immediate supervisor.

132 (b) For faculty, the Provost will appoint an evaluation review panel which will consist
133 of Evaluators, and if the Faculty Representative Council chooses to do so, two
134 faculty members of senior rank (Associate Professor or Professor) appointed by the
135 Faculty Assembly. The purpose of the review is to ensure the Evaluators have
136 applied a consistent standard to all faculty members when conducting the
137 evaluations. The reviews prepared by Department Chairs or Division Directors may
138 change as a result of panel discussions. The Provost will serve as chair of the
139 evaluation review panel. All members of the evaluation review panel must agree to
140 the confidentiality of the review process.

141 **8.6** Evaluation Review.

142 (a) Within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the evaluation, the faculty member
143 may request a review, in writing, with the Provost’s Office to discuss (with the
144 Provost or Provost’s designated administrator) concerns regarding the evaluation,
145 which were not resolved in previous discussions with the Evaluator.

146 (b) Within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the evaluation, the academic
147 professional may request, in writing, a meeting with the administrator at the next
148 higher level in their line of authority to discuss concerns regarding the evaluation,
149 which were not resolved in previous discussions with the Evaluator.

150 (c) The evaluation reviews in (a) and (b) above must take place no later than May 15
151 unless both the Provost’s Office and the faculty member or academic professional
152 mutually agree to schedule the meeting after May 15.

153 **8.7** Evaluation Information Sheet. A sample Faculty Activity Report format is attached to this
154 contract in Appendix B. The Faculty Representative Council may provide the Provost with
155 recommended changes to the information sheet’s format no later than December 1 on an
156 annual basis. The Provost will communicate decisions on changes in the format to the
157 Faculty Representative Council by January 15. (See Appendix B).

158 **8.8** Sources of Faculty Evaluative Information. Evaluations are intended to be comprehensive
159 and not based on a single or limited number of sources of information.

160 (a) The Evaluator may consider all appropriate and available information that is
161 relevant to the Employee's performance. This includes information provided by the
162 Employee and information provided from the following sources: Immediate
163 supervisor(s), peers, students, other University officials who have responsibility for
164 supervision of the faculty member, and members of the University community.

165 (1) Any materials or information used to evaluate a faculty member other than
166 that included in the faculty member's dossier will be provided or explained
167 to the faculty member by the Evaluator during the evaluation meeting
168 offered pursuant to Section 8.3(c).

169 (2) Any materials or information that have not been disclosed to the faculty
170 member as described in 8.8(a)(1) cannot be used in the evaluation process.

171 (b) Records maintained for the purposes of any investigation of Employee misconduct,
172 including but not limited to a complaint against an Employee, including anonymous
173 complaints, and any final conclusions reached pursuant to the investigation of such
174 complaint may not be used or considered in the evaluation process until they are
175 considered final, pursuant to section 1012.91, Florida Statutes. Information that has
176 been validated that is a part of an investigation may be used, regardless of complaint
177 finding and the status of the complaint.

178 (c) Information from outside the evaluation period must not be considered in the
179 determination of the Employee's evaluation rating. However, reference to prior
180 evaluations may be appropriately considered for the purpose of providing context
181 or comparison (such as meeting previously stated goals, or noting improvement,
182 consistency, or regression), if directly relevant to performance during the current
183 evaluation period.

184 (d) All employees may provide a written response and/or comments regarding their
185 evaluation and have it added to the evaluation file within sixty (60) days of the
186 receipt of the evaluation. All written material used to produce a performance
187 evaluation shall be included in the evaluation file.

188 **8.9** Evaluation Guidelines. The administration will develop a set of evaluation guidelines for
189 each of the faculty ranks that indicate performance characteristics appropriate to each
190 rating for teaching, scholarship, and service.

191 (a) Judgments of academic excellence are complex. Evaluation guidelines cannot
192 easily be reduced to a quantitative formula, nor can the considerations that must be
193 applied in each individual case be completely described in general terms or by
194 numbers alone, separate from necessary qualitative assessments. Therefore, the
195 guidelines are used to create consistency in ratings across the range of evaluators
196 and are specifically not a scoring rubric.

197 (b) The guidelines for a review period will be provided to the academic departments

198 by September 15 of the year prior to the beginning of the review period and the
 199 departments will provide comments on the guidelines on or before November 1 of
 200 that year. The comments provided must be approved by the majority vote of the
 201 department. The vote must take place anonymously. By January 15, the review
 202 evaluation panel will consider the department recommendations and provide a
 203 recommendation to the Provost on evaluation guidelines to be used for the next
 204 review cycle. The University must provide the final guidelines to faculty before the
 205 review period begins.

206 (c) The scale for the evaluations is provided in the following table. The performance
 207 rating will typically be used in setting salary increases as described in Article 12.

Evaluation Key	
Deficient	<i>Performance that does not meet an acceptable standard. This rating will typically require a supervisor and employee to develop a performance improvement plan.</i>
Needs Improvement	<i>Performance that is below a reasonable expectation for the person's job description.</i>
Meets Expectations	<i>Performance is sound and within reasonable expectations for the person's job description. Supervisors may add a "+" or a "-" to this rating as further indicators of an employees performance.</i>
Exceeds Expectations	<i>Performance that goes beyond the "Meets Expectations" standard in some significant way. The individual has performed at a level that provides distinction for themselves.</i>
Exemplary	<i>Performance that is extraordinary and reflects outstanding distinction for the individual.</i>

208 **8.10** Performance Improvement Plan.

209 (a) No employee in their terminal year of employment will be required to develop a
 210 performance improvement plan.

211 (b) When an employee receives an overall evaluation of "Deficient," they and their
 212 supervisor will develop a performance improvement plan except in the situation
 213 explained in 8.10 (a). The primary responsibility for putting together the plan lies
 214 with the faculty member.

215 (c) When an employee receives an overall evaluation of "Needs Improvement" for two
 216 consecutive years, they and their supervisor will develop a performance
 217 improvement plan except in the situation explained in 8.10 (a).

218 (d) When an employee receives a "Needs Improvement" or "Deficient" rating in any
 219 category used in the evaluation, they may request that they and their supervisor
 220 develop a performance improvement plan. Such a request will be approved by the

- 221 supervisor except in the situation explained in 8.10 (a).
- 222 (e) The performance improvement plan will be developed by the employee, in
223 cooperation with his/her supervisor, and include specific performance targets and a
224 time period for achieving the targets.
- 225 (1) The performance improvement plan will be approved by the President or
226 representative.
- 227 (2) Specific resources identified in an approved performance improvement plan
228 may be approved and provided by the University. However, the University
229 is under no obligation to provide resources requested by the faculty member
230 or the supervisor.
- 231 (f) The supervisor will meet periodically with the employee to review progress toward
232 meeting the performance targets. It is the responsibility of the supervisor to use the
233 performance improvement plan as the part of the basis for the next annual
234 evaluation.
- 235 **8.11** Evaluation File. Faculty members must refer to 6C13-6.008 Personnel Records and
236 Limited-Access Records regarding access to, and disclosure of, performance evaluations
237 and other faculty evaluative information.

For the University

For the UFF

David Fugett

Wylie Lenz

Chief Negotiator

Chief Negotiator

Date _____

Date _____