


Faculty Handbook

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Faculty Handbook

THE HANDBOOK: PURPOSE AND PROVISIONS

The purpose of this *Handbook* is to provide all members of the Faculty, particularly those who are new to Amherst, with knowledge of the policies, regulations, practices and expectations which prevail at Amherst College. The various provisions of this *Handbook* are subject to revision from time to time by the Trustees, Administration and Faculty on their own initiative or in response to changes in State and Federal legislation.

The provisions of this *Handbook* derive their authority from various sources; they are primarily statements by the administration of customary practice, administrative organization, or explicit policy established at the College, often after consultation with the Faculty. The committees of the Faculty and the academic requirements of the College are voted by the Faculty. Fringe benefit provisions and the conditions of employment are derived from actions taken by the Board of Trustees. The description of College facilities and other general information are provided as helpful addenda. Provisions of the *Handbook*, whether derived from Trustee vote, Faculty vote, or Administrative or Trustee action are subject to modification or revocation by the appropriate authority following proper procedure. No such change will be retroactive.

Any questions concerning information given in this *Handbook* should be addressed to the Dean of the Faculty, Amherst College, Amherst, MA 01002-5000

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Pre-Introduction

A. DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Amherst College does not discriminate in its admission or employment policies and practices on the basis of factors such as race, genetics, gender identity or gender expression, sex, sexual orientation, age, color, religion, national origin, disability, or status as a veteran of the Vietnam War era or as a disabled veteran. The College complies with applicable federal and state legislation and regulations regarding nondiscrimination. Inquiries should be directed to the Special Assistant to the President for Diversity and Inclusion, Amherst College, P.O. Box 5000, Amherst, MA 01002-5000.

Americans with Disabilities Act

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Amherst College will make reasonable accommodation to the known physical or mental limitations of a qualified applicant or employee with a disability to enable such person to perform essential job functions and/or enjoy the benefits and privileges of employment, so long as such accommodation does not impose an undue burden on the College. To be protected by the ADA an employee must have a “disability”, as defined below, and be qualified to perform the essential functions of the position with or without a reasonable accommodation by Amherst College. A disability is defined under the ADA as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

A disability also includes having a record of such impairment, or being regarded as having such an impairment. Major life activities include functions such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing and standing. If you feel you may need a reasonable accommodation you should request one by contacting the Office of Human Resources.

B. ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Amherst College subscribes fully to the AAUP statements of principles on academic freedom published in 1940, and assumes that Faculty members know their rights and their responsibilities as members of the academic profession.

C. ACCREDITATION

Amherst College is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc., through its Commission on Institutions of Higher Education. Accreditation of an institution of higher education by the New England Association indicates that it meets or exceeds criteria for the assessment of institutional quality periodically applied through a peer review process. An accredited college or university is one that has available the necessary resources to achieve its stated purposes through appropriate educational programs, is substantially doing so, and gives reasonable evidence that it will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. Institutional integrity is also addressed through accreditation. Accreditation by the New England Association is not partial but applies to the institution as a whole. As such, it is not a guarantee of every course or program offered, or the competence of individual graduates. Rather, it provides reasonable assurance about the quality of opportunities available to students who attend the institution. Inquiries regarding the accreditation status by the New England Association should be directed to the administrative staff of the institution. Individuals may also contact the

association by writing to the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. at: Commission on Institutions of Higher Education; New England Association of Schools and Colleges; 209 Burlington Road; Bedford, MA 01730-1433; (781) 271-0022; E-Mail: cihe@neasc.org.

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Policy on Acceptable Use of the Amherst College Electronic Environment

The College maintains an electronic environment that includes a network, server systems, telephones, voicemail, and computers for faculty, staff and students. This environment is maintained to further the academic and administrative work of the College, and those uses take precedence over any others.

Restrictions on Use

The College's Electronic Accounts Policy defines the conditions under which individuals are given the privilege of using this environment. In general, users are expected to conform to the same standards of conduct when using this environment as are applicable to the use of other College facilities. The examples given below are illustrative, and are not intended to cover all possibilities. There will be a need for exceptions in some circumstances. Consult the Director of Information Technology with questions about specific activities or exceptions. Each account is provided for the use of a specific individual, and may not be shared with or lent to others. Individuals are expected to take reasonable precautions to prevent others from using their accounts. Examples of violations include

- giving an account password to another person,
- logging in to one's account at a public computer, then leaving without logging out, and
- providing access to the campus network to others.

The *Statement of Intellectual Responsibility* and the *Statement of Respect for Persons* apply to the use of the electronic environment. Examples of violations of those standards include

- sending harassing or threatening messages,
- using the network to participate in plagiarism,
- interfering with another person's files, accounts or coursework, and
- sending "junk email" - email sent to large lists of people without a reasonable expectation that they wish to receive it.

Use of the electronic environment may not violate federal, state, or local law, including the laws of defamation, forgery, copyright/trademark infringement, and harassment. Examples include

- installing copyrighted software on a College computer without paying the required fees, and
- distributing copyrighted work without permission.

Use of the College's electronic environment for commercial purposes not relevant to the mission of the College is prohibited, unless specifically authorized in writing by the Director of Information Technology. Examples include

- operating a business from a dormitory or office that uses the College's electronic environment,
- fund raising and advertising using the College's electronic environment by groups or individuals other than officially recognized campus organizations, and
- creating a website on the College server that sells items for personal profit.

Account owners may not engage in any activity that may reasonably be expected to be harmful to the systems operated by the College or a third party, or to information stored upon them. Examples include

- participating in the breaking of security on a computer system regardless of whether it is owned by the College or by some third party, and
- disrupting service on a computer system by sending automated messages which tie up the computer.

Common resources, such as network bandwidth, are to be shared by all members of the College community. Individuals may not engage in activities that might reasonably be expected to cause congestion of the network, or prevent others from making reasonable use of the College's electronic resources, or incapacitate, compromise, or damage the College's electronic resources. Examples include

- operating network servers that consume more than a fair share of bandwidth,
- running programs that cause network congestion, and
- sending "junk" email.

Enforcement Provisions

Violations of these conditions for the use of this environment are subject to the investigative and disciplinary procedures of the College, with the Director of Information Technology acting in an advisory role. The Office of the Dean of Students usually handles complaints against students. The Office of the Dean of the Faculty usually handles complaints against faculty. Complaints against staff and administrators are usually handled through supervisors and Human Resources. The Electronic Accounts Policy does provide for a small number of accounts for individuals who are neither students nor employees of the College; the Director of Information Technology will handle these cases, with consultation with the College administration as appropriate.

Limitation of Privileges Pending Judicial Process

In addition, in some cases, the College must act more immediately to protect its interests and resources (including the electronic environment and the data stored in it) or the rights and safety of others. The Director of Information Technology, or in his or her absence a delegate within Information Technology staff, has the authority to suspend or limit account privileges and access in those situations. When an account is suspended in this way, the Director of Information Technology or the delegate shall notify the appropriate office who will handle the complaint, and will attempt to notify the account owner. Account suspension under these conditions is temporary while the complaint is handled through the normal investigative and disciplinary procedures of the College.

Tags: [Acceptable Use of Electronic Environment](#) | [Amherst College Electronic Environment](#) | [Electronic Environment](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#)

Introduction

Amherst College was founded in 1821 as an outgrowth of Amherst Academy, which had been established in 1814. The founders of the College were residents of Amherst and nearby towns. More than 1,300 of them contributed money, materials and labor to the enterprise, and the College was named for the town (which itself was named in honor of Jeffrey Amherst, Commander of British forces in the French and Indian War). The first president of the Board of Trustees was Noah Webster, the lexicographer. The first president of the College was Zephaniah Swift Moore, who came from the presidency of Williams and brought fifteen Williams undergraduates with him to comprise about one-third of the original student body of forty-seven. Although the College was founded primarily to prepare young men for the Congregational ministry, from the start it has been an independent, non-sectarian institution; its charter, granted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1825, bans tests of religion in choosing students and teachers.

Today a distinguished liberal arts college of approximately 1,570 undergraduates, Amherst has been educating both women and men since the introduction of full coeducation in 1976.

The College has enjoyed a long and close association with the town and its residents, particularly with such poets and other writers as Emily Dickinson, Helen Hunt Jackson, David Grayson (Ray Stannard Baker) and Robert Frost. Its relation to the surrounding communities continues to be of great importance to the College, symbolized in recent years by the cooperative sponsorship of Hampshire College and by participation in Five Colleges, Inc.

Amherst has been well served by historians. The third president of the College, Edward Hitchcock, wrote his *Reminiscences of Amherst College* (Northampton, 1863) combining personal anecdote, geological speculation, and political reflection. The first full-scale history of the College is William S. Tyler, *A History of Amherst College During the Administration of its First Five Presidents* (New York, 1895). Tyler's book is now itself an historic document that gives at firsthand the flavor of the College during the final quarter of the nineteenth century. The most sustained general history of the College is Claude Moore Fuess, *Amherst: The Story of a New England College* (Boston, 1935). The eleventh president of the College, Stanley King, wrote of two aspects of the College in a way that gives them general interest and significance: *A History of the Endowment of Amherst College* (Amherst, 1950); *The Consecrated Eminence: The Story of the Campus and Buildings of Amherst College* (Amherst, 1951).

In 1972, as part of its sesquicentennial observance, the College published two volumes: *The Development of the Art Collection of Amherst College* by Professor Charles H. Morgan; and *Poetry Amherst*, an anthology of verse written by students and alumni over one hundred and fifty years, edited by Richard Aldridge.

While there are many special studies that analyze the ideals and the broils in the College's past, three might be of particular interest to new members of the Faculty. William Gardiner Hammond, *Remembrance of Amherst, An Undergraduate's Diary 1846-1912* (New York, 1946), edited by George Whicher, gives a delightful insight into the character of undergraduate life in mid-nineteenth century. Thomas Le Duc, *Piety and Intellect at Amherst College 1865-1912* (New York, 1946) is a study of the controversies that waxed and waned at Amherst between the Civil War and the First World War. A book that is an outgrowth of a senior honors essay surveys a wider canvass and introduces the comparative approach. George E. Peterson, *The New England*

College in the Age of the University (Amherst, 1964) deals with Wesleyan, Dartmouth, Williams, Union and Bowdoin, as well as Amherst, showing that the crises within the New England Colleges during the last two decades of the nineteenth century mirrored a general collapse of the traditional conservatism of higher education.

Those interested in the innovative curricula initiated at Amherst in 1947 and 1978 will find an excellent treatment in *Education at Amherst: The New Program* (New York, 1955), edited by Gail Kennedy, and *Education at Amherst Reconsidered: The Liberal Studies Program* (Amherst, 1978), edited by Hugh Hawkins. Essays by Amherst faculty, commissioned and edited by then President Peter R. Pouncey, were published in 1991 in a volume entitled *Teaching What We Do*.

Black Men of Amherst by Harold Wade, published posthumously by the College in 1976, traces the experience and contributions of Amherst's African-American students from the earliest graduate in 1826 to the mid-1970's.

Two histories of the town are *The History of the Town of Amherst, Massachusetts* (Amherst, 1896) by Edward W. Carpenter, and *Essays on Amherst's History* (Amherst, 1978), edited by Theodore P. Greene.

These books will indicate what reflection confirms, that in the seemingly tranquil life of a New England town many live out their lives with unusual intensity.

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College Organization

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The Board of Trustees

In accordance with provisions of the Charter as amended most recently in 1991, the Board of Trustees of Amherst College consists of twenty-one members: the President of the College, as a member *ex officio* so long as he or she shall continue in office; fourteen members elected by the Board as Term Trustees, for six-year terms, and limited to two such successive terms; and six members chosen by the alumni of Amherst College for terms of six years each, in accordance with the regulations for the election of Trustees by the alumni as adopted by the Society of the Alumni and the Board of Trustees in July 1874 and subsequently modified by amendment.

There are two advisory committees to the Board of Trustees on which Faculty serve: the Advisory Committee on Term Trusteeship and the Advisory Committee on Honorary Degrees. (See Committees of the Board of Trustees)

There are four regular meetings of the Board, known as the Autumn, the Winter, the Spring and the Commencement meetings. Meetings of the Board take place in Amherst, but special meetings may be held at the call of the Chairman at any time or place that he or she designates. Nine members of the Board constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Full details concerning the officers, the duties, the standing committees, and the appointees of the Board are to be found in the Charter and By-Laws of the Trustees of Amherst College as adopted May 13, 1922, and as amended since. The By-Laws can be obtained from the Secretary of the Board of Trustees.

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Administration of the College

1. The President

The President, who serves at the pleasure of the Trustees, has charge of the internal administration of the College, is presiding officer of the Faculty, has general responsibility for the property and grounds of the College, presides at all commencements, and confers all degrees voted by the Trustees and signs the diplomas. The President reports to the Trustees at least annually on the condition and needs of the College.

The President has power to call special meetings of the Faculty and has a duty to call such meetings at the written request of no fewer than eight of the members of the Faculty.

The concurrence of the President is necessary to all acts and resolutions of the Faculty, unless, after on-concurrence, the act or resolution shall again be passed by a two-thirds vote of the Faculty, a quorum being present, at the same or at the next succeeding meeting thereof. In all cases where there shall be a non-concurrence between the President and a majority of the Faculty present at the time, the names of those voting on each side of the question shall be entered in the minutes, and each member shall be entitled to have entered in the minutes the reason for his or her vote.

The President communicates to the Faculty the resolutions and actions of the Trustees insofar as the Trustees themselves authorize.

The President, in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty, has the power to grant leaves of absence to members of the Faculty for reasonable cause and shall report the details of every such arrangement to the Trustees.

The President has general charge of the administration of student discipline and the power to suspend or remit penalties imposed by the Faculty.

The collections of the College shall not be sold or loaned, in whole or in part, except by permission of the President.

In the absence or disability of the President, the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, pending action by the Trustees, shall appoint an Acting President who shall exercise the powers and discharge the duties of the President.

2. Academic Administration

Responsibility, under the President, for the administration of the academic affairs of the College rests with the Deans and the Registrar. Suites are divided among the Deans in the following way:

1. *The Dean of the Faculty*, who serves also as Secretary to the Committee of Six and Secretary to the Faculty, has primary responsibility for matters of academic policy that affect the Faculty and for the educational consequences of the academic budget. The Dean of the Faculty also oversees the Robert Frost Library, the Mead Art Museum, the Pratt Museum of Natural History, information technology, the

office of the Registrar, and athletics.

2. *The Dean of Students* has primary responsibility for the academic rules and regulations concerning students. The Dean of New Students has primary responsibility for the orientation and the academic and disciplinary well-being of the first-year class. Associate and Assistant Deans within the Dean of Students' Office share responsibilities for counseling and advising different classes; providing various academic support programs; career counseling and planning; residential life and student activities.
3. *The Dean of Admission and Financial Aid* coordinates the work of the Office of Financial Aid and is responsible for development of policy, strategic planning, and policy analysis related to admission and financial aid operations. The Dean and the Associate and Assistant Deans of Admission have responsibility for the selection of each entering class.
4. *The Director of Financial Aid* and Associate and Assistant Deans of Financial Aid have primary responsibility for administration of all scholarships and loan funds, both those of Amherst College and federal and state funds administered by the College.

3. The Library

The Librarian of the College, who reports to the Dean of the Faculty, is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Robert Frost Library and the departmental collections.

4. Business Administration

The primary responsibility, under the President, for the administration of the financial and business affairs of the College rests with the Treasurer. The Treasurer is assisted by the Comptroller, who disperses and accounts for College funds; the Director of Human Resources, who is responsible for the administration of all aspects of personnel management for the College's administrative and support staff; the Director of Facilities Planning and Management, who is responsible for the operation and maintenance of all College physical facilities; the Director of Dining Service, who has responsibility for the operation of all food services at the College. In addition, the Treasurer, in conjunction with the Investment Committee of the Board of Trustees, is the officer responsible for the management of the College's endowment.

5. Chief Advancement Officer

Reporting to the President, the Chief Advancement Officer has primary responsibility for the external affairs of the College. The Chief Advancement Officer is assisted by the Director of Alumni and Parent Programs (Alumni Secretary), who manages all programmatic and fund-raising aspects of alumni and parent relations, including the acquisition of unrestricted operating support through the Annual Fund; the Director of Development, who supports the Trustees, President, and Dean of the Faculty in securing capital and operating resources from individual, corporate, foundation, and governmental sources; the Secretary for Public Affairs, who is responsible for College publications, media relations, and special events; and the Director of Advancement Operations, who provides administrative, technological, and donor relations support to College staff and volunteers.

6. Diversity and Inclusion

The Office of Human Resources (OHR) and the Special Assistant to the President for Diversity (SAPD) ensure that the policies of affirmative action at Amherst College are propagated and implemented. In particular, the SAPD helps with the advertisement and searches for all faculty positions and the OHR helps with searches for non-faculty positions. As well, the SAPD serves as a resource in cases of alleged discrimination or

discriminatory harassment.

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The Faculty

The Faculty of Amherst College consists of (1) the President, the Dean of the Faculty, Professors, Associate Professors, and Assistant Professors appointed to regular full-time or part-time tenured or tenure-track positions; (2) all individuals on non-tenure track, renewable contracts, who teach regularly in the College curriculum and whose primary affiliation is with Amherst College; and (3) all persons with visiting teaching appointments, for the duration of their appointment at Amherst College, provided that appointment is their primary professional responsibility at the time (Voted by the Faculty, May 1990).

Subject to the reserve power of control by the Trustees, the Faculty (a) shall have the power and the duty to fix the requirements of admission, the course of study and the conditions of graduation, to establish rules for ascertaining the proficiency of students and for the assignments of honors, to determine the academic calendar, and to fix the times of general examinations; and, (b) may establish rules of conduct to be observed by the students and penalties for the violation thereof.

The exercise of any of the powers conferred on the Faculty, that involves a change in the educational policy of the College, shall take effect only after the resolution of the Faculty shall have been submitted to and approved by the Trustees. It is always understood that the Trustees reserve to themselves the power of developing the educational opportunities of the College by uniting or dividing and by increasing or decreasing departments.

The Executive Committee of the Faculty is known as the Committee of Six. The composition of the Committee, its powers, procedures and responsibilities, are more fully described in Sections III and IV of the *Handbook*.

Academic Departments.

The Faculty of Amherst College is organized into departments and programs. The departments, however, are less formal and more flexible than in many other institutions. Departments are expected to reach decisions in a collegial fashion. Each department, by election, will recommend to the President of the College one of its members as Chair.

a. Department Chairs.

The responsibility of being Chair will be shared by the members of the department, generally by the tenured members, although an untenured member may serve as Chair. Members of the department should also share where appropriate the regular administrative work of the department so that it does not fall upon the Chair alone. The term of appointment may vary, but usually a Chair serves no more than three consecutive years. The President reserves authority, under special circumstances, to appoint or to remove a Chair of a department.

Each department operates under a budget approved by the Dean of the Faculty and the Treasurer and voted by the Board of Trustees. This budget is under the control of the Chair or other designated member of the department. No commitments should be made for any departmental expenses without prior approval of that person and any bills or vouchers submitted to the Comptroller must have that person's written approval.

The Dean of the Faculty will annually inform each Department Chair of the current policies and procedures pertaining to the Chair's responsibilities in such matters as hiring, reappointment, tenure and promotion of

faculty; budget projections; and the submission of course proposals for approval.

The duties of Department Chairs specifically include, but are not limited to:

Transmitting program changes and new course proposals to the CEP, sending course and class information to the Registrar

Coordinating and/or conducting searches, in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty and with the Affirmative Action Officer

Making annual arrangements with the Dean of the Faculty for the department's budgets and projected faculty leaves and sabbaticals

Holding at least one formal conversation per year with the department's untenured faculty member(s) to discuss in detail performance and progress in teaching and research, and evidence thereof. A sum and substance letter about the conversation should be given to the untenured faculty member and be placed in the records of the department (voted by the Faculty, May 1995). Discussing procedures for reappointment and tenure with non-tenured department members, and for tenure with newly reappointed members; Adhering to the schedule and procedures for tenure and promotion reviews

Discussing with tenure candidates the sum and substance of the department's tenure recommendation

Discussing with departmental applicants their proposals for Trustee-Faculty Fellowships, Miner D. Crary Fellowships, and Wilson Fellowships

Managing department reviews, in consultation and coordination with the Dean of the Faculty's Office; Preparing the Departmental Self-Study, and consulting with the Visiting Review Committee

Discussing faculty and student grievances with the aggrieved parties

In most departments, representing the department in discussions with the Librarian of the department's library budget

Submitting annual evaluation of the department's staff.

b. Department Staff

Departments are assisted by a full-time or part-time Academic Department Coordinator. Additional clerical support is available through the Office of Administrative Services.

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Other Instructional Personnel

Visiting Assistant, Associate and (full) Professor; Visiting Artist and Writer (for non-tenure-track individuals on contracts for up to three years).

Adjunct Assistant, Associate, and (full) Professor; Adjunct Lecturer (a non-tenure track designation for those individuals with appropriate academic credentials, who have an on-going relationship with one or more academic departments or programs of the College, and who may, as occasion demands, teach; these arrangements will be regularly reviewed by the Dean of the Faculty).

Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Resident Artist, Writer in Residence (for individuals on renewable contracts who teach regularly for the College).

Teaching Associate (for those who assist in classes under the direction of a Faculty member).

Research Assistant, Associate (for individuals who collaborate with faculty on research projects, with no specific teaching duties).

Tags: [dean of the faculty](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [Other Instructional Personnel](#)

The Students

There are approximately 1,600 full-time students at Amherst College. The rules and regulations governing students, the committees that have jurisdiction over student life, and other pertinent information are summarized annually in the *Student Handbook*.

Tags: [dean of the faculty](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [The Students](#)

The Alumni

Any person who matriculated at Amherst College and whose class has graduated is eligible to become a member of the Society of the Alumni. The alumni maintain their own organization with elected officers and a governing council. The alumni are represented at the College by the Alumni Secretary and the staff of that office. A wide variety of publications designed to inform the alumni is published regularly by the College.

Tags: [dean of the faculty](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [The Alumni](#)

Five Colleges, Incorporated

Together with Hampshire, Mount Holyoke and Smith Colleges and the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst College is a constituent member of Five Colleges, Inc. The five Presidents and Chancellor of the Amherst campus of the University of Massachusetts and the Five College Coordinator serve on the Governing Board of Five Colleges, Inc. The Five College Coordinator and her staff are responsible for the cooperative management of activities undertaken by the colleges jointly. The Five College Center is located at 97 Spring Street in Amherst. The President is represented in many Five College discussions by a deputy, who is currently the Dean of the Faculty. Questions concerning matters of Five College interaction or policy should be addressed initially to the Dean. There are many Five College Committees and Seminars involving faculty with shared academic and curricular interests, and administrative officers with comparable responsibilities. For further information on Five College cooperation, please consult the *Student Handbook* and the Five College website <http://www.fivecolleges.edu>

Tags: [dean of the faculty](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [Five Colleges Inc](#)

Faculty Appointments, Tenure, Promotions, Leaves and Terminations

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- iii. Grievance Procedures for Members of the Faculty (Voted by the Faculty, October 1986)
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Tags: [Faculty Appointments](#) | [Leaves and Terminations](#) | [Promotions](#) | [Tenure](#)

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Procedures for Academic Appointments to Tenured or Tenure-Track (Regular) Positions

At all ranks, new appointments to tenured or tenure-track positions are made by a recommendation from the President to the Board of Trustees, which has the final power of appointment.

For all such positions, the authorization to search requires the approval of the President or the Dean of the Faculty, after consultation with the appropriate departments or committees and with the Committee on Educational Policy on the nature and ranking of the position. The President and/or the Dean of the Faculty normally interview all final candidates and formulate all offers.

A faculty member may be jointly appointed to two departments, either upon joining the Faculty after a formal search or as a current member of the Faculty on the invitation of a second academic unit. The faculty member with such an appointment will participate as a voting member in all personnel and curricular decisions concerning his or her two home departments. As well, he or she will have the same rank and will teach regularly in both departments. All requests for changes in joint affiliations, including those for such appointments and for resignations, will be directed to the Dean of the Faculty who will ask for the department's advice before making a change in appointment.

Recommendations for all appointments at the level of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor originate with the department or the committee responsible and are discussed by the Chair of the department with the Dean of the Faculty or the President. An appointment at the Associate Professor level may be made with or without tenure.

For appointments at the level of Professor or Associate Professor with tenure, an *ad hoc* committee will be appointed by and report to the President. In forming such a committee, the President will consult with the Committee of Six and will draw upon the tenured professors in the department(s) concerned, those from related departments, and the Dean of the Faculty. Before formulating a final offer for appointment with tenure, the President will consult the departments concerned and consider the recommendations of the Committee of Six and the Dean of the Faculty, and will subsequently inform all parties of the final decision.

Tags: [dean of the faculty](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [Tenure](#) | [Tenured or Tenure-Track Procedures](#)

Visiting Appointments

Visiting appointments are understood to be terminal when made; they may be for varying lengths of time dependent upon the particular circumstances. The terms of a terminal appointment will be made explicit in writing at the time of appointment. In cases where an appointment has been made to a position announced on an explicitly temporary or special basis and is therefore a terminal appointment, and a decision is made to create a regular position in the same discipline or department, the person who holds the temporary appointment may be a candidate for the regular position, but only as one applicant in a regular applicant pool. The College is committed to public notification of vacancies for visiting appointments and to a search for the best available candidates within affirmative action guidelines.

Tags: [Faculty Handbook](#) | [Visiting Appointments](#)

Diversity and Inclusion in Search and Appointment Procedures

For all appointments to the Faculty, the President will require evidence of steps taken to establish a nondiscriminatory and fully representative applicant pool from which appointment will then be made on the basis of individual merit. To this end, Chairs of departments and committees authorized to search are asked to consult with the Special Assistant to the President for Diversity concerning the language and placement of advertising for all faculty positions and to submit a brief summary of the applicant pool to the Dean of the Faculty when they recommend a particular candidate for appointment. All candidates for faculty positions are given an opportunity to meet with the Special Assistant to the President for Diversity.

Tags: [Appointment Procedures](#) | [Diversity and Inclusion](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [Search Procedures](#)

Duration of Appointments and Procedures For Reappointments To Tenure-Track Positions

1. Duration of Initial Appointment

Initial tenure-track appointments to the Faculty will be made for a term of three years unless some other term is agreed upon by the Dean of the Faculty, the department, and the appointee at the time of hiring.

The Chair of each department will make clear to its non-tenured Faculty the considerations governing reappointment. Recommendations concerning reappointment will be reviewed by the Committee of Six.

The reappointment review of untenured faculty, at both the department and College levels, is normally conducted in the Spring term of the third year of employment. (Voted by the Faculty, May 1995)

Department Chairs and candidates for reappointment will be notified of the schedule and procedures for reappointment in the spring of the penultimate year of the initial appointment. When notification is given in the last year of the current appointment that a reappointment will not be made, an additional, terminal year will be granted. When, however, notification is given during the penultimate year of appointment that a reappointment will not be made, the contract ends at its original term.

2. Annual Conversation with the Chair

The Chair shall have at least one formal conversation per year with the department's untenured faculty member(s) to discuss in detail performance and progress in teaching and research, and evidence thereof. As to teaching, this evidence should include all semester-end evaluations by students with signatures removed, the testimony of colleagues who have observed the untenured faculty member's teaching, and such course materials as the untenured faculty member see fit to submit for discussion (Voted by the Faculty, November 1998). A sum and substance letter about the conversation should be given to the untenured faculty member and be placed in the records of the department. (Voted by the Faculty, May 1995).

3. The Meaning of Reappointment

The decision to reappoint is important, but should not be confused with the decision on tenure. A decision to reappoint is an expression of satisfaction with past performance and of confidence in the faculty member's potential for continuing development. At the time of the department's recommendation concerning reappointment, the Chair of the department will discuss the department's recommendation (whether positive or negative) with the particular faculty member; if the decision is made to reappoint for a second term, the Chair will discuss considerations which may enter into a subsequent tenure decision.

4. Reappointment Procedures

In preparation for recommendations concerning reappointment, the department will gather evidence concerning teaching effectiveness, scholarly or creative growth, and other contributions to the life of the

College. (Voted by the Faculty, October 2004) Evaluations of teaching are to be requested of all students from every course, including every honors and special topics course taught by an untenured faculty member. These evaluations are to be signed and are normally to be solicited in essay format in all classes in the final week of each semester on a form to be devised by the instructor in collaboration with the department. After the submission of grades they will be made available to the instructor without the names of the respondents. In addition, all departments will be required to have solicited from all students confidential letters of evaluation at the time of reappointment review (Voted by the Faculty, October 1998). All student evaluations of teaching collected for purposes of reappointment are to be submitted to the Committee of Six with the department's recommendation. (Voted by the Faculty, May 1995)

The departmental evaluation of teaching effectiveness should draw upon a representative range of teaching activities in addition to evidence described above. Evaluation should derive from, but need not be limited to, conversations about courses with some members of the department; attendance by some members of the department at a number of class meetings at mutually agreed upon times; and assessment, by the candidate with at least one senior member of the department, of the accomplishments of at least one of the candidate's courses at the end of a semester. (Voted by the Faculty, May 1999)

The departmental evaluation of scholarly or creative growth should take into account any or all of the following: published work, publicly presented work, projects currently under way, plans for future projects. (Voted by the Faculty, October 2004)

Candidates for reappointment will each submit a letter to their department/s by December 1. Candidates should address their teaching experience at the College, the present state of their scholarship or creative work and their aims and plans for the future, and their engagement in College life. The letter will serve as the basis for a conversation between the candidate and tenured members of the department/s before the department meets to finalize the reappointment recommendation. The letter itself will not become part of the reappointment or tenure dossier. (Voted by Faculty, February 2005)

A letter about reappointment will be sent by the President to the individual under review, with copy to the department Chair, indicating the recommendation which the President intends to make to the Board of Trustees. Formal notification of reappointment will follow confirmation by the Board of Trustees. The Dean will invite each candidate who is reappointed to meet with him or her soon after the reappointment process is completed to discuss the Committee of Six's reading of the candidate's case. The Dean will also discuss the Committee's view with the department Chair. (Voted by the Faculty, February 2005)

After the department has reviewed the evidence and come to its recommendation, it will send a formal letter (with such accompanying evidence as seems appropriate) to the Dean of the Faculty. The Chair of the department will provide the candidate with the text of the department's letter, which has been edited to protect confidentiality, and will discuss that letter with the candidate (Voted by the Faculty, May 1992). If a candidate wishes to comment on the departmental recommendation, he or she may send written commentary, in confidence, to the Committee of Six, within two weeks of receiving that recommendation (Voted by the Faculty, November 1998)

In cases where there are fewer than two tenured faculty in the department of a candidate for reappointment, the Dean of the Faculty and the Committee of Six will appoint an *ad hoc* committee of

tenured faculty in related departments to supplement or to serve in lieu of the departmental committee in making a recommendation to the Committee of Six. The Dean will remind departments of deadlines for review of individual reappointments. These are usually taken up by the Committee of Six early in the spring semester unless a department makes a negative recommendation in the spring of the penultimate year of a faculty member's initial appointment. In that case, the Committee of Six will review the case in the spring of the penultimate year.

The Dean of the Faculty will report each department's recommendation to the Committee of Six and provide an opportunity for the Committee to review the evidence upon which a recommendation is based. The Committee of Six, as a safeguard to individuals, will also attend to negative recommendations.

After the Committee of Six has had an opportunity to review recommendations and to raise questions, the Dean of the Faculty will convey any questions or comments to the department Chair.

A letter about reappointment will be sent by the President to the individual under review, with copy to the department Chair, indicating the recommendation which the President intends to make to the Board of Trustees. Formal notification of reappointment will follow confirmation by the Board of Trustees.

5. The Reappointment Schedule in Relation to the Tenure Decision

A faculty member whose first regular full-time appointment is at Amherst College will normally be considered for tenure in his or her seventh year at the College. A faculty member who comes to Amherst College after not more than three years of regular full-time teaching at another college or university will normally be given appointment at Amherst College of such duration that the total possible period of untenured service, allowing for a terminal extension, will be eight years, including any comparable prior teaching. (For part-time faculty, see Section F.) Any agreement about counting prior service will be made explicit in writing at the time of the person's initial appointment at Amherst College, and the most appropriate way of computing previous experience may be discussed at this time. The decision on tenure for such persons may be made in the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, or seventh year of full-time service at Amherst College, depending on the circumstances at the time of appointment.

All letters of appointment or reappointment shall specify the anticipated time of the decision.

The timing and duration of appointments in the Department of Physical Education and Athletics differ from those of academic faculty in that the total probationary period may extend for up to twelve years, allowing for multiple reappointments.

Tags: [Duration of Appointments](#) [Faculty Handbook](#) [Procedures for Reappointments](#)
[ReappointmentsTo Tenure-Track Positions](#)

Tenure For Regular Full-time Members of the Faculty

An appointment without term is authorized by the Board of Trustees upon the recommendation of the President.

1. The Meaning of Tenure

An appointment with tenure means an appointment without limit of time that can be terminated only for adequate cause or under extraordinary circumstances because of financial exigencies. Academic tenure and academic freedom are distinguishable but linked in the life of a college or university. Without freedom to explore new ideas, or to criticize existing beliefs and institutions, higher learning would become a sterile exercise and society would suffer accordingly. Academic freedom must be sustained for all Faculty without regard to rank or tenure, recognizing the fact that the use of such freedom may anger powerful vested interests in the larger society or arouse the ire of administrators, faculty colleagues, or students within the academy. Tenure is an institutional safeguard for the conditions of academic freedom.

The protection of academic freedom by a guarantee of permanent tenure, therefore, represents an important part of the continuous effort that must be made to preserve the freedom of thought and speech that is the breath of life for a democratic society. This being so, then, tenure imposes upon all who receive it the reciprocal obligation to make the fullest use of such freedom and to carry the results of honest and imaginative inquiry to the larger society even though this act may challenge cherished beliefs and established institutions. Tenure requires also that faculty members foster freedom of inquiry for their colleagues and their students and respect the virtues of intellectual integrity and the claims of reason and evidence.

2. The Timing of the Tenure Decision

As already indicated, an academic faculty member whose first regular full-time appointment is at Amherst College will normally be considered for tenure in his or her seventh year at the College. In exceptional circumstances, a department may, with the agreement of the faculty member, make a recommendation for tenure before the seventh year. A Faculty member failing to receive a positive tenure decision will not normally be considered again for tenure. A faculty member who is denied tenure in or before the seventh year will, if he or she wishes, have a terminal appointment for the academic year after the year in which a tenure decision is made. If more than one year remains in such a person's appointment following a negative tenure decision, then the faculty member may fulfill the remaining time of appointment until the end of the eighth year with the understanding that upon completion of this time employment by the College ends. (For exceptions to this schedule, see D,5 above.)

3. The Criteria for Tenure

The College values faculty whose commitment to the life of the mind is demonstrated through teaching, scholarship and creation of works of art, and a concern for the general life of the College. Although distinguishing one quality from another--even for the purpose of discussion--separates what is inseparable in the life of a single individual, the distinctions which follow are an attempt to provide a clear description of the

qualities the College seeks, especially among faculty who hold appointment without term. Effective teaching is regarded as a prime factor for reappointment and promotion. The College also gives great weight to the continued scholarly growth of faculty members. Research, publication and creative work are considered important indications of such growth. In addition, the College takes account of a faculty member's general contribution to the life of the College community.

While the balance among the varieties of intellectual distinction prerequisite to tenure may vary from individual to individual and from field to field, effective teaching or significant contribution to the community's well-being cannot compensate for absence of scholarship or creative work. Institutional considerations may play a role at the time of tenure, but if they are invoked, the President will give a full account of the reasons why. Institutional considerations include factors such as the tenure structure of the department, the rank structure of the department, and the fields of competence of the faculty member being considered for tenure in relation to those already represented in the department. Although the College has no formula for the percentage of faculty on tenure, or for the distribution of faculty by anticipated retirement or rank generally or within departments, a particular judgment may be made which takes such factors into account (adopted by Trustee vote, April 4, 1992)

4. Procedures Followed in Tenure Decisions

In the spring of the academic year preceding that in which a tenure decision will be made for an individual candidate, the candidate and department Chair will be informed in writing by the Dean of the Faculty of the schedule and procedures to be followed.

a. Departmental Recommendation. A recommendation concerning tenure originates in the candidate's department(s). The tenured members of the department(s) will make a recommendation to the Committee of Six for or against an appointment with tenure. In cases where there are fewer than two tenured faculty in the department of a candidate for tenure, the Dean of the Faculty and the Committee of Six will appoint an *ad hoc* committee of tenured faculty in related departments to supplement or serve in lieu of the departmental committee in making a recommendation to the Committee of Six. In cases where a Faculty member holding appointments in two departments is recommended for tenure, a tenured colleague holding appointments to the same two departments will participate in the deliberation and voting in both departments. The Committee of Six, however, in its own consideration of the case, will not give double weight to the colleague's evaluation. The tenured colleague is expected to submit one letter summarizing his or her evaluation of the candidate for tenure. Departmental recommendations will include the following (Voted by the Faculty, December 1991):

(1) A departmental letter of recommendation containing a judgment about:

- (a) teaching effectiveness;
- (b) scholarship, creative work and growth;
- (c) contribution to the general life of the College community and to the profession;
- (d) any considerations of departmental structure.

(2) A separately submitted, confidential letter from each tenured member of the department(s), including those on leave, assessing the candidate's qualifications. The substance of reservations expressed in individual letters should be reflected in the department's letter (Amended by the Faculty, March 1999).

(3) A current *curriculum vitae*, including a list of all courses taught at Amherst College and the years in which they were taught, and a list of senior theses supervised.

(4) Copies of the candidate's scholarly and creative work with, when applicable, a characterization of the journals in which or the press by which the work was published.

(5) (Note that in October 1998, the faculty voted that evaluations of teaching are to be requested of all students from every course, including every honors and special topics course taught by an untenured faculty member. These evaluations are to be signed and are normally to be solicited in essay format in all classes in the final week of each semester on a form to be devised by the instructor in collaboration with the department. After the submission of grades they will be made available to the instructor without the names of the respondents.) All written evidence used to evaluate teaching effectiveness including the semester-end evaluations solicited from students in all courses, the retrospective letters solicited at the time of reappointment review, and the retrospective letters solicited at the time of tenure review from all current and former students taught since the time of reappointment. The department letters soliciting letters from students should be included with their responses. Solicitation of retrospective letters must include all students from every course, including every honors and special topics course taught by the candidate (Voted by the Faculty, October 1998). Each person asked to write such a letter should be informed that his or her response will be treated as confidential by the College. (Reviews from *Scrutiny* or other anonymous materials are inadmissible as evidence.)

(6) Letters from no fewer than six (6) and normally no more than eight (8), or in the case of joint appointments ten (10), external reviewers who are leading scholars or practitioners in the candidate's field, to be chosen equally from lists compiled by the candidate and the department(s) (Voted by the Faculty, May 1999); the department's letter of solicitation to them; and, a description of the process by which these persons were chosen as external reviewers, their qualifications, and their relationship, if any, to the candidate.

(7) Letters from colleagues in other departments, including those who have served on committees or taught with the candidate.

(8) The departmental evaluation of teaching effectiveness should draw upon a representative range of teaching activities in addition to evidence described in (5). Evaluation should derive from, but need not be limited to, conversations about courses with some members of the department; attendance by some members of the department at a number of class meetings at mutually agreed upon times; assessment, by the candidate with at least one senior member of the department, of the accomplishments of at least one of the candidate's courses at the end of a semester. Evaluations of teaching effectiveness may also be included in the letters described in (2) and (7). (Voted by the Faculty, March 1999).

b. *Schedule for Submission of Departmental Recommendations.* These materials will be submitted to the Dean of the Faculty for communication to the Committee of Six by October 1st of the year of the tenure decision.

c. *Communication with Candidate.* The department Chair will by October 1st provide the candidate with a copy of the department's letter. That letter shall be edited to protect confidentiality, but must include the number of positive and negative votes and abstentions. The Chair will discuss that letter with the candidate (Amended by the Faculty, April 2000).

d. *Rights of Candidates for Tenure.* Candidates for tenure are invited but not obligated to submit letters on their own behalf to the Committee of Six by October 1st. If they wish to comment on the departmental recommendation, they may send written commentary, in confidence, to the Committee of Six by October 15th.

e. *Committee of Six Responsibilities in Tenure Recommendations.* The Committee of Six annually reviews its procedures for the consideration of tenure cases. It then reviews each tenure case individually, all members of the Committee reading the documents submitted in each case. Its role in tenure cases is to make recommendations to the President. When a candidate for tenure is from the same department as a member of the Committee, that member shall, though remaining present, neither participate in the Committee's discussion of, nor vote in the case. Abstentions or absentions because of conflict of interest or other conscientious reasons are always acceptable when the vote is taken (Voted by the Faculty, October 1986).

In cases where three or more members of the Committee of Six are required to abstain from discussion and voting in tenure cases because they come from the same department as the candidate, alternate Committee of Six members shall be seated with voice and vote together with regular members of the Committee for the session in which the candidate is discussed and the session in which the candidates are compared and a final vote taken. The alternates shall be drawn from the Committee of Six ballot, with the first alternate being the first runner-up, etc., excluding Faculty members from the candidate's department.

After preliminary discussion of each tenure case, the Committee of Six will notify the recommending department(s) in writing about such aspects of the case as the Committee finds to be in need of further clarification. The department(s) may then respond by letter or may request a meeting with Committee of Six (Voted by the Faculty, May 1999). In addition, if the Committee of Six, by straw vote, is tending toward a recommendation at variance with that of the department, it will meet with tenured members of the department to hear arguments as to why it should support the department's recommendation.

The Committee of Six will then make its recommendations to the President. The Dean of the Faculty, as Secretary to the Committee of Six, will in each case maintain a record of the sum and substance of the Committee's deliberations in arriving at its recommendations, including the number of positive and negative votes and abstentions, and will communicate that summary to candidates, upon their request, once the President has formulated his or her own recommendation to the Trustees and has communicated it to the department Chair and the candidate, and once the Committee has drafted and approved the sum-and-substance record (Amended by the Faculty, September 1999).

f. *The President's Responsibilities in Tenure Recommendations.* The President sits with the Committee of Six to review all tenure cases. The President, after receiving the Committee of Six's recommendation, consults with the Dean of the Faculty, and then formulates his or her own recommendation to the Board of Trustees. If both the department and the Committee of Six make negative recommendations, the President will recommend a negative decision to the Board of Trustees. If both the department and the Committee of Six make positive recommendations, the President will convey these recommendations to the Trustees, together with his or her own.

If the President intends to make a negative recommendation to the Board, he or she will inform the Committee of Six, the department Chair and the candidate for tenure of the fact. If the President makes a recommendation contrary to that of a department or of the Committee of Six, or of both, he or she will present to the Board the written recommendations of the department and the minutes of the Committee of Six and will, prior to the Board meeting, give the reason(s) for that recommendation to the Committee of Six, the department Chair and the candidate for tenure.

These procedures do not preclude presidential intervention in the tenure process of a department if, after consultation with the Committee of Six, the President believes such intervention is warranted.

g. Notification of the Tenure Decision. The final decision concerning tenure, whether affirmative or negative, will be communicated by the President to the faculty member concerned. If the decision is affirmative, the faculty member will receive explicit notification in writing that he or she is now a tenured member of the Faculty. If the decision is negative, the College will endeavor to give the faculty member eighteen months' notice before final termination. This will entail an additional one-year terminal appointment.

A faculty member who has been notified of a decision not to grant tenure may request from the Dean of the Faculty an explanation of the reasons which led to that decision. If he or she believes that improper procedures were followed, or that the negative decision constitutes a violation of academic freedom, he or she has the right to request a hearing by the Committee on Adjudication (see Grievance Procedure).

Tags: [Faculty Handbook](#) | [Tenure](#) | [Tenure For Full-time Faculty](#)

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Tenure For Regular Part-time Members of the Faculty

Members of the Faculty who teach part-time, but not less than half-time, on a regular basis at Amherst College, are eligible for tenure under the same qualitative standards as full-time members of the Faculty. It is intended that a person holding a regular part-time appointment from Amherst College regard that appointment as his or her primary professional obligation.

The appointment procedure for a regular part-time member of the Faculty usually requires three three-year appointments, with a review during the third and sixth years, and with the tenure decision occurring no later than the eighth year of part-time teaching. This schedule applies irrespective of the actual number of courses taught during the aggregate period. In the case of a faculty member who begins part-time teaching at Amherst after a number of years of full-time teaching at Amherst or at another college or university or after regular part-time teaching at another college or university, appropriate adjustments in the timing of appointments may be made at the time of the initial appointment.

The termination of a regular part-time teaching appointment is subject to the usual understandings concerning notice at Amherst College.

Once a favorable decision with regard to tenure for a regular part-time member of the Faculty is made, any subsequent alteration in teaching load will be negotiated by the individual with his or her department and with the Dean of the Faculty and the President. An arrangement to increase from part- to full-time teaching does not involve a qualitative judgment analogous to the tenure decision, but rather depends upon an initiative taken either by the individual or by the department or departments directly concerned, confirmed by the consent of the Dean of the Faculty and the President. A change to full-time teaching on a temporary basis does not presume any permanent adjustment in status from part- to full-time unless this arrangement continues for more than three years.

Should a full-time tenured member of the Faculty wish to negotiate a part-time arrangement on a temporary basis without change to permanent part-time status, he or she may proceed with these negotiations with the department or departments concerned. Final determination of the matter requires the consent of the Dean of the Faculty and the President.

Where one of the considerations in securing part-time teaching is the desire to combine it with regular concurrent activity outside the College, the substantive nature of the activity is appropriate to a regular part-time teaching arrangement. This decision is made by the President.

The presumption is that a regular part-time member of the Faculty will teach part-time throughout the year, rather than alternating full-time one semester with no teaching duties in the next.

Regular part-time members of the Faculty qualify for most benefits and perquisites of full-time faculty members on a prorated basis. These include eligibility for housing, and, on a prorated basis, disability and life insurance, pension plans, health insurance, and death benefit. Regular part-time members of the Faculty qualify for leaves according to the same schedule as full-time Faculty, although their compensation during

leaves is on a prorated basis.

Tags: [Faculty Handbook](#) | [Tenure](#) | [Tenure for Part-time Faculty](#)

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Promotion

A member of the Faculty appointed initially as an Assistant Professor and subsequently granted tenure will be promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, effective the start of the academic year following the tenure decision.

A member of the Faculty appointed initially as an Associate Professor without tenure and subsequently granted tenure will continue as an Associate Professor with tenure until promoted to the rank of Professor. (Voted by the faculty, May 2007)

Promotion to the rank of Professor may originate with the department or with the candidate and usually occurs between six and eight years after the tenure decision. A candidate's promotion committee consists of all tenured full Professors in his or her department(s) and, at the request of the candidate, may include up to two other tenured full Professors from the College Faculty, chosen by the candidate in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty. The Chair of the promotion committee is selected by the Dean. A letter from the Chair of the promotion committee, and signed by all members of the committee, discussing the candidate's scholarly or artistic growth and achievement, teaching performance, and College and professional service, should accompany all recommendations for promotion to the rank of Professor. The candidate may also submit a letter on his or her behalf. (Voted by the Faculty, May 2007)

In cases where there are fewer than two tenured full Professors in the candidate's department, the Dean of the Faculty and the Committee of Six will appoint an ad hoc committee of tenured full Professors from related departments to serve as the promotion committee. Should the department have one member at the rank of tenured full Professor, he or she will also serve. At the request of the candidate, the promotion committee may include up to two other tenured full Professors from the College Faculty, chosen by the candidate in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty. The Committee of Six reviews all candidates for promotion. The President formulates the various recommendations and presents them to the Board of Trustees, together with his or her own views. All promotions must be voted by the Board of Trustees.

Tags: [Faculty Handbook](#) | [Promotion](#) | [Tenure](#) | [Tenured or Tenure-Track Procedures](#)

Leave Policy, Fellowships, Research and Professional Support

1. Sabbatic Leaves and Leaves of Absence

Amherst College gives great weight to the continuing scholarly growth of faculty members in support of its mission to expand the realm of knowledge and to maintain the highest standards of instruction in the liberal arts. Research, publication, and creative work are considered important indications of such growth. The College's sabbatic leave program is designed to provide time for research, study, writing, or other creative work contributing to the professional growth and effectiveness of the faculty member as a scholar and teacher. The College recognizes that the continued scholarly growth of our faculty plays a vital part in the educational offerings of the College and the ultimate success of its students.

Faculty with regular appointments will normally be eligible for sabbatic leaves or unpaid leaves of absence after having completed three continuous years (i.e., six continuous semesters) of teaching. After six semesters, a tenured faculty member is eligible for one of the following during the same academic or calendar year: (1) one semester of unpaid leave of absence; or (2) two semesters of unpaid leave; or (3) one semester of leave at 80% of a semester's salary in combination or not, as wished, with one semester's unpaid leave of absence. Alternatively, regular faculty are eligible for one year of sabbatic leave at 80% of salary or one semester of sabbatic leave at full salary after six years of teaching uninterrupted by a sabbatic leave. They are also eligible if the six years of teaching are interrupted by a leave of absence without pay providing the last three years have been continuous. Amherst College will award Senior Sabbatical Fellowships to tenured members of the Faculty upon approval by the Dean of the Faculty in consultation with the Committee of Six of a proposal for a program of research, study, writing, or other creative work to advance his or her professional growth and effectiveness as a scholar and teacher. ([Guidelines for Senior Sabbatical Fellowships.](#)) Following reappointment, untenured faculty members are eligible for two semesters of sabbatic leave at 100 percent of salary, upon approval by the Dean of the Faculty in consultation with the Committee of Six of a proposal of research, study, writing, or other creative work to advance his or her professional growth and effectiveness as a scholar and teacher. ([Guidelines for Tenure-Track Sabbatical Fellowships.](#)) Visiting faculty and faculty on non-tenure track contract appointments will not normally be eligible for sabbatic leaves or unpaid leaves of absence.

By November 1st of the year preceding the academic year during which leave is to be taken, a faculty member should give notice to the Dean of the Faculty and the department Chair of the intention to apply for either a sabbatic leave or a leave of absence. All leave requests require approval of the Board of Trustees. A faculty member is expected to return to the College for at least one year's teaching after a sabbatic leave or leave of absence.

A leave may be delayed, but only those delayed for institutional reasons will allow for subsequent adjustment of the three-year teaching requirement. The dean of the Faculty will consider cases of postponement deemed necessary for the maintenance of the Department's offering of courses necessary for the major, or for the performance of pressing extra-departmental teaching or other duties, as eligible for such scheduling compensation, provided that the rescheduling fits with the department's longer range schedule of leave rotation, and that it does not entail a replacement appointment.

Sabbatic leaves and one- or two-semester leaves of absence without pay will be counted as years in rank toward promotion. (However, a leave of absence without pay will not be counted toward eligibility for future sabbaticals.)

Leave policy is generally the same for tenure-track as for tenured faculty. However, an untenured faculty member who takes a one or two semester leave (at 100% salary) after three years of teaching will still be eligible for a full year sabbatical (at 80% salary) after three more years of continuous teaching and after a positive tenure decision, i.e., in his or her eighth year. Leaves (sabbatic and leaves of absence) taken by untenured faculty in their fourth, fifth, or sixth year will count as service toward tenure. Untenured faculty are eligible for only one sabbatic leave.

During sabbatic leaves, a department may seek a replacement for the teaching of one or more courses on a Five-College borrowing basis, and during a leave of absence without pay of a year or more, a department may request a replacement on a terminal contract, but such replacements will not be automatic.

Extended leaves of absence for not more than three years may be granted at the discretion of the President after consultation with the department concerned and the Committee of Six. The purpose of granting such extended leaves of absence without pay is to allow for research or public service and also to give faculty the opportunity to explore a new career or change in their professional field while keeping open the possibility of a return to a position at Amherst College. Faculty who return after extended leaves of absence must teach for three continuous years before being eligible for sabbatic leave or additional leave of absence. Extended leaves of absence do not count as years in rank toward promotion.

Changes and cancellations in all leaves require formal approval and may not be possible where the College is already committed to alternative arrangements.

2. Fringe Benefits during Sabbatic Leave and Leaves of Absence without Pay

Providing the faculty member agrees to contribute the share of benefit costs normally met by a faculty member, the College will, during a sabbatic leave, continue payment of all fringe benefits ordinarily payable. If requested to do so, the College will also pay such benefits during a leave of absence without pay of one or two semesters with discretion left to the President, in consultation with the Faculty member, to arrange otherwise. During extended leaves without pay, if the temporary employer does not provide fringe benefits similar to the Amherst College program, all, or a portion, of the benefits may, at the discretion of the President, be continued by the College, provided the faculty member agrees to contribute the share of benefits normally met by a faculty member. The faculty member, if he or she rents a college house or apartment, may be required to relinquish it at the beginning of an extended leave. Upon return to Amherst, the faculty member will be eligible to make application for housing under the regular point system. Similarly, office and library space may be reassigned in the case of extended leaves of absence.

For purposes of seniority and housing eligibility, sabbatic leaves or leaves of absence without pay will be counted as years of service.

3. Leaves of Absence

Full-time or part-time members of the Faculty are eligible for the following paid leaves of absence. (Medical and parenting leaves may also be covered by the [Family and Medical Leave Act](#), ("FMLA") and the Massachusetts Maternity Leave Act ("MMLA"). Paid leaves under this section will run concurrently with leave to which the faculty member may be entitled under the FMLA or MMLA. See V.C.II.)

a. *Medical.* A full-or part-time member of the Faculty with an appointment to the Faculty of at least a one-year term will be eligible for up to six months of paid leave to recuperate from illness or recover from short-term disability. Paid leaves for illness or short-term disability generally are occasioned by absences of eight weeks or more; loss of time due to illness for shorter periods is usually worked out without formal leave by the department and the Administration. The College will require a physician's letter to support a request for medical leave and may require a physician's certification of fitness to return to work. The terms of the leave will be confirmed in writing by the Dean of the Faculty's Office, as are all other leaves of absence. Insofar as the relevant details are known, a stated intention about returning to work and the timing of the return should be given when a leave is requested.

The College recognizes that extended medical leave can interfere substantially with a faculty member's research, scholarship, and/or administrative responsibilities. To address this concern, the College offers faculty members on medical leave of a least eight weeks but less than a full semester the option of taking a one semester leave from their teaching responsibilities, with full compensation, so that they may use the additional time to accomplish their research, scholarship, and/or administrative goals, assuming they are medically able to do so. A request for a semester teaching leave should be made to the Dean of the Faculty as early as possible. The Dean will consult with the department to arrange appropriate coverage for the faculty member's teaching and/or administrative responsibilities during the semester affected by the leave, and the faculty member will work with the Dean to identify the research, scholarship, and/or administrative goals to be accomplished during the leave. If the medical leave begins during an academic semester, then the teaching leave may be taken during that same semester. If the medical leave begins during the periods between semesters, then the teaching leave may be taken during the immediately following semester. This semester teaching leave will not affect calculations for sabbaticals or other leave of absence. Tenure-track faculty members may also choose, at the time this leave is requested, to have the year in which the leave is taken not count toward service for tenure.

To illustrate, if an eligible faculty member is disabled for eight weeks because of pregnancy or childbirth, then the faculty member may request a one semester leave from teaching in accordance with this policy. If the disability begins during a regular academic semester, then the leave is available during that same semester. If the disability begins between semesters, then the leave is available during the following semester. During the semester leave from teaching, the faculty member is expected to perform, as medically permissible, the research, scholarly, and/or administrative duties agreed upon with the Dean of Faculty. The leave will not affect the faculty member's compensation or eligibility for sabbaticals or other leaves of absence. Tenure-track faculty members may also choose, at the time this leave is requested, to have the year in which the leave is taken not count toward service for tenure.

Long-term disability benefits, as defined by the College's insurance coverage begin for full-time and part-time faculty after six months of disability, as determined by the insurance carrier. If the disability may exceed six months, an application for long-term disability benefits should be made after three months of disability leave. A person receiving long-term disability benefits goes off the College payroll when disability benefits begin; reinstatement to active status depends upon individual circumstances.

b. *Parenting*. A request for a leave due to birth or adoption should be made to the Dean of the Faculty as early as possible. The Dean will work with the department to arrange appropriate coverage for the faculty member's teaching and/or administrative responsibilities during the semester affected by the leave. Parenting leaves are available only for faculty members who hold a tenure-track appointment, a tenured appointment, or a continuing appointment of at least two years. Parenting leaves are available only for the child's primary care giver and must be completed within 12 months of birth or arrival of the child for adoption. If both parents are employed at Amherst College, only one is eligible for a parenting leave. Given the natures and purposes of the leaves, a faculty member who takes a paid medical leave for pregnancy or the birth of a child may not also take a paid parenting leave for that same child. The terms of the leave will be confirmed in writing by the Dean of the Faculty's Office, as are all other leaves of absence. A stated intention about returning to work and the timing of the return should be given when a leave is requested.

Several options are available for parenting leave:

- (1) The faculty member may elect to continue working according to the terms of his or her appointment and receive his or her regular compensation. In return for this arrangement, it is expected that, under normal circumstances, he or she will return to his or her full-time teaching duties within a reasonable period of time. No special leave is necessary in this case and no adjustments are made to compensation.
- (2) The faculty member may elect to teach one less course for the semester of leave and receive his or her full compensation.
- (3) The faculty member may elect to take a leave from teaching for a whole semester during or immediately following birth or adoption, in which case the College will pay 72% of that semester's salary. The College will pay its share of the fringe benefits, as it does for a leave of absence, provided the faculty member pays his or her share.

Any semester in which a faculty member teaches at least one course will count as regular teaching time for purposes of sabbatical or leaves of absence eligibility. Parenting leaves under option (3) above will not affect calculations of eligibility for sabbatical or leaves of absence. Tenure-track faculty members may also choose, at the time a parenting leave is requested, to have the year in which the leave is taken not count toward service for tenure.

[Summary of the Basic Provisions of the Faculty Medical Leave and Parenting Leave Policies](#)

4. Leaves of Absence for Family or Pressing Personal Reasons

A leave of absence granted for extraordinary family or pressing personal reasons, not otherwise provided for in paragraph 3, is at the discretion of the President. Such leaves are usually for one semester and are without pay. Arrangements to cover teaching responsibilities should be discussed with the Dean. Benefit coverage during such leaves is similar to that of sabbatical leaves. Leaves for longer periods, if granted, are similar to those for a faculty member exploring a new career or a change in a professional field. To the extent applicable, a leave under this paragraph will run concurrently with leave to which the faculty member may be entitled under the FMLA. (See V.C.II.)

5. Trustee Faculty Fellowship

Each year the College awards up to two Trustee Faculty Fellowships (full salary for one year) to untenured members of the Faculty on the basis of a proposal for a Tenure-Track Sabbatical Fellowship. All applicants for Tenure-Track Sabbatical Fellowships will be considered automatically for the Trustee Faculty Fellowship. The competition is open to all tenure-track members of the Faculty who are eligible for leave, although preference is given to those who have completed their Ph.D. or equivalent and who have taught for at least two full years at the time of application. The College particularly encourages those who seek to develop a research project different in nature or significantly broader in scope than the dissertation, but Fellowships may be obtained for any project recommended as meritorious by the Committee of Six. See Tenure-Track Sabbatical Fellowship [Guidelines](#).

6. Miner D. Crary Summer Fellowship

Through the generosity of the family of Miner D. Crary 1897, the College offers a Crary Fellowship every summer. The Crary Fellowship is designed "for a promising young faculty member who, having completed his or her doctoral dissertation, is in need of an opportunity to undertake a new writing or research project." Applicants should send by February 15 ten copies of a brief proposal, including budget, and a current curriculum vitae to the Dean of the Faculty.

7. Miner D. Crary Sabbatical Fellowship

Crary Sabbatical Fellowships are available to a limited number of untenured faculty members eligible for sabbatic leave and are awarded on the basis of a proposal for a Tenure-Track Sabbatical Fellowship. Fellowships provide support for a second semester's sabbatic leave and bring the level of support up to 100% salary for the year. All applicants for Tenure-Track Sabbatical Fellowships will be considered automatically for the Crary Fellowship. See Tenure-Track Sabbatical Fellowship [Guidelines](#).

8. Class of 1952 Dean Eugene S. Wilson Faculty Development Fellowships for Untenured Faculty Eligible for Sabbatic Leave

These awards provide support for a second semester's sabbatic leave for untenured faculty members eligible for sabbatic leave and bring the level of support up to 100% salary for the year. Nomination is made by a department chair, on the basis of a proposal for a Tenure-Track Sabbatical Fellowship. Only one nomination may be made by each department in a given year. A chief criterion for selection will be pedagogical: the extent to which the nominee's proposal will contribute to improved teaching at Amherst. Other criteria are originality, creativity, and scholarship. All applicants for Tenure-Track Sabbatical Fellowships will be considered automatically for the Wilson Fellowship. See Tenure-Track Fellowship [Guidelines](#).

9. Senior Sabbatical Fellowships for Tenured Faculty

Amherst College will award Senior Sabbatical Fellowships to tenured members of the Faculty upon approval by the Dean of the Faculty in consultation with the Committee of Six of a proposal for a program of research, study, writing, or other creative work to advance his or her professional growth and effectiveness as a scholar and teacher. The Fellowship consists of the sum necessary to raise sabbatical salary support from 80 percent to 100 percent for one semester of leave after six semesters of service or

two semesters of leave after twelve semesters of service. [Guidelines](#) [Previous Senior Sabbatical Fellowship Awards](#)

10. External Fellowships and Grants

Information about externally funded fellowship and grant opportunities for faculty members are regularly received by the Dean of the Faculty's Office, the Office of Alumni Relations and Development and the Amherst College Library. Every effort is made to keep a complete, current set of these materials in those locations. Faculty are encouraged to consult these materials regularly and to review the "home page" of the Foundation and Corporate Support Office. Faculty who may be eligible for NIH support are particularly encouraged to apply for it as the total of such grants to an institution affects eligibility for other programs.

11. Institutional Support for Faculty Research

Full details of application procedures for the programs described below will be provided to the Faculty at the beginning of each academic year.

a. *Amherst College Faculty Research Award Program (FRAP)*. The Board of Trustees and the Administration of Amherst College recognize the importance of encouraging research activities of all regular full- and part-time, tenured and tenure-track Amherst College faculty members. A College committee on research awards has been established and assigned responsibility for the development and administration of the award program. Funds for research are available to all full- and part-time members of the Faculty, either tenured or tenure-track, not on visiting appointments. Faculty members on sabbatical leave or leaves of absence for research reasons may apply for and receive awards. Members of the research awards committee may not apply for awards during their term of service, but do retain their entitlement to funds previously awarded.

Applications from faculty members in the performing and creative arts are encouraged and will be treated commensurable with applications from other disciplines. Research on curriculum development and the improvement of teaching is not eligible for funding by this program. An individual may not submit more than one application at a time.

To be eligible, the proposal must involve original research or creative activities by the principal investigator rather than solely providing support for the creation or maintenance of institutional facilities or research materials. Grants will not be awarded to support research to be performed in connection with fulfillment of degree requirements. There will usually be two rounds of competition each year. Applications for a research award must be received by the Office of the Dean of the Faculty no later than October 1st for the first round and January 15th for the second. It is the responsibility of the applicant to see that the Dean of the Faculty's Office receives the application and all supporting material by the deadline. For those projects receiving awards, the actual size of the award may differ from the amount requested in light of other demands on available funds and the project's requirements as evaluated in the review process. Awards will be announced for the first round on or about January 15th and for the second on or about April 15th, pending availability of funds. The sums awarded are subject to modification in light of other funding received for the project. The grant period will be eighteen months. A six-month extension period may be granted upon application if more time is needed to complete the project. All decisions on awards will be final.

Research applications will be judged on the scholarly merit of the proposed research and on the ability of the applicant to perform the proposed research successfully. Some of the factors which will be considered are: significance of the proposed work in relation to its contribution to the field; the extent to which the proposal reflects a well-conceived research design with reasonable promise of successful execution; evidence of scholarly promise and productivity; demonstrated familiarity with the literature in the field; and, sufficiency of other funding received by the applicant. When considering previous research accomplishments, the committee will take into account the fact that untenured faculty are often unable to present an extensive record of publication.

Applications in the creative and performing arts will be judged on the basis of merit and in accordance with the criteria appropriate for those areas. [Faculty Research Award Program Guidelines](#)

b. *Small Grants for Faculty Research.* Small grants in support of faculty research may be obtained on an annual basis (when funds are sufficient) from the Dean of the Faculty, to whom application should be made.

c. *Library Support for Faculty Research.* The College Librarian is always happy to discuss faculty needs for library and research support. New faculty are especially encouraged to meet with the Librarian to discuss their needs.

d. *Support for Professional Travel.* The College provides funds to aid Faculty with professional travel. The College will reimburse faculty members (or, if requested, provide an advance) up to a maximum total announced each year for reasonable and documented professional expenses for registration, accommodations, meals, and transportation by the least expensive practical means. Requests for reimbursement should be sent to the Comptroller's Office, which makes forms available for this purpose

Part-time members of the Faculty are eligible for grants.

Tags: [Faculty Handbook](#) [Leave Policy](#) [Research and Professional Support](#) [Tenure](#) [fellowships](#)

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Termination, Dismissal for Cause, and Grievance Procedures

1. Termination

The connection with the College of faculty members appointed for specified terms shall automatically cease at the end of the term specified, unless they are reappointed. A member of the Faculty holding a term appointment or an appointment without term may be relieved of his or her appointment at any time by the Board of Trustees only for adequate cause or under extraordinary circumstances because of financial exigencies, the appointment of a faculty member with tenure can be terminated only for those reasons consistent with the definition of tenure.

2. Dismissal, suspension, demotion in rank, or deprivation of pay for cause (Voted by the Faculty May 1995).

a. *Adequate Cause.* Since the fundamental purpose of academic tenure is to preserve academic freedom, only the most serious violations of a faculty member's responsibilities as teacher, scholar, and colleague, especially the flagrant interference with the efforts of colleagues and students to exercise their rights of free inquiry and expression, can be considered adequate cause for dismissal, suspension, demotion in rank, or deprivation of pay.

A crime against the larger society is punishable according to the laws of the state and should not be cause for these severe sanctions unless such incrimination prevents the fulfillment of teaching obligations or otherwise seriously impairs the possibility of establishing classroom relations that are free of extraordinary constraint.

Any charge that might, for cause, lead to dismissal, suspension, demotion in rank, or deprivation of pay is a matter of utmost gravity, not only for the complainant and the faculty member being charged, but also the the College, and the decision to press charges must be weighed with a careful regard for the academic freedom of all parties directly concerned. The Amherst College Chapter of the American Association of University Professors may intervene in favor of the withdrawal of charges if it deems it likely that such proceedings might lead to an even greater impairment of academic freedom than the actions which led to the pressing of charges.

b. *Procedure.* Proceedings seeking, for cause, the dismissal, suspension from service for a stated period, demotion in rank, or deprivation of pay of a faculty member who has tenure or whose term appointment has not expired shall be initiated and prosecuted by the Dean of the Faculty (or the President who shall assume the responsibilities of the Dean as hereafter described if the Dean is directly involved or incapacitated for any reason).

(1) Such procedure must be preceded by discussions between the faculty member and the Dean looking toward a mutual settlement, and by an informal inquiry by the Committee on Adjudication which may, failing to effect an informal resolution, recommend whether in its opinion such a proceeding should go forward, without its opinion being binding upon the Dean.

(2) The faculty member charged will be provided with a formal communication prepared by the

Dean setting forth the charges with reasonable particularity, and advising him or her of the rights enumerated below.

(3) Within fifteen days after the charges have been communicated to the faculty member charged, a Hearing Board shall be formed consisting of three faculty selected by the Committee of Six from among the Faculty elected to the Committee on Adjudication; the Hearing Board will select its own chair.

(4) A member of the Hearing Board may be disqualified for bias or a conflict of interest in response to a challenge brought by one of the parties (or may deem himself or herself disqualified for either of the same reasons); in addition, the faculty member charged and the Dean will each have one challenge without stated cause. The Chair of the Committee on Adjudication shall decide any such challenge, and the Committee of Six will appoint replacements for each member so excused from among the faculty members of the Committee on Adjudication. Prior acquaintance or knowledge of the facts of the matter does not, necessarily, constitute a conflict in interest absent a showing of an actual conflict of interest.

(5) Service of notice of the commencement of the hearing shall be made at least twenty days prior thereto, or a reasonable period in which to prepare a defense, whichever is greater. The faculty member charged may waive a hearing, with or without making a written response to the charges, in which case the Hearing Board will base its decision upon the record available to it.

(6) The Hearing Board may, with the consent of the parties concerned, hold joint pre-hearing meetings with them in order to (i) simplify the issues, (ii) effect stipulations of facts, (iii) provide for the exchange of documentary or other information, and (iv) achieve such other objectives as will make the hearing more fair, effective and expeditious.

(7) The Hearing Board, after consultation with the Dean of the Faculty and with the faculty member charged, will determine whether the hearing should be private or public.

(8) During the proceedings, the faculty member and the Dean will have the right to be represented by legal counsel of their choosing, and the faculty member will have the right to have an academic advisor of his or her choice; the right of the faculty member to legal counsel and an academic advisor does not obligate the College to bear the expense of either. Legal counsel, but not academic advisors, shall have the right to address the Hearing Board and to examine witnesses.

(9) A verbatim record of the hearing or hearings will be taken and a typewritten copy will be made available to the faculty member, without cost, at the faculty member's request.

(10) The burden of proof that adequate cause exists for the imposition of the penalties imposed rests with the Dean and will be satisfied only by a clear and convincing evidence in the record as a whole.

(11) The Hearing Board will grant reasonable adjournments to enable either party to investigate evidence as to which a valid claim of surprise is made.

(12) The faculty member will be afforded an opportunity to present witnesses and other evidence relevant to his or her defense.

(13) The faculty member and the Dean will have the right to confront and cross-examine all witnesses.

(14) In considering charges of incompetence, the testimony will include that of qualified faculty members from the College or other institutions of higher education.

(15) The Hearing Board will not be bound by strict rules of legal evidence, and, in determining the issues involved, may admit any evidence which is of a probative value not outweighed by unfair prejudice. The Hearing Board will also have final responsibility for establishing the procedures for obtaining witnesses and evidence which will protect the personal rights and dignity of all those who might be asked to provide the same as well as of the parties to the most reliable evidence available.

(16) The findings of fact and its recommendations will be based solely on the hearing record.

Except for such simple announcements as may be required covering the time of the hearing and similar matters, public statements and publicity about the case by either the faculty member or the Dean will be avoided so far as possible until the proceedings have been completed, including consideration by the Trustees.

After all parties have been heard and all of the relevant evidence has been gathered, the Hearing Board will make explicit findings with respect to the charges and its recommendation, if any, for an appropriate sanction, including but not limited to dismissal, suspension from service for a stated period, demotion in rank, or deprivation of pay. Unanimous agreement of all members of the Hearing Board is required for the recommendation of dismissal, suspension from service for a stated period, demotion in rank, or deprivation of pay; the concurrence of a majority of the members is required for all other findings and recommendations. Any member of the Hearing Board who disagrees with the majority must make his or her own explicit findings and recommendations. The Dean and the faculty member will be notified in writing of the Hearing Board's findings and recommendations (and those of any minority member), and each will be given a copy of the transcript of the proceedings on which the Hearing Board's recommendation for a penalty is based.

The President shall transmit to the Board of Trustees the full report of the Hearing Board (and any minority report), stating its recommendations. Normally the Board of Trustees will decide the case on the basis of the Hearing Board's recommendation. If the Board of Trustees chooses to review the case, its review shall be based on the record of the previous hearing, accompanied by opportunity for argument, oral or written or both, by the principals at the hearing or their representatives. The recommendation of the Hearing Board shall either be sustained or returned to the Hearing Board with objections specified. In the latter case the Hearing Board shall reconsider its recommendation, taking account of the stated objections and receiving new evidence if necessary. The Hearing Board shall form its decision and communicate it in the manner as before. Only after study of the Hearing Board's reconsideration may the Trustees make a final decision over-ruling the Hearing Board.

A faculty member facing charges that might lead to dismissal, suspension, demotion in rank, or deprivation of pay should not be suspended by the President of the College during the proceedings involving him or her unless immediate harm to the rights of others is threatened by continued exercise of his or her teaching duties. Furthermore, a faculty member facing charges should have

the right to request a leave from teaching duties, which ordinarily will be granted, in order to prepare his or her defense. However it originates, a suspension during the hearing proceedings shall be with pay.

3. Grievance Procedures for Members of the Faculty (Voted by the Faculty, October 1986)

Committed to the ideal of resolving grievances collegially, Amherst College makes no attempt to codify a distinction between grievances that might require a formal hearing and lesser disputes or disappointments that should be resolved informally. In every case, it is expected that an informal resolution will be attempted, typically beginning with a frank and open discussion with the appropriate person or persons, whether that be a faculty colleague or a member of the Administration.

a. *Petition of Grievance.* At Amherst there are numerous persons who may be expected to play a role in settling controversies or resolving disputes before they become grievances, among them, the President, the Dean of the Faculty, the Special Assistant to the President for Diversity; and the Chairs of the several departments. Moreover, any member may consult the ombudsperson on any matter of concern or complaint.

A member of the faculty who has been unable to achieve by informal means what he or she regards as a fair and reasonable resolution of a complaint may file a petition of grievance with the Chair of the Committee on Adjudication.

The filing of a petition of grievance does not automatically entail that the full case or any particular part will be submitted to a Hearing Board for formal hearing. In every case, the Committee on Adjudication shall, by reference to the petition alone, determine whether any of the allegations, if substantiated, would warrant or require any remedial action or relief and, if so, whether the petitioner has cited credible evidence in support of his or her allegations or complaint. The complainant's petition should be sufficiently specific and extensive to inform the Committee on Adjudication adequately on these points. A petition deemed by the Committee on Adjudication not to warrant a formal hearing shall not be heard. The committee may also decide not to hear a petition that is premature or unduly late. The decision not to hear a case shall be communicated in writing to the President of the College and to the immediate parties to the case. The Committee on Adjudication may request clarification or additional information or evidence before ruling on the sufficiency of a petition, but this decision, whether affirmative or negative shall be final and unreviewable.

b. *The Committee on Adjudication and Hearing Boards.*

(1) *The Committee on Adjudication* (Selection, term of office, and function). The Committee on Adjudication consists of eight members of the faculty, serving three year terms, staggered to ensure continuity. Nominations are made by the Committee of Six, but additional nominations may be made from the floor during the faculty meeting at which the members of this Committee are elected by a majority of those present and voting. The Committee on Adjudication annually chooses its own chair.

Upon receipt of a petition of grievance, the entire Committee of Adjudication shall determine whether the petition merits a formal hearing, though Committee members who have a substantial or conflicting interest in the case shall neither vote on this question nor serve on the Hearing Board should one be named. Where it is determined that a petition should be heard, the Committee on Adjudication shall name three of its members to a Hearing Board to hear the case. In special circumstances, particularly where considerations of caseload or conflict of interest are involved, the Committee on Adjudication may make substitute appointments to a Hearing Board

from the Faculty at large. Each Hearing Board shall choose its own chair.

(2) *General Procedures of the Hearing Boards.* Every effort shall be made to conclude hearings in a timely manner. Proceedings shall not be governed by strict rules of evidence. Parties shall be allowed a reasonable period to prepare and state their case and to present evidence and testimony, subject to the authority of the Chair to bar testimony that is dilatory or not germane to the case. Parties named in a complaint shall have a reasonable opportunity to respond to all charges brought against them. Any party to a grievance hearing may be accompanied by a colleague from the Amherst Faculty or administration as an advisor, but participation in such proceedings is restricted to the parties, witnesses, and members of the Hearing Board, subject to exceptions explicitly authorized by the Chair. To protect confidentiality and to promote free and open discussion, hearings shall be closed unless the parties agree in writing to some other arrangement, subject to approval by the Chair. The Board is authorized to request the appearance and testimony of any member of the Amherst community. Though the Board has no power to compel compliance, it is expected that any such request will be honored.

Where the subject of a complaint is some official or institutional (including departmental or committee) finding, decision, recommendation or action, the Hearing Board's review is limited to determining whether that body was authorized to act on the matter in question, whether it acted in accordance with procedures of the College and only after due consideration, and whether the decisions, recommendation or action was consonant with the acknowledged requirements of academic freedom or other substantial rights of the complainant. In no such case shall a Hearing Board enter into an assessment of the substantive merits of the finding, decision, recommendation or action complained of, and a finding of error shall result only in a recommendation to retract or reconsider the offending outcome. Where the Board discovers only harmless error it need not recommend any remedial action. At the conclusion of a case, the Hearing Board shall prepare a written summary of what it judges to be the central issues involved and a statement of its recommendations. This document shall be sent to the President of the College and to all of the principal parties to the case, modified as necessary to protect confidentiality or to reflect the varying ways in which parties may have been involved in the case. The President shall receive a complete statement of the Board's summary and recommendations.

The President shall respond in a timely manner to the Hearing Board's recommendations, informing the Board and all of the principal parties to the case of his or her intended actions, if any.

Where the President is named as a party to a case that has been heard by a Hearing Board, that Board shall transmit its summary and recommendations to the Board of Trustees, whose actions shall be final.

(3) *Access to Information.* Almost every grievance whether addressed informally or formally, presents a tension between a complainant's right to know and the institution's need to protect the confidentiality of certain information and deliberations. Blanket provisions flatly favoring one side or the other appear to be both unnecessary and ill-advised. Rather, questions of access should be resolved by attending to the conflicting interests in specific cases. As a general rule, however, a complainant has no right to the confidential communications of colleagues whether as individuals or as members of a department or a College committee. On the other hand, if a Hearing Board is to make an informed decision and recommendation in a disputed matter, it must have access to all pertinent information including, for example, a department's minutes or other records in

connection with a disputed reappointment or tenure recommendation, and where germane, the confidential minutes of the Committee of Six. Where the Hearing Board, as a result of its greater access to confidential information, discovers grounds for remedial action that may not appear in the complainant's petition, the Board shall make findings and recommendations that appropriately take into account those discoveries.

4. Resolution of Student Grievances with Members of the Faculty (Voted by the Faculty, May 1995)

a. *Informal Resolution.* Student grievances against members of the faculty can be resolved through informal or formal procedures. Students are encouraged to seek informal means of resolving grievances and are urged to consult with other persons who would be able to provide competent advice or referral concerning the issues involved. Such persons might include one of the Deans of Students, the Special Assistant to the President for Diversity, a member of the faculty (sometimes, especially, the student's faculty advisor or the chairperson of the student's major department), or a resident counselor.

If a student decides that there are no grounds for submitting formal charges, or if he or she is encouraged to resolve the matter through informal means, with the consultation and assistance of such persons as those listed above. The pursuit of such informal resolution does not prevent the aggrieved student from submitting formal charges at a later date if informal resolution fails.

b. *Submitting Formal Charges.* If informal procedures fail to resolve the grievance and if, after consultation with the Dean of the Faculty, the student wants to proceed with the grievance, he or she may submit formal charges against a member of the faculty. The complaint should be directed to the Dean of the Faculty and should contain a full written description of the nature and grounds of the grievance.

Throughout the informal procedures for the resolution of grievances, both the student and the faculty member may each be accompanied and represented by an advisor of his or her choosing from among the Amherst College Faculty, Administration, Staff or student body, and the student may be accompanied and represented by such an advisor in the presentation of formal charges to the Dean.

Upon receipt of such charges, the Dean of the Faculty will provide written copies to all of the parties against whom the complaint is directed. Within one week of receiving a formal charge, the Dean of the Faculty will proceed as follows:

If the Dean deems the charges insufficiently serious or insufficiently supported by evidence to warrant a formal hearing, he or she decides the matter himself or herself. This decision can be appealed to the President.

If the Dean determines that the charges, if proven, are sufficiently serious that, for cause, the imposition of either dismissal, suspension from service for a stated period, demotion in rank, or deprivation of pay would be warranted, he or she shall immediately initiate the procedure for the imposition of such sanctions as provided in Section III.I.2.

If the Dean deems the charges insufficiently serious to raise the possibility of such severe sanctions, but sufficiently supported by evidence to warrant a formal hearing, he or she shall explore with the aggrieved student and the accused member of the faculty the possibility of resolving their dispute through an alternative dispute resolution procedure, including arbitration by the Dean, which procedure, however, must include an explicit time schedule, may not result in the dismissal, suspension from service, demotion in rank, or deprivation of pay of the faculty member charged, and may not provide for further review thereafter. The parties shall have one week in which to agree on such a procedure. If they do not, the Dean will notify the

Chairs of the Committee on Adjudication and the Committee on Discipline of the necessity of forming a Hearing Board within five days thereafter. Immediately upon the formation of the Hearing Board, the Dean will forward the grievance to it.

In order to protect the integrity of a potential appeal, one formal charges are submitted to the Dean of the Faculty, he or she must not discuss the case with the President.

In the case of a complaint against the Dean of the Faculty, his or her role in all phases of the grievance procedure will be assumed by the President. Similarly, the President's role as the officer to whom appeals are directed will be assumed by the Board of Trustees.

c. The Hearing Board and Hearing. The Hearing Board shall be composed of three faculty members chosen by the Chair of the Committee on Adjudication from among its members, and two students selected by the Committee on Discipline from among its members. The Chair of the Committee on Adjudication will normally not sit on a Hearing Board in order to be available to serve on appeals should they arise.

Each Hearing Board will elect its own Chair. The Chair of the Hearing Board will preside over the hearing, maintaining good order and recognizing who is to speak. He or she will be responsible for keeping a summary record of the proceeding. A verbatim transcript may be taken at the discretion of the Chair, and will be taken if requested by a member of the Hearing Board or by either party to the dispute.

A faculty or student member of the Hearing Board may be disqualified for bias or a conflict of interest in response to a challenge brought by one of the parties (or may deem himself or herself disqualified for either of the same reasons). The Chair of the Committee on Adjudication shall decide any such challenge to a faculty member and shall appoint a replacement from among the members of that Committee or, in exceptional cases where no alternative member is available, the Committee of Six will appoint a substitute from the Faculty at large. The Chair of the Committee on Discipline shall decide any such challenge to a student member and shall appoint a replacement from among the student members of that Committee, or, in exceptional circumstances, where no alternative member of the Committee is available, the College Council will appoint a substitute from the student body at large.

The Hearing Board shall have the right to request information concerning allegations, to question witnesses and to ask for written accounts of alleged violations. It is expected that both the complainant and the accused will be present at the hearing, but if the accused chooses not to attend, the hearing may continue in his or her absence. The Board may consider any testimony or other evidence it believes has a probative value not outweighed by unfair prejudice, except 1) any written or oral statement made by any member of the College community in confidence to an official of the College, with the mutual understanding that it was made in confidence, shall remain confidential if the original maker of the statement so chooses, and the Board shall not consider it, and 2) the Board shall not have access to the confidential personnel file of the faculty member against whom charges have been made. The Board has the right to call witnesses and to oblige any member of the College community to appear. The burden of proof rests with the complainant and will be satisfied only by clear and convincing evidence in the record as a whole.

The Dean of the Faculty will present the formal charges to the Hearing Board, thereby initiating formal proceedings which will normally begin within three weeks of the formation of the Hearing Board.

All hearings of the Board will be confidential except when both parties to the dispute request open hearings and the Chair of the Hearing Board concurs. All members of the College community are reminded that, except in the case of an open hearing, any breach of confidentiality may threaten the fairness of the process. All

parties are expected to refrain from any action, intentional or inadvertent, which might threaten the confidentiality of the proceedings. The Chair may close an open hearing at any time if he or she determines that the presence of spectators interferes with the conduct of the hearing or might undermine the integrity of the process.

Prior to the hearing, the Chair will inform both parties of the following rights:

- (1) to receive a copy of the formal charges, a copy of the Hearing Board's procedures and notice of the time and location of the hearing. This information must be delivered at least fifteen days prior to the date of the hearing.
- (2) to present their case to the Hearing Board at the earliest possible date consonant with the right to advance notice. Although the Chair will insure expeditious progress of the proceedings, either party may petition the Chair for more time to prepare his or her case.
- (3) to select a member of the Amherst College Faculty, Administration, Staff or student body as an advisor and to have that advisor present during the hearing. Advisors may assist the parties in preparing the case. Advisors are present at the hearing not to serve as legal council, but to support and advise the parties. Advisors have the right, however, to address the Hearing Board and to address questions to witnesses.
- (4) to challenge any member of the Hearing Board with bias or a conflict of interest in the case. (prior acquaintance or knowledge of the facts of the matter does not, necessarily, constitute conflict of interest absent a showing of an actual conflict of interest.) The Chair of the Committee of Adjudication will rule on the challenge of any faculty member of the Hearing Board, and the Chair of the Committee on Discipline will rule on the challenge of any student member.
- (5) to have any decision based solely upon evidence introduced at the formal hearing.
- (6) to present evidence; to call, hear and question witnesses; and to review and question all written testimony or documents. The Board will not consider anonymous statements made on either side of the case. All parties must be aware of the specific source and content of all testimony.
- (7) to appeal the decision of the Hearing Board under procedures described in section vi below. Normally, hearings will be concluded within two weeks.

d. *The Finding.* The Hearing Board will reach a determination as to guilt or innocence, and, if the former, a recommendation for an appropriate course of action to remedy the harm done to the complainant and to protect other members of the College community, including a recommendation, if necessary, of any disciplinary action to be taken against the faculty member, within one week of the close of the formal hearing. The Hearing Board may not itself, however, recommend the imposition of dismissal, suspension from service, demotion in rank, or deprivation of pay, but may recommend that the Dean of the Faculty initiate the procedure established for that purpose. A determination of guilt requires a majority vote of the Hearing Board. The Hearing Board will prepare a written report summarizing the evidence, its determination of guilt or innocence, and its recommendation for a disposition. Any member of the Hearing Board who disagrees with the majority opinion must file an accompanying written minority report. The report and minority report(s) must be signed.

The report(s) will be directed to the Dean of the Faculty who will forward copies directly to the parties.

The finding may be appealed by either party in accordance with procedures specified below.

e. The Disposition. If the Hearing Board recommends that the Dean of the Faculty initiate the procedure for dismissal, suspension from service, demotion in rank, or deprivation of pay for cause provided in section III.I. of the Faculty Handbook, the Dean of the Faculty shall do so as soon as practicable, and there shall be no other review of this disposition other than the initiation of such proceedings and the review provided therefrom. Such subsequent proceedings shall be conducted *de novo* without regard to the procedure of the Hearing Board described above.

In all other cases, the Dean shall review the Hearing Board's finding(s), report, and recommendations (if any), and whatever relevant information may be contained in the faculty member's confidential personnel file, normally within one week of receipt of such finding(s), report, and recommendations. The Dean may implement a disposition of the case different from that recommended by the Hearing Board (but not dismissal, suspension, demotion in rank, or deprivation of salary) only after notifying it of his or her intention to do so, providing written reasons for the same, and providing the Hearing Board an opportunity to reply. Both parties will be informed in writing of the Dean's determination.

f. Appeals. Either party to the original grievance can appeal the determination of the Hearing Board or of the Dean to an Appeal Board. Such an appeal may be made only on the grounds that one or more of the findings are not supported by the evidence, that substantial new evidence has been uncovered subsequent to the hearing, or that the Hearing Board or the Dean has committed specified procedural errors.

The notice of appeal must specify in writing the grounds on which the appeal is being made and must be presented within fifteen days of receipt of the Dean's determination.

Notice of appeal will be directed to the Chair of the Committee of Adjudication who will convene and chair the Appeal Board. The remainder of the Board will be composed of one faculty member selected by the Chair of the Committee on Adjudication from among its members, and one student member chosen by the Chair of the Committee on Discipline from among its members. None of the members of the Appeal Board shall have served on the Hearing Board for the case under consideration. Any member (including the Chair) of the Appeal Board may disqualify himself or herself, or be disqualified upon a challenge by any party for any of the reasons for which a member of the Hearing Board may be disqualified. Such a challenge to a member of the Appeal Board shall be decided and he or she will be replaced by the procedures outlined above for Hearing Board members, except that, if the chair of the Appeal Board is challenged, the Committee of Six will rule on the challenge and appoint a substitute if necessary.

All three members of the Appeal Board vote and a majority decides all questions. If a member of the Appeal Board disagrees with the majority choice of one of the actions listed below, he or she must file an accompanying written minority recommendation. All reports must be signed. These reports will be directed to the Dean of the Faculty.

The Appeal Board considers an appeal on the basis of the notice of appeal and the summary record or verbatim transcript of the hearing. After reviewing these materials, it may determine that it needs to hold additional hearings, question and otherwise take testimony from the parties and the Dean, and solicit such additional information as it deems necessary for a thorough review. After such review, the Appeal Board will take one of the following actions:

(1) Inform the Dean that the Appeal Board upholds the decisions of the Hearing Board and the Dean.

(2) Inform the Dean that one or more of the findings are not supported by the evidence and the Dean and/or the Hearing Board is to reconsider the recommended disposition, or the charge is to be dropped.

(3) Inform the Dean that the Hearing Board has made one or more specified procedural errors or that new evidence has been uncovered, which requires that the Hearing Board undertake a new hearing.

(4) Inform the Dean that he or she has made one or more specified procedural errors, which require(s) reconsideration by the Dean.

Whatever its action, the Appeal Board shall prepare a written report which will be sent to the parties.

g. Records. When the final disposition of a case results in a finding that a member of the faculty is guilty of a violation, that finding together with the determination of penalty shall be placed in the member's employment file.

When the final disposition of the case results in a finding that the accused is not guilty of a violation, all references to the case will be removed from the accused's employment file.

A permanent file, with the names of all parties and witnesses removed, will be maintained for each case which reaches the formal stage, regardless of its outcome. This file will be kept in the Office of the Dean of the Faculty and will include all summary records, Board findings and penalties imposed. This file will be available to any future Hearing Board for the purpose of researching precedents and to any committee of the College charged with revising the policies concerning the resolution of student grievances with members of the faculty.

The verbatim transcript, if taken, will remain in the confidential files of the Dean of the Faculty until such time as all appeals and civil or criminal cases which may result from the original complaint are settled. It shall then be destroyed.

h. Miscellaneous. None of the foregoing in any way limits rights, responsibilities and procedures described in other College documents, nor does it in any way alter the power and responsibilities of the Dean of the Faculty and the President to enforce the extant rules and regulations of the College.

5. Resolution of Faculty Grievances with Students

a. Bringing a Complaint/Being Complained of. Anyone at Amherst College, or at one of the constituent institutions of the Five Colleges, may bring a complaint against a student for allegedly violating the Code of Conduct. All complaints should be made to the Dean who administers the Code of Conduct. He or she will write out a brief form of complaint which must be initialed by the complainant to signify his or her assent to the validity of the written account. The Dean who administers the Code is then responsible for investigating the complaint and for deciding, within ten days, its appropriate disposition. The Dean who administers the Code will interview both the complainant and the accused student, as well as any other witness whose testimony might be useful in deciding the case. After this investigation is complete, the Dean who administers the Code may reach any of the following conclusions:

- (1) There is no basis for the complaint, and accordingly it should be dismissed.
- (2) There is no substantial dispute on the facts of the case, but the act or acts the student committed do not constitute an offense under the Code of Conduct.
- (3) There is not substantial dispute on the facts of the case; and, it is agreed that the facts of the case warrant a finding that the accused student has committed an infraction of the Code of Conduct; and, the potential penalty if the accused student is found guilty is one term's suspension or less. In this instance, the Dean who administers the Code will decide the penalty, make record of it, and see to its enforcement.
- (4) There is substantial dispute between the two parties on the facts of the case, so the case must be brought to the Committee on Discipline for adjudication.
- (5) Whether or not there is substantial dispute on the facts of the case, the offense is of sufficient seriousness so that it might warrant a penalty greater than one term's suspension. In this instance, the case must also be brought to the Committee on Discipline for adjudication.
- (6) For any complaint, the Dean who administers the Code may decide that there are special circumstances which require that the case will be heard by the Committee on Discipline.

Normally cases that must go before the committee should do so within ten days of the initial complaint.

The Dean administering the Code of Conduct may also bring complaints on his or her own in response to information received from individuals or from the reports of the College Security Office, but never based on anonymous complaints or evidence.

b. The Committee on Discipline. The Dean who administers the Code of Conduct is responsible for gathering all evidence to be presented to the committee. He or she may interview witnesses, ask for written accounts of events that allegedly occurred, and otherwise take appropriate steps to gather reliable and truthful accounts of the situation. Complete details of the composition and functions of the Committee on Discipline are published annually in the *Student Handbook*. Faculty wishing to bring a complaint against a student should consult the current *Student Handbook*.

Tags: [Dismissal for Cause](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [Grievance Procedures](#). | [Termination](#)

Faculty Responsibilities, Academic Regulations, Meetings and Committees

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Academic Regulations

1. Statement of Intellectual Responsibility (Voted by the Faculty 1966; amended April 1987)

Every person's education is the product of his or her intellectual effort and participation in a process of critical exchange. Amherst cannot educate those who are unwilling to submit their own work and ideas to critical assessment. Nor can it tolerate those who interfere with the participation of others in the critical process. Therefore, the College considers it a violation of the requirements of intellectual responsibility to submit work that is not one's own or otherwise to subvert the conditions under which academic work is performed by oneself or by others.

Article 1. Student Responsibility

Section 1. In undertaking studies at Amherst College, every student agrees to abide by the above statement.

Section 2. Students shall receive a copy of the Statement of Intellectual Responsibility with their initial course schedule at the beginning of each semester. It is the responsibility of each student to read and understand this statement and to inquire as to its implications in his or her specific course. *Section 3.* Orderly and honorable conduct of examinations is the individual and collective responsibility of the students concerned in accordance with the above Statement and Article 2, Section 3, below.

Article 2. Faculty Responsibility

Section 1. Promotion of the aims of the Statement of Intellectual Responsibility is a general responsibility of the Faculty. *Section 2.* Every member of the Faculty has a specific responsibility to explain the implications of the statement for each of his or her courses, including a specification of the conditions under which academic work in those courses is to be performed. At the beginning of each semester members of the Faculty will receive with their initial class lists a copy of the Statement of Intellectual Responsibility and a reminder of the duty to explain its implications in each course. *Section 3.* Examinations shall not be proctored unless an instructor judges that the integrity of the assessment process is clearly threatened. An instructor may be present at examinations at appropriate times to answer questions.

2. Statement on Freedom of Expression and Dissent (Voted by the Faculty 1968)

Amherst College prizes and defends freedom of speech and dissent. It affirms the right of teachers and students to teach and learn, free from coercive force and intimidation and subject only to the constraints of reasoned discourse and peaceful conduct. It also recognizes that such freedom and rights entail responsibility for one's actions. Thus, the College assures and protects the rights of its members to express their views so long as there is neither use nor threat of force nor interference with the rights of others to express their views. The College considers disruption of classes (whether, for example, by the abridgment of free expression in a class or by obstructing access to the place in which the class normally meets) or of other academic activities to be a serious offense that damages the integrity of an academic institution.

3. Statement on Respect for Persons (Voted by the Faculty, 1969)

Respect for the rights, dignity and integrity of others is essential for the well-being of a community. Actions

by any person which do not reflect such respect for others are damaging to each member of the community and hence damaging to Amherst College. Each member of the community should be free from interference, intimidation or disparagement in the work place, the classroom and the social, recreational and residential environment.

Harassment. Amherst College does not condone harassment of any kind, against any group or individual, because of race, religion, ethnic identification, age, handicap, gender or sexual orientation. Such harassment is clearly in conflict with the interests of the College as an educational community and in many cases with provisions of law.

Sexual Harassment. Amherst College is committed to establishing and maintaining an environment free of all forms of harassment. Sexual harassment **breaches the trust** that is expected and required in order for members of an educational community to be free to learn and work. It is a **form of discrimination** because it unjustly deprives a person of equal treatment. Sexual harassment can injure anyone who is subjected to it, regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

The College's policy on sexual harassment is directed towards behavior, and does not purport to regulate beliefs, attitudes, or feelings. It is based on federal and state law, which prohibit certain specific forms of sexual harassment; on the College's statement on respect for persons, which requires that a person's sex and sexual orientation be treated with respect; and on the following statement on sexual harassment passed by the Faculty on May 23, 1985:

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when: (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, academic work, or participation in social or extracurricular activities; (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for decisions affecting the individual; or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance, or creating an intimidating, hostile or demeaning working, academic or social environment.

The College believes that sexual harassment, besides being intrinsically harmful and illegal, also corrupts the integrity of the educational process.

Because it is possible for one person to act unintentionally in a manner that sexually harasses another, it is imperative that all members of the College community understand what kinds of behavior constitute sexual harassment. Hence, we provide here a general description of sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment occurs when one person attempts to coerce another into a sexual relationship, or to punish a refusal to respond to or comply with sexual advances. Attempts to subject a person to unwanted attention of a sexual character, sexual slurs or derogatory language directed at another person's sexuality or gender also can be forms of sexual harassment. Thus, sexual harassment can include a wide range of behavior, from the actual coercing of sexual relations to the forcing of sexual attentions, verbal or physical, on a non-consenting individual. It is also possible that sexual harassment can occur unintentionally when behavior of a sexual nature has the effect of creating a hostile environment. In some cases, sexual harassment is obvious and may involve an overt action, a threat, or reprisal. In other instances, sexual harassment is subtle and indirect, with a coercive aspect that is unstated.

Sexual harassment also occurs when a position of authority is used to threaten the imposition of penalty or the withholding of benefit unless sexual favors are granted, whether or not the threat is carried out. Sexual

harassment, when it exploits the authority the institution gives its employees, or otherwise compromises the boundary between personal and professional roles, is an abuse of the power the College entrusts to them. The potential for sexual harassment exists in any sexual relationship between a student and a member of the faculty, administration or staff. Anyone in a position of authority should thoroughly understand the potential for coercion in sexual relationships between persons who are professionally affiliated. These relationships may involve persons in a position of authority over their colleagues (e.g., Tenured faculty and non-tenured faculty; administrators and staff); or they may involve those who teach, advise or supervise students.

Sexual harassment also takes the form of unwanted attention among peers. Sexual harassment by peers may have the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or demeaning environment. Sexual harassment by peers can occur between strangers, casual acquaintances, hall-mates, and even friends.

Because sexual harassment is a direct violation of the college's "Statement on Respect for Persons," Amherst College will seriously and thoroughly investigate any complaints of sexual harassment and will discipline those found guilty. Any student who believes she or he may be the victim of sexual harassment by a member of the faculty should consult the section on "The Resolution of Student Grievances with Members of the Faculty." Any student who believes she or he may be the victim of sexual harassment by a peer should consult the student grievance procedures in the *Student Handbook*.

Consensual sexual relationships between faculty members and students (Voted by the Faculty, 1993). Experience has shown that consensual sexual relationships between faculty members and students can lead to harassment. Faculty members should understand the potential for coercion in sexual relationships with students with whom the faculty members also have instructional, advisory or supervisory relationships.

Even when such relationships do not lead to harassment, they can compromise the integrity of the educational process. The objectivity of evaluations which occur in making recommendations or assigning grades, honors, and fellowships may be called into question when a faculty member involved in those functions has or has had a sexual relationship with a student.

For these reasons, the College does not condone, and in fact strongly discourages consensual sexual relationships between faculty members and students. The College requires a faculty member to remove himself or herself from any supervisory, evaluative, advisory, or other pedagogical role involving a student with whom he or she has had or currently has a sexual relationship. Since the absence of this person may deprive the student of educational, advising, or career opportunities, both parties should be mindful of the potential costs to the student before entering into a sexual relationship.

In cases in which it proves necessary, the Dean of Faculty, in consultation with the Dean of Students and the chair (or head) of the relevant department, will evaluate the student's situation and take measures to prevent deprivation of educational and advising opportunities. The appropriate officers of the College will have the authority to make exceptions to normal academic rules and policies that are warranted by the circumstances.

4. Statement of Student Rights (Voted by the Faculty April 1987; amended March 1998)

Subject to respect for the rights of others, every student enjoys the assurance of the full exercise of those rights expressed in the Honor Code and the preceding three statements, including but not limited to the following specific rights:

The right to engage in the free exchange of ideas.

The right to protest and to dissent in a peaceable manner and to join with others in other nonviolent forms of common action.

The right to complain of injustice and to bring grievances to the appropriate offices of the College without fear of retaliation.

The right to attend functions and to utilize College facilities subject to prescribed rules.

The right to reasonable peace and quiet in residential and academic facilities and to an atmosphere conducive to work and study.

The right to privacy in one's assigned room, subject to compliance with the College's regulations and to the security of one's own property and property furnishing the common and public spaces at the College.

The right, when participating in any aspect of life of the College or traveling among the Five Colleges, to be free from harassment for reasons of one's race, religion, national origin, ethnic identification, age, political affiliation and/or belief, sexual orientation, sex, or physical disability.

Tags: [Academic Regulations](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [Faculty Responsibilities](#)

Teaching and Advising

1. Teaching Load. Amherst tries to keep the teaching load at a level that permits the Faculty to devote considerable time outside of class to students and to scholarly or creative work. Generally, Faculty teach two courses each semester. Departments have historically adapted this norm to their individual circumstances. Faculty are encouraged to teach outside their own departments through participation in interdisciplinary and interdepartmental courses and seminars.

2. Teaching Evaluations of Tenured Faculty Members. Each tenured faculty member (other than those on phased retirement) evaluates his or her teaching in one course each year by means of her/his choice. Among these may be end-of-semester student evaluations, videotaping of several classes, observation by one or more colleagues, or retrospective evaluations by students who have taken the course. (Those holding half-time FTE appointments evaluate one course every two years.) Whatever the form(s) of evaluation, the content and results belong to the faculty member, are confidential, and any record may be destroyed by the faculty member at any time. (Voted by the Faculty, May 2007)

3. Advising. All members of the regular Faculty, except first-year faculty, participate in College advising for underclassmen and in advising students majoring in their departments.

4. College Advising. The Dean of New Students assigns all entering students to a member of the Faculty who serves as that student's College advisor for his or her freshman and sophomore years whenever practicable. College advisors are responsible for discussing their advisees' programs of study with them, paying attention to the advising guidelines published annually in the *Catalog*. They are also asked to consult with their advisees' class deans, especially, but not only, if one of their advisees appears to be experiencing academic difficulty. A number of academic support services are available through the Dean of Students Office.

5. Major Advising. All faculty members, except first-year faculty, have the responsibility for advising students majoring in their departments about general curricular matters, matters related to the major and senior honors work.

Tags: [Faculty Handbook](#) [Faculty Responsibilities](#) [Teaching and Advising](#)

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Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Degree

The requirements for an Amherst College degree as set forth annually in the *College Catalog*. Course requirements and special degree programs are set forth there in detail. In addition, a supplement to the *Catalog* is published in April of each year giving course changes for the following academic year.

Tags: [Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [Faculty Responsibilities](#)

[Home](#) » [Academics](#) » [Dean of the Faculty](#) » [Forms, Policies, and Handbooks](#) » [Faculty Handbook](#) » [IV. Faculty Responsibilities, Regulations, Meetings, and Committees](#) » [C. Degree Requirements](#)

Classroom Attendance

Each member of the Faculty is free to state his or her policy with regard to absences. It is assumed that students will make the most of the educational opportunities available by regularly attending classes and laboratory periods. A faculty member may take such action as deemed appropriate in the event that a student disregards the announced regulations. Continued or unexplained absences should be reported to the Dean of Students. If students are absent because of illness or family emergencies, they are asked to notify the office of the Dean of Students.

Tags: [Classroom Attendance](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [Faculty Responsibilities](#)

The Scheduling of Courses

By Faculty vote on April 23, 1968 (amended on December 15, 1987 and again on May 3, 2011), courses may be scheduled according to the following pattern:

1. Monday-Wednesday-Friday: Fifty-minute classes may be scheduled on the hour: 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, and 3:00. (A 9:00 class may start anytime between 8:30 and 9:00.) Eighty-minute classes may be scheduled at 8:30, 12:00, and 2:00 on Monday-Wednesday, Wednesday-Friday, and Monday-Friday. (A 12:00 class may start anytime between 12:00 and 12:30. A 2:00 class may start anytime between 2:00 and 3:00.) **(Amended by the Faculty, May 3, 2011)**

Longer classes of up to 110 minutes may be scheduled at 8:00 or at 2:00 or 2:30. Classes of two hours may be scheduled at 2:00 or 2:30. Laboratories, studios, and class meetings of longer than two hours may be scheduled at 2:00. On Fridays, any class longer than 80 minutes may begin as early as noon. **(Amended by the Faculty, May 3, 2011)**

2. Tuesday-Thursday: Fifty-minute classes may be scheduled as follows: 9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, and 3:30. The following alternative start times are acceptable: a 9:00 course may start at any time between 8:30 and 9:00; an 11:30 course may start between 11:30 and 12:00; and a 1:30 course may start between 1:00 and 1:30. Eighty-minute classes may be scheduled as follows: 8:30, 10:00, 11:30, 1:00, 2:30.

Classes and laboratories of more than 80 minutes may be scheduled as follows: starting at 8:00 or later, and finishing by 11:20. Two-hour meetings may start at 2:30. Meetings longer than two hours may start at 1:00 or 2:30. **(Amended by the Faculty, May 3, 2011)**

3. Classes may be scheduled at times other than those provided above by permission of the Dean of the Faculty. The Dean should consider whether the course time creates new scheduling conflicts for students and whether alternatives to that course are available. (Classes that meet at least two times a week create new conflicts if the requested meeting times are split across distinct time slots, for example a class that meets Monday and Thursday morning or a class that splits between standard and nonstandard times.) Requests that create significant scheduling problems, and for which no alternative sections exist, should be turned down. As much as possible, classes should avoid unnecessary conflicts with courses in regular blocks. Classes scheduled to start after 4:30 should, in general, be second (or higher) sections of multi-section courses, so that students have alternatives within the standard schedule. **(Amended by the Faculty, May 3, 2011)**

4. If the Registrar discovers that there are too many classes and not enough classrooms for a given time slot, he or she should consider the best way to match room capacities, configurations (lecture versus seminar), and technologies to class requirements. Priority may be given to classes scheduled within the standard schedule over classes scheduled at nonstandard times. If necessary, the Registrar may contact departments to suggest alternative times, and/or alternative rooms, for individual courses. The Registrar should report to the Faculty annually about course scheduling, assessing the College's efforts to balance its schedule and providing information about peak and non-peak times. **(Voted by the Faculty, May 3, 2011)**

5. Departments have the authority to schedule classes into any regular slots, subject to the availability of

classrooms. They should strive to use the possible course times as fully as possible. In general, they should avoid reusing slots until they have used all the available slots for classes of that particular length. When possible, they should schedule large-enrollment courses (more than 80 students) at non-peak times. Departments that use fourth hours should avoid scheduling them at peak times. Classes that meet five days a week should avoid using two blocks of peak times. Instructors should give advance notice when a course has required events and meetings outside scheduled times, such as evening exams, film screenings, and field trips. If possible, notice should appear in the course description (e.g., “this course requires occasional attendance on Wednesday evenings.”), but in any event should be announced on the first day of class. **(Voted by the Faculty, May 3, 2011)**

Tags: [Faculty Handbook](#) [Faculty Responsibilities](#) [Scheduling of Courses](#)

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Final Examinations

1. At the end of the semester there will be scheduled a five day examination period(including Sunday). An instructor may choose to:

- a. hold no final examination;
- b. provide the student with a copy of the final examination before the beginning of the examination period, to be taken at any time during the examination period according to the procedure outlined by the instructor ("take-home examination");
- c. provide in the envelope supplied, an examination of two or three hours in length which will be made available at a designated examination center, the selection of the particular time period being left to the discretion of the individual student (student self-scheduled examination");
- d. hold an examination during a specific, scheduled session. Examinations to be given in this manner will be scheduled by the Registrar as to room and time (single-session examination).

2. Examinations in all courses must be completed by 5 p.m. on the last day of the examination period. Each student shall be responsible for completing his or her examinations and returning them in the manner prescribed within the designated time periods.

3. Members of the faculty will inform the Registrar, upon his request, of the manner in which they intend to conduct their final examinations. The Registrar will then designate examination centers for each course holding examinations under option 1 (c) and schedule those being held under option 1 (d). He or she will provide students and instructors with a list showing for each course the manner in which the examination is to be conducted, the date by which examinations must be completed, the days and times for examination sessions, and when pertinent, the examination center in which the examination will be conducted.

4. Faculty members will submit their grades to the Registrar by the agreed date. (Any extensions are to follow the procedures designated by Faculty vote.)

5. Prior to each examination period the student members of the Committee on Educational Policy and of the Judicial Board will arrange to remind each student that examinations are covered by the Statement of Intellectual Responsibility and will explain the manner in which it applies to these examination procedures.

6. A student who is prevented by illness from completing a final examination within the examination period may be granted the privilege of a special examination by the Dean of Students, who will arrange the date of the examination with the teacher.

7. A student who without an excuse from the Dean of Students fails to take a final examination shall receive a grade of "F" on the examination.

Tags: [Faculty Handbook](#) | [Faculty Responsibilities](#) | [Final Examinations](#)

Completion of Work; Policy on Extensions

In conformity with the practice established for the first semester of 1971-72, and as a general practice of this and subsequent semesters, the Faculty rules that all course work in a given semester must be submitted by the last day of classes at 5:00 p.m.

Extensions beyond this time will be given only for extraordinary reasons, and only when the student has obtained the signatures of the instructor in the course and the Class Dean. Work not submitted by the date set in the extension will not be accepted for credit.

Only for medical reasons or those of grave personal emergency will extensions be granted beyond the second day after the examination period.

Tags: [Completion of Work](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [Faculty Responsibilities](#) | [Policy on Extensions](#)

Grade Deadlines

Deadlines for receipt of grades in the Registrar's Office have been established as follows:

- 1. First semester:** By noon of the first Monday of January.
- 2. Second semester:** By 9:00 a.m. of the Monday after the last day of examinations for senior grades; by noon of the Wednesday after the last day of examinations for all other grades.

Tags: [Faculty Handbook](#) | [Faculty Responsibilities](#) | [Grade Deadlines](#)

Special Exception for Reasons of Conscience

It is never easy to resolve conflicts between the conscience of an individual and the principles of a group. Colleges are, as they should be, especially sensitive to such difficulties and will always strive to avoid solutions that maximize administrative simplicity or tidiness at the expense of the individual whose actions, expressive of deep personal commitment, do not fit the general pattern. The general rules of the College have been adopted to deal humanely and expeditiously with the normal patterns of Amherst students and faculty. They must not be abrogated easily. On the other hand, there is reason to believe that some students may become involved in actions of conscience that put them into conflict with those rules. In an attempt to resolve such conflicts and without intending to weaken our belief in the general validity of the rules themselves, **the Faculty adopted the following motion on April 25, 1972:**

"When in the view of a professor and the Dean of Students a student is unable to complete assigned work within the deadlines set by College rule as a result of activities outside of the College, and when these activities are clearly ones that the student cannot put aside for reasons of conscience, extensions may be granted for the completion of that work by the Dean of Students with the consent of the teacher involved. (In such cases, a grade of "N" will be entered for the course.) The Dean of Students will consult with the faculty member involved when assigning deadlines."

Tags: [Faculty Handbook](#) | [Faculty Responsibilities](#) | [Reasons of Conscience](#) | [Special Exception](#)

Religious Observance

In accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Amherst College subscribes to the following statement:

Any student in an educational or vocational training institution, other than a religious or denominational educational or vocational training institution, who is unable, because of religious beliefs, to attend classes or to participate in any examination, study, or work requirement on a particular day shall be excused from any such examination or study or work requirement, and shall be provided with an opportunity to make up the examination, study, or work requirement missed because of such absence on any particular day; provided, however, that such makeup examination or work shall not create an unreasonable burden upon such school. No fees of any kind shall be charged by the institution for making available to the said student such opportunity. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to students because of availing themselves of the provisions of this section. (See *Student Handbook* for Amherst College's particular statement on religious observances.)

Tags: [Faculty Handbook](#) | [Faculty Responsibilities](#) | [Religious Observance](#)

The Honors Thesis

When required as a condition of candidacy for honors, a student must submit the original copy of a typewritten or laser-printed thesis to the Registrar. To ensure archival preservation, the thesis copy to be deposited in the Archives should be on acid-free bond paper of 20 pound weight. Details of the format and materials are available from the Office of the Registrar. Theses are available to members of the Faculty for perusal until the degree meeting of the Faculty, and thereafter placed in the College Archives. The copy deposited in the Archives becomes the physical property of the College.

The literary rights, including those of publication, copying extracts, or closely paraphrasing from the manuscript, shall remain the property of the author, except that the College shall have the right to permit access by the public to any unpublished thesis at any time. The author may dispose of other manuscript copies as he or she sees fit, and may publish and copyright the thesis at any time. No photocopy or audio duplicate of the thesis in the College Archives will be permitted, except for Interlibrary Loan proposes, without the author's written consent to each request.

The purpose of these regulations is to ensure access by interested readers to all theses presented in partial fulfillment of degree requirements at Amherst College. In exceptional circumstances, access to a thesis may be restricted for a specific period of time. Restrictions will be considered only where it is thought that access could cause injury to others. A request for restriction must be endorsed by the department for which the thesis was written and by the Dean of the Faculty and submitted in writing to the Archivist of the College.

Tags: [Faculty Handbook](#) | [Faculty Responsibilities](#) | [honors thesis](#)

Foreign Study and Exchange Programs

With the approval of the departments concerned and of the Dean of Students, a student may arrange to take an academic leave from Amherst College to spend a semester or a year at another institution and to receive transfer credit for work satisfactorily completed there. Amherst College does not as an institution have any sustained commitments to particular exchange or overseas programs beyond the Associated Kyoto Program, which makes possible an undergraduate year in Kyoto, Japan. A student interested in the available opportunities should be encouraged to consult the information and files available in the Office of the Dean of Students or the Office of Career Counseling. A wide variety of exchange programs and foreign study programs is available. Arrangements must, however, be made on an individual basis.

Tags: [exchange programs](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [Faculty Responsibilities](#) | [foreign study](#)

The Cooperative Doctor of Philosophy Degree

A cooperative Doctor of Philosophy program has been established by Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith Colleges and by the University of Massachusetts.

When a student has been awarded a degree under this program, the fact that it is a cooperative doctoral degree involving Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke and Smith Colleges and the University of Massachusetts will be indicated on the diploma, the permanent record, and all transcripts, as well as on the commencement program.

The requirements for the degree are identical to those for the Ph.D. degree at the University of Massachusetts except for the statement relating to "residence." For the cooperative Ph.D. degree, "residence" is defined as the institution where the dissertation is being done.

Students interested in this program should write to the Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Massachusetts. However, students who wish to work under the direction of a member of the Amherst Faculty must have their proposal approved by the Dean of the Faculty of Amherst College.

Tags: [cooperative doctor of philosophy degree](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [Faculty Responsibilities](#)

Classified Research

Following a long study and a subsequent report by a faculty committee in 1977-78, the Faculty adopted the following guidelines related to sponsored research at Amherst College:

The Administration of Amherst College

1. will accept and administer only grants or contracts, the sponsorship and purpose of which are openly disclosed. (Should a benefactor wish to remain anonymous, the purpose of the grant must be openly disclosed.) Grants and contracts for research administered by the College will be accepted only if the faculty member involved is free to publish the results of his or her research.
2. will not cooperate with security investigations pertaining to the recruitment of any present or former member of the Faculty, student body or staff without the consent of the individual to such action in advance (Voted by the Faculty, October 1978).

Tags: [classified research](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [Faculty Responsibilities](#)

Faculty Attendance and Grade Reports

Members of the Faculty not on leave are required to attend the opening convocation, all faculty meetings, and the commencement exercises. Any member of the Faculty unable to meet one of these obligations should inform the Dean of the Faculty or the President of the reason.

Members of the Faculty are expected, barring emergencies, to meet all scheduled classes.

Members of the Faculty are expected to report their grades to the Registrar within the period of time at the end of each semester voted by the Faculty (See Section H).

Tags: [faculty attendance](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [Faculty Responsibilities](#) | [grade reports](#)

Informing the Administration of Address Changes

Faculty are expected to inform the Dean of the Faculty's Office of their addresses (and, if possible, telephone numbers) when they are away from Amherst on leave, over the summer or during January Interterm for an extended period of time.

Tags: [address changes](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [Faculty Responsibilities](#)

Outside Employment

Unless excused by the Trustees or by the President, all faculty members shall be required to be in attendance at the College during the academic year. No faculty member shall be employed in any occupation which interferes with the thorough and efficient performance of the responsibilities of his or her office, and no engagement shall be made by any faculty member for teaching in another institution during the academic year without the permission of the President.

The arrangements for overtime Faculty borrowing between the Five Colleges are governed by joint among the colleges. Any arrangement for additional teaching at one of the Five Colleges must be discussed with the departments concerned and with the Dean of the Faculty.

Tags: [Faculty Handbook](#) | [Faculty Responsibilities](#) | [outside employment](#)

Faculty Meetings

1. Attendance and Voting

The following members of the College have the right and responsibility to attend Faculty meetings, with voice and vote: (1) the President, the Dean of the Faculty, Professors, Associate Professors, and Assistant Professors appointed to regular full-time or part-time tenured or tenure-track positions; (2) all individuals on non-tenure-track, renewable contracts, who teach regularly in the College curriculum and whose primary affiliation is with Amherst College; (3) all persons with visiting teaching appointments, for the duration of their appointment at Amherst College, provided that appointment is their primary professional responsibility at the time; and, (4) the following members of the Administration: the Dean of Students, the Class Deans of Students, the Dean of Admission and Financial Aid, the Director of Financial Aid, the Librarian of the College, the Director of Information Technology, the Director of the Academic Computer Center, the Director of Health Services, the Director of the Counseling Center, the Director of Athletics, the Registrar, and the Director of the Mead Art Museum.

Questions before the Faculty may be decided by a voice vote, or by show of hands, or by written ballot if requested by a faculty member (Voted by the Faculty, May 1990).

Faculty members on phased retirement retain the right to attend and vote in Faculty meetings, though in their individual agreements with the Dean of the Faculty they may determine not to do so.

2. Attendance Without Vote

a. Administration and Temporary Faculty. Interchange faculty members from other colleges in the valley or part-time appointees teaching on a per-course basis and retaining primary concurrent affiliation with another academic institution (including adjunct appointees and teaching assistants and associates) are welcome to attend meetings of the Faculty with voice but without vote, as are contract coaches of the Department of Physical Education, and the associates and assistants of administrative officers named above, unless individually otherwise designated.

Other members of the Administration are statutorily designated as guests at Faculty meetings. They include: the Treasurer; the Chief Advancement Officer; the Alumni Secretary; the Secretary and Assistant or Associate Secretary for Public Affairs; the Assistant or Associate Registrar; Assistants to the President; the Assistants to the Deans, specifically the Wilson and Mayo-Smith interns in the Admission Office; and the Five College Coordinator. Other guests may be invited to specific meetings of the Faculty by the President with the concurrence of the Committee of Six. These persons, as guests, are not normally expected to participate in debate, although they may speak if questions are addressed to them.

b. Students. By vote of the Faculty in October 1970, in order to provide improved communication of student sentiment concerning proposals originating in College committees whose membership includes students, student members of some faculty-student-Administration committees and officers of the Association of Amherst Students are invited to be present with the Faculty during regular meetings of the Faculty as participating, non-voting members of the meeting. Participation includes the right to speak and to make and second motions.

Student members of these committees and those officers of the Association of Amherst Students include: student members of the Committee on Educational Policy, the College Council, the Committee on Priorities and Resources, the Committee on Admission and Financial Aid, the Committee on Discipline, and the Library Committee, and the four executive officers of the student governing body. The editor-in-chief and the publisher of *The Amherst Student* are invited guests at Faculty meetings for purposes of information.

3. Regular Faculty Meetings

During the academic year the Faculty holds at least three stated meetings which take place in the Converse Auditorium: one at the opening of College, one before spring vacation for the approval of new courses or changes in courses for the coming College year, and a meeting immediately before Commencement.

The meetings at the opening of College and before Commencement are normally held in the morning. Other Faculty meetings are normally held on Tuesday evenings at 7:30. The first and third Tuesday evenings of months when the College is in session are reserved for meetings of the Faculty. [Faculty meetings schedule](#).

4. Special Faculty Meetings

A special meeting of the Faculty is held when in the opinion of the President or of the Committee of Six there is necessary business to be transacted. A special meeting may also be held at the request of eight or more members of the Faculty.

5. Presiding Officers

The President of the College presides at meetings of the Faculty. In the President's absence, the Dean of the Faculty presides. The Dean of the Faculty serves as Secretary and may designate a recorder to keep the minutes of the meetings of the Faculty. Any faculty member may have access to the minutes upon request to the Secretary. In the event that the Dean of the Faculty is presiding at a faculty meeting, a member of the Faculty will be asked to serve as secretary *pro tem*.

6. Quorum

The presence at any meeting of the Faculty of a majority of the members required to attend and eligible to vote constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business at that meeting. Faculty on leave are not required to attend, but retain the privilege of attendance and vote; they will not be counted in determining a quorum.

7. Agenda

An advance notice of the agenda of each meeting is normally sent to members of the Faculty. Items not on the agenda may be discussed at any meeting and voted upon at any meeting of the Faculty. Whenever possible, the minutes of the meetings of the Committee of Six held since the last Faculty meeting and copies of all recommendations to be considered by the Faculty will be sent to each member of the Faculty with the agenda.

In October 1980, the Faculty voted that:

Except in a grave emergency, the Committee of Six, in setting the agenda for a Faculty meeting, shall not include any motion on a constitutional matter or a matter of policy unless it has assured that the motion, and the reasoning considered by the committee for and against it, will reach faculty members in time to allow reflection and informal discussion (normally by the Wednesday before the Tuesday of the meeting). This is known in local parlance as the Romer-Hawkins rule.

On the agenda and at meetings of the Faculty, the usual order of business is:

- a. Call to order*
- b. Reading or review of the minutes of the preceding meeting of the Faculty if they have not already been made available; approval of these minutes*
- c. Reading or review of the minutes of the meetings of the Committee of Six held since the last faculty meeting if they have not already been made available*
- d. Remarks by the President of the College*
- e. Remarks by the Dean of the Faculty*
- f. Election of committee members*
- g. Consideration of recommendations made by the Committee of Six and/or the Committee on Educational Policy to the Faculty*
- h. Consideration of recommendations from other committees*
- i. Questions to the Administration*
- j. Unfinished business*
- k. New business*
- l. Adjournment.*

8. Rules of Order

The rules of parliamentary procedure as found in Robert's *Rules of Order* govern the meetings of the Faculty in all cases to which they are applicable and when they are not inconsistent with the customs or regulations of Amherst College. A member of the Faculty is designated as the Faculty Parliamentarian.

9. Voting

Those eligible to vote are defined in the section on Faculty Meetings above. Questions before the Faculty may be decided by voice vote, by a show of hands, or by written ballot if so requested. Abstentions are in order.

10. Concurrence of President

The concurrence of the President is necessary to all acts and resolutions of the Faculty, unless, after non-concurrence, the act or resolution shall again be passed by a two-thirds vote of the Faculty, a quorum being present, at the same or at the next succeeding meeting thereof. In all cases where there shall be a non-concurrence between the President and a majority of the Faculty present at the time, the names of those voting on each side of the question shall be entered on the minutes, and each member shall be entitled to have entered on the minutes the reason for his or her vote.

11. Binding Nature of Decisions

All decisions of the Faculty arrived at by vote in the meetings of the Faculty shall be binding, and all members are expected to adhere to the spirit and intent of such decisions.

12. Confidential Nature of Meetings

Discussions at Faculty meetings are confidential, and public announcements of decisions taken at Faculty meetings should be made only by the President or the Dean of the Faculty. Students wishing to report on matters discussed by the Faculty will consult with the Dean of the Faculty to ensure the degree of

confidentiality deemed necessary by the Faculty.

Tags: [Faculty Handbook](#) | [faculty meetings](#) | [faculty meetings attendance and voting](#) | [Faculty Responsibilities](#)

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Committees

Faculty participate in the governance of Amherst College through their actions in meetings of the Faculty and through service on committees of the Faculty, committees of the College, committees of the Board of Trustees, *ad hoc* committees and Five College committees. For purposes of committee membership, candidates will normally be selected from the ranks of the regular tenured and tenure-track faculty. Committee service is expected of all regular tenured and tenure-track Faculty, except for those in their first year. [Committees and appointed Faculty members](#).

1. Committees of the Faculty

Faculty Committee Membership. The right to serve on the Committee of Six and the right to vote for members of that Committee are limited to professors, associate professors, and assistant professors appointed to regular full-time or part-time tenured or tenure-track positions. The President of the College serves as Chair of the Committee, *ex officio*, and the Dean of the Faculty serves *ex officio* as Secretary of the Committee, each without vote (Voted by the Faculty, May 1990). The Faculty members of the Committee of Educational Policy, the College Council, the Committee on Priorities and Resources and the Committee on Adjudication are elected by the Faculty after nomination by the Committee of Six or after nomination from the floor. Faculty members of other regular committees of the Faculty are appointed by the Committee of Six, usually for two- or three-year terms. Faculty members of College committees and/or of *ad hoc* committees may be appointed by the President of the College, with the advice of the Committee of Six, or may be elected by the Faculty following the balloting system used for the Committee of Six.

a. *The Committee of Six.* The Executive Committee of the Faculty, called the Committee of Six, is composed of six members who serve two-year terms. The President of the College serves as chair of the Committee, *ex officio*, and the Dean of the Faculty serves *ex officio* as secretary of the Committee, each without vote.

Members of the Committee of Six are elected to represent the interests of the entire Faculty, not those of special groups. They are elected without restrictions of rank, tenure status, age or departmental affiliation. In the discharge of their duties, the various members participate equally in all parts of the deliberations of the Committee and in all votes taken by it, except that when a candidate for tenure is from the same department as a member of the Committee, that member shall, though remaining present, neither participate in the Committee's discussion of, nor vote in, the case. Abstentions because of conflict of interest or other conscientious reason are always acceptable.

The election procedure of the Committee of Six is designed to select members who will exercise their individual judgments as impartially as possible in the general interests of the Faculty and of the College. It is important that members of the Committee of Six not feel any particular indebtedness to individuals or groups for support in the election process. The Faculty has therefore declared that campaigning, caucusing and slating are inappropriate in Committee of Six elections. Faculty, and in particular new Faculty, seeking information about names appearing on the ballot may, however, discuss them informally with other Faculty.

At least three of the members of the Committee of Six are elected in the Spring of each year by direct Faculty ballot. The first list circulated to the Faculty consists of all those members of the Faculty eligible

for election to the Committee of Six. Each faculty member voting must vote for the exact number of vacancies to be filled. On the second ballot, the number of names is four times the number of positions remaining to be filled. On each succeeding ballot, the number of names presented on the ballot is twice the number of positions remaining to be filled. To be elected, a faculty member must receive a majority of the votes cast on a particular ballot. Balloting continues until all the positions to be filled have been filled by faculty members who have received a majority of the votes cast.

All professors, associate professors, and assistant professors appointed to regular, part-time or part-time tenure-track positions are eligible to serve on the Committee of Six, except: 1) the President and the Dean of the Faculty; 2) those newly appointed during their first year at Amherst; 3) those who will not be at Amherst for one or both semesters of the year following the election; 4) members of the Committee on Educational Policy; 5) members of the College Council; 6) retiring members of the Committee on Educational Policy and the College Council (who are also ineligible for one year for election or re-election to either of these committees); 7) retiring members of the Committee of Six and those who retired from it in the previous three years (i.e., retiring members cannot be reelected for four years); 8) those who have served three or more terms on the Committee of Six and then exercise the option of taking their names off the ballot each year by contacting the Dean of the Faculty's Office before the election begins; 9) and under extraordinary personal circumstances, after petitioning the President or the Dean of the Faculty, those individuals for whom service on the Committee would be a particular hardship.

The Committee of Six acts in a general advisory capacity to the President, and to the Faculty as a whole, on all matters of College policy; considers matters of tenure and promotion, and in certain cases, of appointment and retirement; nominates or appoints members of other committees; prepares the agenda for Faculty meetings; reviews recommendations of the Committee on Educational Policy and other committees; and, reviews exceptions to degree requirements.

The Committee of Six is charged by the Faculty with responsibility for the review of recommendations made by departments or programs for degrees, *summa cum laude*. The Committee of Six will review the qualities of academic work judged excellent by individual departments to try to ensure comparability across the College and will record its judgment on the merits of the recommendation. In cases where the Committee of Six has questions, it will raise them with the department involved, come to a point of view, and report its discussion and conclusion to the Faculty.

The Committee of Six normally meets every week during the academic year. Minutes of its meetings are normally circulated to the Faculty in Advance of regular Faculty meetings. In case the Committee of Six should meet without the President and the Dean, the senior faculty member of the Committee of Six will preside.

b. *The Committee on Academic Standing and Special Majors.* This committee is co-chaired by the Dean of Students and a member of the Faculty appointed by the Committee of Six. Two additional members of the Faculty are appointed by the Committee of Six for two-year terms. The three members of the Faculty shall preferable include one each from the Humanities, the Social Sciences, and the Natural Sciences. The committee acts on cases involving the dismissal and readmission of students who have failed to perform academically according to the standards of the College. It also administers the programs of Interdisciplinary Study, Independent Study, and Field Study. When the committee meets to consider matters of academic standing, the Dean of Students serves as chair; when the committee meets

to consider student proposals for special majors the designated faculty member serves as chair.

Proposals for special majors are considered by a subcommittee consisting of the three faculty members and the Dean of Students, *ex officio*. On matters of academic standing, the committee consists of three faculty members, the Dean of Students, the other class deans, and the Dean of Financial Aid, with the Registrar serving as secretary of the committee, *ex officio*.

For matters of academic standing, the charge to the committee is as follows:

- (1) The Committee shall consider the standing of students in serious academic difficulty at the middle and end of each semester, and shall decide which students will be placed on or removed from academic probation.
- (2) The Committee shall decide which students shall be dismissed for reasons of unsatisfactory academic performance and what conditions need be met by such students to be readmitted to the College.
- (3) The Committee shall pass on all cases of readmission of students who were dismissed for unsatisfactory academic performance.

Students in good academic standing who take educational leave from the College temporarily to pursue a course of study at another institution need not apply for readmission. Their cases will be reviewed only if exceptional or unusual circumstances have led to academic failure during the period of educational leave.

Students in good academic standing who voluntarily take a leave of absence will normally not need to apply for readmission.

Students who have been dismissed or who have withdrawn for solely disciplinary reasons will be considered for readmission by members of the Dean of Student's Office.

c. *The Committee on Adjudication.* The Committee of Adjudication consists of eight members of the faculty, serving three year terms, staggered to ensure continuity. Nominations are made by the Committee of Six, but additional nominations may be made from the floor during the faculty meeting at which the members of this committee are elected by a majority of those present and voting. The Committee on Adjudication annually chooses its own chair.

The Committee on Adjudication has several duties.

1. It provides the Hearing Board in cases involving dismissal, suspension from service for a stated period, demotion in rank, or deprivation of pay, for cause.
2. It serves as the Faculty Grievance Committee.
3. It provides faculty members of the Hearing Board and the Appeal Board in cases of student grievance against members of the faculty.

(1) The Committee of Six will select from the membership of the Committee on Adjudication a three member Hearing Board in cases of dismissal, suspension, demotion in rank, or deprivation of pay for cause brought by the Dean.

(2) Where a member of the faculty has failed to resolve a grievance informally, the faculty member may then file a complaint with the chair of the Committee on Adjudication. The committee's procedure for determining whether to hear the complaint and for establishing a Hearing Board are described in the Handbook section on Grievance Procedures for Members of the Faculty.

(3) In cases of student grievance against a faculty member, the chair of the committee shall appoint three faculty from among its members to a Hearing Board. Should it be necessary, the chair of the committee shall, with one other member appointed by him or her, serve as the faculty members of an Appeal Board. The procedures therefore are described in the Handbook section on Resolution of Student Grievances with Members of the Faculty.

If a member of the committee is disqualified for any reason from such service, he or she will be replaced by another member of the Committee on Adjudication. In exceptional cases where no alternative member of the committee is available, the Committee of Six will appoint a substitute from the faculty at large.

d. *The Committee on Admission and Financial Aid.* The Committee on Admission and Financial Aid consists of four members of the Faculty appointed by the Committee of Six for three-year terms, four students serving two-year terms to be chosen as described below and, as members *ex officio*, the Dean of Admission and Financial Aid (Secretary of the Committee), the Director of Admission, the Director of Financial Aid, and the Dean of Students. One of the faculty members is appointed by the Committee of Six as chair, normally after a year of service. It is hoped that different areas of the curriculum will be represented by the faculty members on the Committee. The President will meet with the Committee either at its invitation or on his initiative.

A College Committee on Admission and Financial Aid will convene under the chairmanship of the Dean of Admission and Financial Aid at least four times in each academic year. It will consist of the Dean of the Faculty, *ex officio*, and eight voting members: Dean of Admission and Financial Aid, the Director of Admission, the Director of Financial Aid, the Dean of Students and the four faculty members on the Committee on Admission and Financial Aid. At a meeting early in the Fall of each year, the College Committee on Admission and Financial Aid will review the composition and diversity of the first-year class, paying attention to such issues as the distribution of students by curricular and extracurricular strengths. The Committee will re-convene in advance of the release of notifications of admission to early decision candidates (normally in December) and prior to the release of notifications of admission to regular round candidates (normally in March) to consider such information as it deems necessary to insure that the College's stated policies are being implemented. At the end of each of these meetings the Committee will vote on the admission actions recommended by the Dean of Admission and Financial Aid. The Committee will hold a final meeting at the end of the academic year to review the outcome of the completed admission process (Voted by the Faculty, December, 1999).

Two students shall be elected by the student body for a two-year term to the Committee on Admission and Financial Aid. Following the election, the Dean of Admission and Financial Aid in consultation with the Committee on Admission and Financial Aid will appoint two additional student members for two-year terms. The four student positions are to be filled in staggered order, with one appointed and one elected position to be filled annually.

Because of Amherst College's commitment to equal opportunity and the role of the admission process in

meeting an important part of this commitment, the presence on the Committee of students from different minority and racial groups is especially valuable. In general, student members of the Committee can provide particular advice on policy discussions about recruitment.

The Primary function of the Committee is to enhance communication between the Faculty and appropriate administrative offices and in so doing to aid the Faculty in carrying out its responsibility to formulate standards and policy for admission and financial aid. To these ends, the Committee should review on a regular basis, through observation and quantitative studies, how adequately policy and practice are meeting stated goals, should develop and maintain mechanisms for communicating faculty opinion on the quality of our students to the staff, and should report annually to the Faculty on the Committee's work. Members of the Committee should be sufficiently engaged in the admission process to enable them to carry out their responsibilities effectively (Voted by the Faculty, September 1984).

e. *The College Council.* The College Council is composed of three members of the Faculty, two or three members of the Administration, and five students. The Faculty members of the College Council are nominated by the Committee of Six and elected at large by the Faculty. They serve for two-year terms. Two members of the College Council will normally be elected each year, so that the terms will overlap. The Dean of Students serves on the Council *ex officio* without vote. One or two other members of the Dean of Students' Office are appointed annually by the President. Of the five students, three are members-at-large from the freshman, sophomore and junior class elected each spring to serve throughout the following academic year. The President of the Student Government serves *ex officio* without vote during the academic year. At the end of the first semester, the freshman class elects a representative to serve during the following two semesters.

The Chair of the College Council is one of the three faculty members nominated for that post by the Committee of Six and elected specifically as chair by the Faculty for a one-year term.

Subject to the reserved powers of the President and the Board of Trustees, the College Council is the body to approve and determine policy in three areas: extracurricular Faculty-student relations, the review of recommendations involving the Statement of Intellectual Responsibility, and social regulations for student residential and social life.

In addition, the College Council possesses power to make recommendations concerning a wide range of subjects that touch the joint interests of students, Faculty and Administration.

The College Council will not act as a review board to make decisions or recommendations in individual cases involving academic requirements and standards for granting degrees or involving the implementation of such academic requirements and standards. The College Council will not discuss and will not make recommendations to any group on particular personnel decisions in the Faculty or Administration.

f. *College Housing Committee.* The College Housing Committee advises the Administration on the general principles and rules of equity governing the housing program of the College. The Committee consists of four members of the Faculty serving two-year terms, the Treasurer, *ex officio*, without vote; the Director of Human Resources, *ex officio*, without vote; and the Director of Rental Property, *ex officio*, without vote. In making appointments to the Housing Committee, the Committee of Six tries to ensure that various faculty interests are represented: married-single; younger-older; home owners and

those in College housing.

g. *The Committee on Discipline.* For complete details of the Student Code of Conduct, please consult the *Student Handbook*. The Committee will consist of four elected student members, two men and two women; four members of the Faculty; and the Dean of Students, who serves as non-voting chair and as record keeper. The Committee will elect one of these faculty members to serve as Head of Appeals; normally this will be someone in the third year of service on the Committee.

Each case will normally be heard by two faculty members and three student members, although in exceptional cases a quorum may consist of one faculty member and two student members. The Head of Appeals will not hear any of the cases that come before the Committee on Discipline, but will serve only on the Appeal Board. On a rotating basis one other faculty member and one student member will remain off the Committee for each hearing so that they may be available to constitute part of the membership of the Appeal Board, if an appeal is made.

When any faculty member of the Committee disqualifies himself or herself from hearing a case, or is disqualified, for a conflict of interest, he or she will be replaced by a substitute appointed by the Committee of Six, if a substitution is required to maintain the quorum. Normally student substitutes will be appointed by the College Council, but under special circumstances may be appointed by the chair of the College Council.

The faculty members will be elected by the faculty after nomination by the Committee of Six or after nomination from the floor. They will normally serve three years, their terms, when possible, staggered so as to maintain continuity from year to year.

Students will be elected to the committee in an election conducted by the middle of the second semester of each year. The Committee on Discipline will oversee the following procedures:

An informational meeting or meetings will be held, to be attended by all potential candidates .

Each candidate will submit a petition signed by no fewer than ten students and a statement specifying his or her interest and qualifications for the position. These statements should be distributed to all students.

The election will be conducted according to the procedures outlined in the code of elections. The two men and the two women candidates who receive the highest number of votes are elected. The College Council will appoint an alternate of the same sex if one of the elected students resigns or is unavailable.

If this procedure cannot be followed because of an insufficient number of candidates, then the College Council will appoint a student to any position unfilled by election.

Student members begin their one year term of July 1 of the year of their election. At the beginning of each academic year the Dean of Students, with the assistance of the Affirmative Action Officer, will schedule a session for all members of the Committee to become acquainted with the special complexities involved in cases of sexual or racial harassment and in other kinds of cases involving a violation of respect for persons. In consultation with the Committee, the Dean of Students may, from time to time, schedule other such sessions to assist the committee in considering issues raised by other

categories of cases which have, or may, come before it (Voted by the Faculty September, 1987).

h. *The Doshisha Committee* (Voted by the Faculty December 1994). The Doshisha Committee shall coordinate all formal relations between Amherst College and Doshisha University, including the selection of participants in the faculty exchange (the Amherst-Doshisha Professorship), and the selection of the Amherst-Doshisha Fellow. The Committee shall also coordinate the selection of the Neesima and Uchimura Scholars with Doshisha University and the Amherst Admission Office.

The Committee consists of three members of the faculty serving two-year terms. Members of the committee are selected by the Committee of Six.

i. *The Committee on Educational Policy*. (Voted by the Faculty, December 2006) The Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) is composed of five faculty members, each serving a three-year term; the Dean of the Faculty, *ex officio*, without vote; and three student members, each serving a two-year term. The Humanities, the Social Sciences and the Natural Sciences must be represented on the committee, by both faculty members and student members. Each year the committee chooses its own chair and secretary from among its five faculty members. A researcher appointed by the Dean of the Faculty informs and supports the work of the CEP and serves as committee secretary. The chair sets the committee's agenda. Nominations of the faculty members for the Committee on Educational Policy are made by the Committee of Six and reported to the Faculty in advance of the Faculty meeting at which they are to be elected.

Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting. Candidates must receive the approval of a majority of the eligible voting members of the Faculty present at the meeting in order to be elected. Ideally, two members of the Committee on Educational Policy should be elected in two out of three years, and one member elected in the third. In this way, overlapping terms will create a continuity of membership. The student members of the committee are elected for two-year terms, two members being elected in one year, and a third in the other, alternately.

All members of the Faculty are eligible to serve on the Committee on Educational Policy, with the same exceptions as govern eligibility for the Committee of Six.

The Committee on Educational policy is expected to review and evaluate, and to report to the Faculty on, the general educational policy of the college; to consider suggestions from departments or from individual faculty members or students relating to changes in educational policy, including proposals for new courses, new programs, and altered major programs or honors requirements; and to make recommendations to the Committee of Six and the Faculty. The Committee on Educational Policy advises the President and the Dean of the Faculty about the allocation of faculty positions to departments. In making recommendations for such allocations, the committee considers, *inter alia*, the curricular needs of individual departments and the commitment of departments to offer courses that meet identified college-wide priorities and curricular needs.

j. *The Faculty Computer Committee*. The Faculty Computer Committee consists of three faculty members appointed by the Committee of Six for two-year terms and one student member elected by the student government. In addition, the Director of Information Technology (IT), the Director of Academic Technology Services (ATS), and the Librarian of the College are *ex officio* members without vote. One of the faculty members serves as chair. The committee advises the Director of IT and the Director of ATS

on topics related to the use of computer technology in support of research and instruction and on other IT issues affecting the academic life of the College. One member of the committee serves as a faculty representative to the College's Internet Strategy Group. (Voted by the Faculty, November 2007)

k. *The First-Year Seminar Committee.* The First-Year Seminar (FYS) Committee consists of three faculty members, among whom the Committee selects its chair, and a faculty representative from the Writing Center (ex officio without vote). The Committee is responsible for assisting faculty to develop and teach courses that advance the goals of the FYS Program as voted by the Faculty. To that end, the Committee solicits such course proposals and forwards them to the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) for approval by the Faculty, participates in the planning of pedagogical workshops for the FYS Program, and encourages faculty collaboration and curricular innovation in the seminar offerings. In addition, the Committee is responsible for assessing the Program and reporting its findings to the Faculty. (Voted by the Faculty, May 2009)

l. *Committee on Health Professions.* The Committee on Health Professions is composed of four faculty members appointed by the Committee of Six, including at least one each from Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, and the Health Professions Adviser. Faculty members normally serve for three years, and one serves as Chair.

The Health Professions Committee recommends policies affecting students planning for careers in medicine and other health professions, provides academic advising and support for those students, and prepares recommendation materials for students and graduates applying to health professions schools.

m. *The Committee on Health and Safety.* This committee is chaired by the Dean of Students and includes three members of the Faculty appointed by the Committee of Six for two-year terms. Other members of the committee are: the Director of the Health Service, the Director of the Counseling Center, the Director of Health Education, the Director of Facilities Planning and Management, the Director of Public Safety, the Director of Human Resources, a Religious Advisor, and two students elected by the student body. The committee is concerned with matters relating to the health and safety of students, faculty and staff. It reviews and gives advice on safety measures such as campus lighting and the locking of dormitories and other buildings. It considers issues of occupational safety for faculty and staff. And it makes recommendations on arrangements for the provision of medical services and psychological counseling to students.

n. *The Committee on International Education.* The Committee on International Education is composed of three members of the Faculty (each from a different department), one of whom will serve as chair, and the Director of International Experience and Registrar, ex officio. The term for the faculty members of the committee is three years. Members of the committee and the committee's chair are appointed by the Committee of Six. The committee shapes policies and procedures for evaluating and approving study-abroad programs for Amherst students. The members maintain and review a list of College-approved study-abroad programs, review student petitions for study-abroad programs that are not already on the College-approved list, review student evaluations of all international educational programs, facilitate communication between the Faculty and the Director of International Experience to aid in advising, and consult with the Director to identify new opportunities for international experiences and to facilitate student participation in them.

o. *The Faculty Lecture Committee.* The Faculty Lecture Committee is composed of three members,

each serving initially for two years. The Chair is typically chosen from among the returning members of the Committee and serves for a third year. This committee arranges the program of College lectures, including those provided by specially endowed lecture funds.

p. *The Library Committee.* The Library Committee is composed of three members of the Faculty, one chosen annually by the Committee of Six, serving for three-year terms, two students, and the Librarian of the College, *ex officio*. The Committee chooses its chair and secretary each year. Its membership should include one representative each from the Humanities, the Social Sciences and the Natural Sciences. One of the three faculty members is appointed by the Committee of Six to serve also as the faculty member on the Archives Committee.

The purpose of the committee is to discuss and to recommend policies concerning the Library's collections and services.

q. *The Orientation Committee.* The Orientation Committee consists of three members of the Dean of Students' Office, two members of the faculty, and three students. The student members are drawn from the resident counselors and the freshman class. The Dean of New Students is chair. The function of the Committee is to plan, administer and evaluate early orientation, freshman orientation and on-going orientation programs.

r. *The Committee on Education and Athletics.* (Voted by the Faculty, 2004) This committee is composed of the Chair of the Department of Physical Education, two representatives selected by the Department of Physical Education, three members of the Faculty chosen by the Committee of Six, two students (one man and one woman) elected by their peers from a slate consisting of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, and a third appointed by the Student Government (Voted by the Faculty, May 2007) and the Dean of Students, *ex officio*. A member of the Faculty chairs the committee. The President and the Dean of the Faculty may meet with the Committee. The purpose of this committee is to advise the college on the role and place of athletics in the educational enterprise of the College.

s. *Committee on Priorities and Resources.* (Voted by the Faculty, May 2010) The Committee on Priorities and Resources (CPR) is a committee of faculty, students, and staff (with a faculty member as chair), with officers of the administration (the President, the Dean of the Faculty, the Treasurer, the Director of the Budget, and the Director of Human Resources) present *ex officio*. The four faculty members, at least one each from the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences, normally serve for a term of three years, and their terms of office are generally staggered so that each year no more than two new members of the committee and the chair are nominated by the Committee of Six and elected by the faculty. To assure continuity of membership on the CPR, the Committee of Six will endeavor to nominate members of the faculty whose service on the committee will not be interrupted for two or three years.

Two of the three student members are elected from the student senate by that body and serve for terms of two years. One of these members is elected in one year, and a second in the other, alternately. A special election conducted from within the senate is used to select replacements for students unable to complete their terms of office. The third student member is selected by the senate from the executive branch of the student government for a one-year term, and serves without vote.

The two staff members of the committee are elected by the staff and normally serve staggered two-year

terms.

The voting members of the CPR are its four faculty members, its two staff members, and two of its three student members (as described above).

The purpose of the CPR is to bring a range of faculty, student, and staff opinion to bear upon (1) the process of annually budgeting the resources of the college, and (2) the long-term allocation of resources. To ensure the CPR's involvement in the annual budget process, the administration will bring the budget currently being formulated before the CPR while there is still ample time to affect it. The administration will also present its sense of the priorities among competing claims on the college's resources. The CPR will present to the Board of Trustees the committee's views on the annual budget as it is being prepared and on long-term financial concerns. In the spring term, the CPR will also receive and respond to new large capital requests and review the ongoing list of capital priorities and deferred maintenance projects. To discharge its responsibility to assess the continuing ability of the college's financial resources to support its educational mission, the CPR will periodically review the long-term financial impact of such things as the relationship between resources and programs, the level of compensation and benefits, the level and rate of change of the comprehensive fee, and other pertinent matters. To that end, the committee will query other offices and committees about proposals that have financial implications.

Particular responsibilities of the faculty members of the CPR are to represent to the administration the views of the faculty concerning the budget and to report to the Faculty each year concerning the status of faculty salaries and compensation.

The committee may request that the Committee of Six include CPR reports or recommendations on the agenda of meetings of the faculty.

t. *The Faculty Committee on Student Fellowships.* The Faculty Committee on Student Fellowships is composed of six members: the Dean of Financial Aid, secretary, ex officio; and five members of the faculty, one of whom is chair. The faculty members of this committee are recommended to the Board of Trustees by the Committee of Six and serve for two-year terms.

The purpose of the Committee is to review applications of students and/or recent graduates who wish to receive graduate and undergraduate fellowships and scholarships and to make recommendations on behalf of the College to the groups or foundations that award the fellowships and scholarships. Two categories of fellowships and scholarships are principally involved: a) national or international fellowships and scholarships to which the College can nominate a limited or selected number of applicants (Churchill, Fulbright, Goldwater, Marshall, Mitchell, Rhodes, Truman, and Watson are examples). For national fellowships and scholarships, the Committee reviews applications, interviews applicants, and writes the letters of recommendation for nominated candidates. b) Amherst College Fellowships, for which the committee reviews applications for fellowships for graduate study, which are awarded by the Trustees or Faculty of Amherst College as described in detail in the *Amherst College Catalog*.

Ad Hoc Committees

Ad hoc committees are generally appointed by the President of the College, with the advice of the Committee of Six, to study and make reports on special problems or to serve as search committees for

certain Faculty or Administrative appointments. Usually Faculty are appointed to such committees by the President after consultation with the Committee of Six. In unusual circumstances, the Faculty members serving on *ad hoc* committees may be elected by the Faculty, following the method of balloting used for elections to the Committee of Six.

Departmental Committees. The Faculty voted in May, 1969 to establish within each department clearly understood procedures whereby both faculty and student views can be mutually and seriously weighed in determination of departmental policy, including: departmental requirements for majors; the range of course offerings; the growth and development of the department within the College; possibilities for academically valuable cooperation with parallel departments at the neighboring four colleges. Individual departments may deem it appropriate to include also the nature of new teaching appointments within the department and the assessment of the teaching effectiveness of those teachers within the department who are being considered for tenure.

The nature of different subjects, the composition of the Faculty and of the majors within different departments, and the conditions necessary to ensure both freedom of teaching and freedom of learning within different departments may call for somewhat diverse procedures to accomplish these goals.

2. Committees of the Board of Trustees

There are two committees, advisory to the Board of Trustees, on which Faculty Serve.

a. *The Advisory Committee to the Committee on Trusteeship.* The Board of Trustees has declared its intent to elect as Term Trustees only those who have been considered by an Advisory Committee consisting of two members of the Faculty and two students. At its meeting of October 10, 1972, the Faculty established a procedure to elect its representatives to the Advisory Committee.

Two faculty members are elected for two-year terms. The election procedure follows that of the Committee of Six, requiring that a person to be elected must receive a majority of the votes cast. All regular tenured and tenure-track members of the Faculty except those on leave during the spring semester of the academic year, in which the election takes place and/or those on leave during one or both semesters of the academic year following the election, and those newly appointed during their first year at Amherst, are eligible to serve on the Advisory Committee. Although part-time faculty may choose not to be included on the ballot, Faculty whose terms expire are again eligible in the following year.

b. *The Advisory Committee on Honorary Degrees.* The two faculty members elected to the Advisory Committee to the Committee on Trusteeship serve also as the faculty members on the Advisory Committee on Honorary Degrees. This committee, which also includes three students elected by the senior class, meets with the Honorary Degrees Committee of the Board of Trustees to discuss candidates for honorary degrees and to make recommendations to the Board. The Board has indicated that not candidate will be voted an honorary degree whose candidacy has not been discussed with the Advisory Committee on Honorary Degrees.

3. Committees of the College

There are several advisory committees composed of members of the Faculty, Administration, Staff and

student body, appointed by the President or other members of the Administration to communicate with different constituencies of the College and to formulate recommendations about policies and procedures to the President and other members of the Administration.

a. *Diversity and Inclusion*. The Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee performs advisory functions for the College Administration. Its purpose is to bring to the attention of the College a range of opinions and suggestions regarding the provisions of the College's Diversity and Inclusion Program, which provisions reflect the laws and guidelines published by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and subsequent Federal and State regulations. In carrying out its purpose it has authority to issue reports to the College community.

The Committee is composed of five Faculty members, seven Trustee appointees, seven Staff appointees, six students, and such other persons as the President chooses to include in order to provide diversity of perspective and to meet the needs of those groups covered by Affirmative Action legislation. The Director of Human Resources or his or her representative and the Special Assistant to the President for Diversity shall serve *ex officio*. All members are regular employees of the College. The President, to whom the Committee reports at least once a year, appoints all members to the Committee. Appointments are for two years. The Committee elects its chair and secretary.

b. *The Archives Committee*. The Archives Committee is composed of a member of the Faculty appointed by the Committee of Six from those faculty members serving on the Library Committee, the Librarian of the College *ex officio*, and the Archivist of the College *ex officio*, who serves as the chair. The committee reports to the President.

The Committee reviews policy issues relating to the Archives and makes decisions concerning retention of and access to institutional records of permanent historical value.

4. Five College Committees

From time to time Amherst Faculty members may be appointed by the President or the Dean of the Faculty, with the advice of the Committee of Six, to serve as representatives on Five College Faculty Committees to consider questions of academic policy of joint interest to two or more of the Colleges.

Tags: [Faculty Committees](#) [Faculty Handbook](#) [Faculty Responsibilities](#) [committees](#)

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Salaries and Payroll

All salaries and any annual increments to them are established and voted by the Board of Trustees, usually at their April meeting, upon the recommendation of the President, in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty and the Treasurer.

1. Payroll. The fiscal year of Amherst College runs from July 1 to June 30th. Annual faculty salaries are for nine months' work but are paid in twelve equal installments on the last day of each month, July 31st through June 30th, inclusive.

On request, checks will be deposited in the account of a faculty member at most banking institutions, available on the last bank day of the month. Otherwise, they will be mail to a campus or home address.

Salary checks will be subject to the following deductions: Federal withholding tax, Social Security tax, Massachusetts withholding tax, TIAA-CREF, insurance premiums (if participating), rent (if occupying College housing), and any other amounts (College mortgages, luncheon charges, etc.) due the College for any reason.

2. Withholding. Federal withholding taxes are computed in accordance with the Federal percentage method which considers the number of exemptions claimed on Form W-4 filed in the Human Resources Office upon receipt of letter of acceptance.

Social Security tax will be computed at the prescribed rate.

Massachusetts income withholding taxes are computed in accordance with the state percentage method, which considers the number of exemptions claimed on Form M-4 filed in the Comptroller's Office. A faculty member may request a larger withholding if he or she wishes in order to approximate the actual tax more closely.

3. Summer Salaries. Members of the Faculty are permitted to receive up to two-ninths of their annual salary for additional work done during the summer as contract research or under research or foundation grants. Such grants are administered by the College and are subject to the normal allowances for overhead. Further details should be checked with the Comptroller's Office.

Tags: [benefits](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [payroll](#) | [salaries](#) | [salaries and payroll](#)

Grants and Allowances

1. Requests for travel advances or reimbursements for purposes approved by the College through the Dean of the Faculty's Office should be made to the Comptroller's Office. Receipts for all expenses for which reimbursement is sought must be submitted to the office.
2. Faculty requesting advances for grants received in the Amherst College Faculty Research Award Program (FRAP) may receive no more than one half of the total funds awarded in advance of undertaking their research project. Once that amount is accounted for, the Comptroller's Office will advance the balance of the amount awarded. In exceptional circumstances, the Dean of the Faculty may waive this requirement.
3. Faculty Entertainment Allowance. An allowance not to exceed \$200 per faculty member per year is available for entertaining students. The Campus Center and Lewis Sebring Commons provide space especially for this purpose. In addition to being able to sign in students at the Lewis Sebring Commons, members of the faculty are entitled to six free meals each semester at Valentine (thirteen for faculty teaching First-Year Seminars) simply by presenting their Amherst College I.D. Card to the meal checker. Vouchers requesting advances and/or reimbursements for entertainment of students should be submitted in a timely fashion to the Comptroller's Office, and must be submitted within the fiscal year in which the expense was incurred.

NOTE: Requests for cash advances for any of these purposes must be made to the Comptroller's Office at least five working days prior to planned use of funds. Receipts for all expenditures must be submitted within two weeks of their disbursement to the Comptroller's Office. Similarly, Faculty seeking reimbursement for authorized expenditures must submit receipts for all items for which reimbursement is sought.

Tags: [allowances](#) | [benefits](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [fringe benefits](#) | [grants](#) | [grants and allowances](#) | [salaries](#)

Fringe Benefit Programs for Full-time Faculty

The Director of Human Resources and the Staff of the Human Resources Office are responsible for administering the fringe benefits program for all College employees. The actual provisions of each formal benefits plan, policy or contract will determine entitlement of benefits, benefit levels and other matters. Fringe benefit programs for which Faculty are eligible include:

- [1. The Housing Program](#)
- [2. Retirement](#)
- [3. Group Health and Dental Insurance](#)
- [4. Employee Assistance Plan](#)
- [5. Group Life Insurance](#)
- [6. Long Term Disability Insurance](#)
- [7. Workers' Compensation Insurance](#)
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- [10. Benefits During Sabbatic Leave and Leave of Absence](#)
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- [15. Unemployment Compensation](#)
- [16. Computer Purchases](#)

Tags: [benefits](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [fringe benefit for full-time faculty](#) | [fringe benefit programs](#) | [salaries](#)

The Housing Program

The College assists Faculty by renting houses and apartments to junior untenured faculty, visiting faculty, junior lecturers and coaches who have not received senior contract status at subsidized rates. For eligible senior tenured faculty, senior lecturers, senior-contract coaches and certain administrators, the College offers a plan for the purchase of College houses, along with an Enhanced Second Mortgage Plan and a Matching Grant Plan. These plans are more fully described below.

The Housing Program is administered by the Rental Property Department, with the advice of the Faculty Housing Committee. This Committee is comprised of the Treasurer, the Director of Human Resources, the Director of Rental Property, the Director of Facilities and four faculty members appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the Committee of Six. Mortgage plans are administered by the Treasurer's Office. The College administers the Housing Program for eligible personnel on an equal opportunity basis regardless of race, color, sex, gender or sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, ethnic identification, or mental or physical disability.

A house or unit is designated as either: (1) a rental unit reserved for the junior faculty members, visiting faculty, junior lecturers and coaches who have not received senior contract status, or (2) available for purchase through the Rental Property Department and Treasurer's Offices after consultation with the Faculty Housing Committee. Once a house or unit has been designated as available for rent or purchase, eligible individuals will have the opportunity to rent or buy such house or unit under the Rental Plan or the House Purchase Plan, as determined by the point system (or any successor system consistent with the Eligibility Listing in the Program).

New faculty, or those wishing to change their units, are subject to the Housing Assignment System described below.

a. College Housing Eligibility. Faculty are eligible for College Housing as set forth below.

Housing units (for both rental and purchase) are assigned on the basis of a point system. The point system is based upon "credits" for (1) each year of service; (2) each child; (3) rank at time of assignment to College housing; and (4) rank when appointed to Amherst.

The Point System.

Rank	(1) Credits for Each Year of Service	(2) Credits for Each Child	(3) Credits for Rank at time of Assignment to College Housing	(4) Credits for Rank when Appointed to Amherst
Assistant Professor	1	1	3	2
Associate Professor	1	1	6	6
Professor	1	1	9	10

(1) *Credits for Each Year of Service.* One point is given for each year's continuous service effective with the date of original appointment. For example, if the date of appointment is July 1, the appointee would be given one (1) point for the spring housing assignment period of that year.

(2) *Credits for Each Child.* One point is given for each dependent child as defined by Internal Revenue Service regulations. The one exception is in the case of an unborn child. If at the start of the Housing assignment period, a pregnancy is known to exist, an additional one (1) point is given.

(3) *Credits for Rank at Time of Assignment to College Housing.* This column refers to current rank, or, in the case of promotions, rank at the time of assignment, July 1. Rank when originally assigned to housing is not relevant. For example, an Assistant Professor promoted to Associate Professor would be given six (6) points under this category for the ensuing housing assignment period.

(4) *Credits for Rank when Appointed to Amherst.* This column reflects credit for rank at the time of original appointment to Amherst College. These credits assist faculty who may have been in academia prior to appointment to Amherst. They partially offset the greater credits for years of service accrued by faculty members who have spent their entire careers at Amherst. For example, a faculty member currently at the rank of Professor, but who was appointed to Amherst at the rank of Associate Professor, would be entitled to six (6) points under this category. A Professor who was originally appointed as an Assistant Professor would receive two (2) points.

Occasionally there are questions regarding how a particular title correlates to the point system ranking. Please consult the Human Resources Office for guidance. The President can make special housing assignments that serve the interest of the College at his/her discretion.

b. The Housing Assignment System. The Housing Assignment period for rental units is from mid-April through the last day of August. The eligible faculty are advised of housing units that are expected to be available the next fiscal year. Faculty who want to be considered for rental vacancies during the housing assignment period must submit a written Housing Request to the Rental Property Department by a date specified in the annual mailing. Failure to submit a timely Housing Request may result in removal from consideration. Those who express interest can obtain their point credits by contacting the Rental Property Department.

Assignment to housing follows the fiscal year pattern of appointments, July 1st through June 30th. Assignments for rentals are automatically renewed except when the terms of the assignment period are limited or a transfer to another housing unit occurs as a result of the spring assignment procedure. Letters of assignment will be sent to the new occupants by the Director of Rental Property. Conditions of maintenance and terms of payment are detailed in the letter of assignment. Occupants of college rental housing are required to sign a lease defining the terms and conditions of the rental.

Faculty who wish to leave College housing during the assignment period must meet the terms of the assignment letter to the end of the fiscal year.

In the case of vacancies occurring after the housing assignment period and during the next fiscal year, the Director of Rental Property may make temporary assignments until the end of that fiscal year, normally June 30th, as circumstances dictate.

Separating Faculty must be prepared to vacate rental College housing at the time of separation. Retiring Faculty must vacate rental College housing within two years after retirement. The family of a faculty member who dies during the year may reside in College housing through the end of the fiscal year that follows the faculty member's death.

c. Types of Units. The College owns several types of rental housing, including single-family homes and multi-family units. Merrill Place and Joseph Smith House are multi-family units primarily used as rental units by junior faculty, visiting faculty, junior lecturers and coaches who have not achieved senior contact status. Requests for reassignment cannot be made for a period of at least three years.

d. Rental Plan. Junior faculty, visiting faculty, and junior lecturers and coaches who have not yet achieved senior contact status are eligible to rent College housing units. Upon receiving tenure or senior contract status, a renter may only remain in rental housing for two years. Any occupant who was a tenured member of the faculty, a senior contract coach, or a tenure track faculty who later received tenure, or certain administrator, as of March 2, 1998, and who did not wish to or was not qualified to purchase his/her home at that time, may remain in his/her assigned unit only. A comprehensive annual listing of rentals will be available from the Rental Property Department. Annual rent increases are determined by the Rental Property Department. It is recommended that renter's insurance covering personal belongings and liability be secured by all renters of College housing.

e. Maintenance Practices. Residents of College rental housing must take reasonable care of the premises and advise the Rental Property Department of conditions needing attention. It is expected that if a tenant is moving, the premises will be left in good order, within reasonable standards of cleanliness and repair. All alterations or improvements must be done by or approved by the College. Details about maintenance practices, interior

decorating requests, alterations and improvements, and procedures for service and repair calls are available in the Rental Property Department.

f. Subletting. The College requires that a rental house or unit be occupied as a primary residence by the individual to whom it is assigned. Subletting of a College housing unit is limited to periods of sabbatical leaves and other authorized leaves of absence. Written notification to the Rental Property Department of a subletting arrangement is required and must include the name(s) of the sublessee(s) and the dates the house or unit is to be sublet. A one month security deposit is required of all residents subletting their College housing units. Subletting is subject to the approval of the Director of Rental Property.

g. House Purchase Plan. Certain single-family houses are available for sale to tenured members of the faculty, senior lecturers, senior-contract coaches and certain administrators. Details regarding terms of sale under the house purchase plan, including purchase price, financing, and the College's repurchase rights, are outlined below.

(1) *Purchase Price.* The purchase price is 80% of the independently appraised value established by a College appointed firm. If a potential eligible buyer, or eventually, a potential eligible seller, wishes to contest this appraisal, he or she may hire an appraiser for another estimate of value. If the two estimates are within 5% of each other, the mean between the two will be taken as the final appraisal. If the two estimates are more than 5% apart, then a third appraiser, to be mutually agreed upon and paid by the College and the eligible buyer/seller, will make a third estimate which will be the agreed upon value. The current condition of the home, its deficiencies and necessities, will be reflected in the independent appraised value. Any reasonable environmental abatement (including lead paint or asbestos removal) requested by the purchaser will be performed, at the College's expense, prior to any purchase.

(2) *Financing.* If the buyer wishes to obtain a subsidized second mortgage from the College the buyer must obtain a first mortgage through a bank or mortgage company of at least 5% of the purchase price. The College will make available and subsidize a second mortgage of up to \$75,000, but no greater than 75% of the first mortgage.

(3) *Additional Terms.* The home must be the purchaser's primary residence and must be occupied by the individual to whom it is sold. The home must be resold to Amherst College if the buyer ceases to be an eligible employee, or ceases to maintain it as a primary residence, or the home ceases to be owner occupied.

(4) *Terms of Resale.* Upon resale to the College, the price will be 80% of the appraised value at the time of resale. (Value to be established by the same appraisal guidelines found under Purchase Price.) The following events will initiate the resale to the College: Retirement, if the buyer ceases to be an eligible employee, divorce of eligible employee, death of eligible employee, and if the property is not the primary residence of the eligible employee.

The following timelines are applicable:

Separating Faculty	At time of separation
Retired Faculty	May retain ownership for 2 years
Widow(ers) of eligible employees	May retain ownership for 5 years
Divorced Spouses of eligible employees	May stay in unit for 2 years after divorce

h. Enhanced Second Mortgage Plan. The College makes available a twenty-year, below market second mortgage to tenure-track and tenured members of the faculty (and to certain contract coaches and administrators) who purchase as a primary residence a non-College house within a 30-mile radius of the center of Amherst, Massachusetts. The Plan is available only to first-time borrowers from the College and is not available for refinancing. The residence must be owner occupied.

The Enhanced Second Mortgage is for a period of 20 years, at a variable rate set for a three-year term, at 1.5 percentage points below the three-year variable rate on January 1st charged by the Amherst Branch of the Bank of America for first mortgages. The mortgage will be subject to caps that will limit the increase in the interest rate, at the time of the reset, to no more than 2 percentage points over the prior rate. The increase in the interest

rate, over the life of the mortgage, shall not exceed 6 percentage points over the initial rate. A down payment of 5% of the purchase price is required of any buyer utilizing the Enhanced Second Mortgage Plan.

i. Matching Grant Plan. For each house sold by the College, 10% of the purchase price will be made available to the purchaser to help pay for the cost of capital home improvements that will upgrade or maintain the structure and/or the systems of the house or the property. The matching grant fund will pay for up to one-third of the cost of the approved project. These improvements must be in the nature of capital improvements such as roof repairs, or upgrades or repairs to the utility systems, driveway paving or insulation. Routine painting, wallpapering, renovations of kitchens or bathrooms, and replacement of carpets are examples of non-qualifying repairs or maintenance. All requests must be made to the Director of Facilities/Associate Treasurer before any work is performed on the project. The Director of Facilities/Associate Treasurer, in consultation with other members of the Administration, will determine whether a project qualifies for a Matching Grant. These grants will be taxable income to the homeowners.

j. Architectural Review. Plans for exterior alterations to College houses purchased under the Housing Program are subject to review and approval under the Architectural Guidelines.

Exceptions to the practices described above are subject to consultation with the Faculty Housing Committee.

All terms of the Housing Program are subject to periodic review by the Trustees of the College and by Administration to determine whether the Program is achieving its goals. The Trustees reserve the right to alter or amend the terms of the Program and the eligibility criteria as the Trustees deem necessary or warranted.

Tags: [Faculty Handbook](#) [benefits](#) [fringe benefits](#) [housing program](#) [salaries](#)

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Retirement

As a faculty member approaches retirement, he or she should consult with the Dean of the Faculty and the Human Resources Office.

Retired faculty have *emeritus* status. *Emeriti* may participate in formal College ceremonies such as Commencement and convocation. They retain library privileges and full access to campus facilities though they cannot normally be granted the use of laboratory or office space. The College will invite those who retire in the area to participate in a variety of College social events.

a. Retirement Plans

(1) *TIAA-CREF Retirement Income Plan*. All full-time and part-time Faculty and Trustee-appointed administrators having completed two years of service, may participate in the College's TIAA-CREF Retirement Plan. The waiting periods may be waived in cases of new appointees with immediate prior service in a related industry at the time of appointment to Amherst College.

The basic plan provides for a College contribution of 6% of monthly compensation up to an integration level established annually, and 9% of earnings in excess of that level. Through the matching plan, a participant may elect to contribute 1, 2, or 3% of base salary and the College will make an equal, additional contribution to the plan.

The participant may elect to have the total premium applied either to the TIAA annuity or to CREF, or may elect to divide the total premium between TIAA and CREF in any proportion.

Participants' contributions may be made on a pre-tax or after-tax basis.

TIAA and CREF premiums are payable on the first of each month and will be deducted from salary in the same month (for example, July 1st premiums will be deducted from July 31st salary).

The TIAA contract and CREF certificate are the full and immediate property of the individual and on severance from the College may be transferred elsewhere, continued privately, or suspended, and may be redeemed by lump sum payment in accordance with College policy and TIAA repurchase conditions.

Pamphlets describing the various conditions of the plan, tax shelter procedures, and options available under TIAA and CREF are available in the Office of Human Resources.

(2) *Tax Deferred Annuity Plan*. GSRA Plans. Employees of the College may, through a properly drawn salary reduction agreement with the College, direct a portion of their compensation towards the purchase of a Group Supplemental Retirement Annuity (GSRA). Such reductions of compensation would not be subject to Federal income tax until they are received as benefits, which can be as early as age 59 1/2 without restrictions, or earlier, under certain circumstances, but generally occurs when the participant is retired and in a lower tax bracket. A GSRA is an annuity contract especially designed for use by those who want to set aside tax-deferred retirement funds over and above amounts being accumulated under the College's basic retirement plan.

GSRA annuities, like regular TIAA and CREF annuities, are fully owned by the Faculty member, provide the same choice of lifetime annuity income options, provide for loans, and are not assignable. GSRA annuities can be established with the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association, or the faculty member may select another plan, subject to such plan meeting the administrative requirements of the College.

(3) *Optional Phased Retirement Plan*. Any regular member of the Faculty with ten (10) years or more of tenured service may elect to participate in the Optional Phased Retirement Plan at the end of the College year in which their 60th or subsequent birthdays to age 70 occur. Arrangements to participate in the plan should be made with the Dean of the Faculty by January 1 of the College year preceding entry into the plan. Such arrangements will be incorporated into an agreement which is subject to the approval of the President. The faculty member's department should be informed of the arrangements at the earliest possible date.

The plan provides opportunity for a member of the Faculty to teach part time through the end of the College year in which age 70 is attained. The plan also provides an early retirement option (see below) that does not require teaching. This option is available to members of the Faculty as early as the end of the College year in which their 62nd birthday occurs through the end of the year in which their 65th birthday occurs.

The general provisions of the plan are:

(a) *Stipends*. Stipends are payments for services rendered as established by the agreement. The value will be adjusted annually to reflect the percent change in the average salary of full professors.

(b) *Service Agreement*. The individual choosing to participate in the plan will teach two courses in either one semester or both of a given academic year as agreed upon with the Dean of the Faculty and the Department. During the period that a faculty member is on phased retirement, he or she may take up to one year of unpaid leave of absence. A faculty member on phased retirement is not eligible for sabbatic leave. It is expected that other obligations such as advising students and committee or community service will continue on a half-time basis.

(c) *Retirement Income and Benefits*

1) The College will pay the participating faculty member a percentage of his or her salary as follows, adjusted annually to reflect the percent change in the average salary of full professors through the end of the year in which age 65 occurs:

(1) Ages 60 - 61 70% of salary

(2) Ages 62 - 65 60% of salary

2) The College Housing and Second Mortgage Programs are available under the same terms as applicable to regular Faculty.

3) The Grant-in-Aid Program is applicable.

4) The participant may continue in the basic Group Life Insurance Program with coverage based on the

estimated full time salary adjusted annually to reflect the percent change in the average salary of full professors. The College pays the full cost of this benefit for the length of the agreement generally to the end of the year in which age 70 is attained.

5) Participation in the College's health and dental plans will be continued on the same cost basis as regular Faculty members from the date of entry into the Phased Retirement Plan until the service agreement terminates.

Thereafter, a supplement to Medicare is available at no cost to participants for life for faculty hired prior to July 1, 2003. Dental benefits normally cease at retirement but may be extended at the faculty member's expense through COBRA. The College will reimburse the participants for the cost of Medicare premiums for self and spouse if the faculty member meets certain grandfathering provisions. Spouse and dependent's coverage under a medical plan may be added at the individual's expense.

6) Facilities, Library and secretarial services normally accorded faculty in connection with services rendered are available to the participant.

7. The College will continue to contribute to the individual's retirement annuity with TIAA-CREF. The participant will also be required to contribute to TIAA-CREF. The amount will be the same as those for active faculty, 9% up to an integration level established annually, and 12% of the balance of salary. Employee contributions will equal 3% of salary.

8) Disability benefits through TIAA-CREF cease upon participation in the Phased Retirement Plan. In the event of disability between the ages of 60 - 65, early retirement income of 60% or 70%, depending on the age at time of disability, will continue through the end of the college year in which age 65 is attained. The service stipend will cease at the end of the month in which the disability occurs.

9) In the event of death between the ages of 60 - 65, a death benefit will be paid to the next of kin (if dependent) consisting of six (6) months' payment of estimated full salary. Payments of premiums to TIAA-CREF will cease at the end of the month in which death occurs.

10) Participation in the Amherst Plan may continue coincident with the service agreement.

(4) *Early Retirement*. Teaching or performance of other services is not required. The College will provide 60% of salary between the ages of 62 and 65, plus all the above benefits excluding the stipend for services rendered, retirement plan contributions, and Amherst Plan.

Eligibility for early retirement ceases at the end of the College year in which age 65 is attained.

Tags: [benefits](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [fringe benefits](#) | [fringe benefits for full-time faculty](#) | [retirement](#) | [salaries](#)

Group Health and Dental Insurance

Regular faculty are eligible to select one of the health care programs offered by the College.

Faculty may select individual or family coverage. Faculty enrolling in a plan will also be included in the Dental Plan in a corresponding individual or family contract. Specific plan details, current rate information and enrollment forms are available in Human Resources Office.

Family coverage may include a spouse, unmarried children under age 19 and children who are full-time students until age 25 for health, age 23 for dental, or until they are no longer full-time students, whichever is earlier. Dependent coverage after age 19 is not automatic. To avoid loss of coverage, the Human Resources Office must be notified of student status 30 days prior to the dependent's 19th birthday. A new enrollment form will be required for continued coverage.

The current College contribution to a full-time Faculty member's premium is equal to the current rate of a single plan. An additional College contribution is made towards family coverage. Premium payments by the College are prorated for regular Faculty members working on a part-time basis.

Changes in plan participation, other than as a result of marriage, childbirth or adoption, generally may be made during the annual open enrollment period.

Health insurance for active faculty members over age 65 and their spouses remains the same as it was prior to age 65. The College recommends that employees contact the Social Security Administration three months before turning 65. However, it is not necessary to enroll in Medicare Parts A and B until separation from the College.

In certain instances where coverage under the group health plans would otherwise end, the College offers faculty members and their families the opportunity for a temporary extension of health coverage at group rates with the faculty member paying the full cost of coverage. Further information about continuation of coverage (COBRA) is available in the Human Resources Office.

Upon retirement, at or after age 62 with 10 years of service, regular faculty members who began employment prior to July 1, 2003 are eligible for certain post-retirement health care coverage through the College. Please consult with the Office of Human Resources regarding your retiree health benefit.

Retiree health benefits for faculty hired on or after July 1, 2003 are currently under review. This website will be updated when the new plan is available.

Visiting faculty, full- or part-time, are eligible for health insurance.

Tags: [benefits](#) | [dental insurance](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [fringe benefits](#) | [fringe benefits for full-time faculty](#) | [group health](#) | [salaries](#)

Employee Assistance Plan

The Employee Assistance Plan (EAP) is a confidential resource and referral service that the College makes available to all Amherst College employees, their spouses and dependents. The Wellness Corporation provides a number of services including consultation, problem assessment, referral and follow-up services for a wide variety of personal and health-related problems. Visit www.WellnessWorkLife.com for information on a variety of topics.

Employees and their families may call (800) 828-6025 to speak with a professional counselor, or to schedule an appointment. Medical family leave days can be used by an employee for FSAP appointments.

Tags: [benefits](#) | [employee assistance plan](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [fringe benefits](#) | [fringe benefits for full-time faculty](#) | [salaries](#)

Group Life Insurance

On the first of the month following three consecutive months of employment, faculty members are eligible for College-paid group life insurance coverage. To age 65 the insurance coverage is equal to 1.5 times an employee's annual salary. Upon attainment of age 65, the amount of insurance is equal to 1 time the basic annual salary and 67% at age 70.

In all cases, if the amount of insurance is not an even multiple of \$1,000, it is raised to the next higher \$1,000 multiple.

Optional life insurance with additional coverage of one, two, or three times a faculty member's annual salary may be purchased at low group rates, subject to a \$300,000 overall maximum. Enrollment for additional coverage can occur at time of appointment. If application for additional coverage occurs at a later time, a health statement and examination will occur.

A faculty member leaving the College may convert this insurance to a private plan and continue it at his or her own expense. To do so, he or she should consult the Human Resources Office.

Tags: [benefits](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [fringe benefits](#) | [fringe benefits for full-time faculty](#) | [group life Insurance](#) | [life Insurance](#) | [salaries](#)

Long Term Disability Insurance

On the first of the month following three consecutive months of employment, the College provides all faculty members with Long Term Disability Insurance coverage. Under this plan, faculty are assured of replacement of a substantial portion of income when faced with long-term illness or injury. After certification of the disability by the insurance carrier, the plan provides the following benefits beginning the first of the month following six consecutive months of disability:

A monthly income, inclusive of any income for Social Security and Workers' Compensation, of 60% of basic annual salary as of the date of disability, to a maximum benefit of \$4,500 monthly. The minimum benefit is \$50/month regardless of other sources of income.

The continuation of contributions to TIAA-CREF annuity in accordance with the terms of the retirement plan.

Continuation of College-provided life insurance benefits at the level of coverage at the time of disability until age 70 or cessation of benefits, if later.

The above benefits continue for up to 24 months for partial disability, or to age 65 for full disability. Additional benefits may be available after age 65 depending on circumstances and commencement of benefits. Health insurance benefits may be continued as defined by COBRA regulations.

An employee receiving benefits from the plan is normally considered separated from the College.

A faculty member leaving the College may convert this insurance to a private plan and continue it at his or her own expense.

Specific plan details are available in the Office of Human Resources.

Tags: [benefits](#) | [disability insurance](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [fringe benefits](#) | [fringe benefits for full-time faculty](#) | [long term disability insurance](#)

Workers' Compensation Insurance

In accordance with State law, the College carries Workers' Compensation Insurance for all faculty members. It is important that any injury, however slight, incurred on duty be reported immediately to the Department Chair and the Human Resources Office in order to comply with the provisions of the law.

When compensation payments are made by the insurance company, the College will make up the difference between the amount paid and the faculty member's salary as long as the faculty member has active status. Extended absence due to injury incurred while on duty may prompt the College to request disability insurance benefits for the faculty member following six full months of absence. Supplemental salary payments made by the College will cease upon approval for long-term disability benefits.

Tags: [benefits](#) | [compensation insurance](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [fringe benefits](#) | [fringe benefits for full-time faculty](#) | [insurance](#) | [workers' compensation insurance](#)

Death Benefits

If a participant in the TIAA-CREF Retirement Program dies before retirement, the beneficiary will receive the accumulated value of the retirement contracts, including the contributions of Amherst College and the proceeds of the life insurance plan.

In case of death of any regular member of the faculty, in addition to TIAA and life insurance benefits, the College will give to his or her next of kin, if dependent, a sum equal to one month's pay if the deceased was employed by the College for less than five years; three months' pay if employed between five and ten years; and six months' pay if employed ten years or longer.

Tags: [benefits](#) | [death benefits](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [fringe benefits](#) | [fringe benefits for full-time faculty](#)

Travel and Sojourn Insurance

Amherst College provided insurance coverage for a faculty member who is killed or totally disabled as a result of accidental circumstances while traveling on College business away from the normal place of work. The coverage provides for a \$300,000 death benefit per individual with a catastrophic limit of \$1,500,000 for any one accident. The employee's estate receives the death benefit.

These are only the essential features of the plan; details are available in the Office of Human Resources.

Tags: [benefits](#) | [fringe benefits](#) | [fringe benefits for full-time faculty](#) | [insurance](#) | [travel and sojourn insurance](#) | [travel insurance](#)

Benefits During Sabbatic Leave and Leave of Absence

During absence on sabbatical leave, or on an approved leave of absence, contributions to TIAA-CREF and insurance will continue in the normal amount. Any questions concerning this procedure should be discussed with the Director of Human Resources.

Tags: [benefits](#) | [benefits during sabbatic leave](#) | [benefits during sabbatic leave and leave of absence](#) | [fringe benefits](#) | [fringe benefits for full-time faculty](#) | [leave of absence](#) | [sabbatic leave](#)

Family and Medical Leave

The provisions of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) provide faculty members up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave during a 12-month rolling forward period for certain family and medical reasons. To be eligible, faculty members must have worked at the College for at least 12 months and for at least 1,250 hours during the previous 12 months. Leave is available for birth or care of a newborn, adoption or foster care placement of a child, the care of a spouse, son, daughter, or parent with a serious health condition, or in the event of a serious personal illness that prevents the employee from working.

Unpaid leave may be substituted by certain paid leave, in the event of personal illness. Health insurance coverage will be maintained under the same conditions as prior to the leave.

In most cases, Amherst College leave policies equal or exceed FMLA provisions and will be deemed to run concurrently with the leave available under FMLA. However, at no time will FMLA be used to limit already existing rights and protections provided under any other statutory provisions.

Additional details and requirements of FMLA are available in the Human Resources Office and under the Services section of the Handbook.

Tags: [benefits](#) | [family and medical leave](#) | [family leave](#) | [fringe benefits](#) | [fringe benefits for full-time faculty](#) | [medical leave](#)

Moving Expenses

New members of the faculty are eligible for reimbursement of expenses incurred in the transportation of household goods and personal effects to the Amherst area. The President or the Dean of the Faculty may authorize payments of actual expenses up to \$1,000 for moving distances of up to 1,000 miles; \$1,500 for 1,000 to 2,000 miles; and \$2,000 for over 2,000 miles.

Arrangements for reimbursement are made through the Office of Human Resources.

Tags: [benefits](#) | [fringe benefits](#) | [fringe benefits for full-time faculty](#) | [moving expenses](#)

Grant-in-Aid Program

Dependent children of regular, full-time faculty members with five years of full-time service are eligible for the Grant-in-Aid benefit per academic semester.

Grant recipients must be legal dependents as defined by the IRS for Federal income tax purposes and must be enrolled as full-time undergraduates in an accredited two- or four-year college or university. Grants are made annually for a maximum of four academic years or eight academic semesters, or the equivalent, and are limited to the grant established for the year in question or the tuition of the institution attended, whichever is lower. Board, room, and other special fees are not covered by this grant.

Applications, along with a copy of current tuition charges, should be submitted to the Office of Human Resources no later than August 1st for the full academic year. Payments are made directly to the institution attended in two equal installments on or about August 15th and December 15th. Payment for the first and second semesters will be made after submission of the bill.

Children of eligible faculty members who retire or who die while employed will continue to receive the grant if the eligible dependent is currently enrolled at an accredited college or university at the time of death or retirement of the parent. Faculty members who otherwise separate from the College prior to the start of the semester will not be eligible to participate in the plan. Faculty who otherwise separate from the College during the semester will be responsible for refunding to the College a prorated share of the value of the Grant-in-Aid payment as determined by the College.

Applications and current program details may be obtained in the Office of Human Resources.

Tags: [benefits](#) | [fringe benefits](#) | [fringe benefits for full-time faculty](#) | [grant-in-aid program](#)

The Amherst Plan

With the Amherst Plan, a flexible spending plan established under Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code, all faculty members may elect annually to pay for certain eligible expenses with before-tax salary dollars—dollars excluded from income for Federal, State and Social Security purposes. By taking advantage of the tax savings options offered by the plan, faculty members may increase their take-home pay. Faculty may choose to make before-tax deductions for any health insurance premiums they pay and/or set aside salary dollars to cover qualified out-of-pocket health and dependent care expenses. Expenses incurred during a plan year will be reimbursed up to the amount set aside in the related account. The IRS requires that any money remaining in a faculty member's account at the end of a plan year will be forfeited.

Participation is on a fiscal-year basis (July 1-June 30) with an annual open enrollment period. New faculty members may enroll in the plan within 90 days of hire date. Specific plan details and enrollment information are available in the Office of Human Resources.

Tags: [benefits](#) | [fringe benefits](#) | [fringe benefits for full-time faculty](#) | [The Amherst Plan](#)

Unemployment Compensation

All faculty of Amherst College are covered by the provisions of the Massachusetts Employment Security Law (commonly referred to as "Unemployment Compensation") and, therefore, are entitled to all applicable benefits under the act. This program provides weekly income benefits to all eligible individuals during periods of full or partial unemployment.

Employees on approved leaves of absence are not eligible for unemployment compensation.

Tags: [benefits](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [fringe benefits](#) | [fringe benefits for full-time faculty](#) | [unemployment](#) | [unemployment compensation](#)

Computer Purchases

Regular faculty members are eligible to purchase computers and some peripheral equipment at discount prices. A partial 24 month interest free loan for the purchase of this equipment may be arranged and paid for through payroll deduction.

Tags: [benefits](#) | [computer purchases](#) | [fringe benefits](#) | [fringe benefits for full-time faculty](#)

[Home](#) » [Academics](#) » [Dean of the Faculty](#) » [Forms, Policies, and Handbooks](#) » [Faculty Handbook](#) » [V. Salaries and Fringe Benefits](#) » [C. Fringe Benefit Programs for Full-time Faculty](#) » **16. Computer Purchases**

Fringe Benefit Programs for Part-time Regular Faculty

Regular, part-time faculty are eligible for certain fringe benefits as follows:

1. Retirement

The date of appointment is the date for determining entry into TIAA, normally after two years of service. The percentage of contributions is the same as for full-time personnel.

2. Housing

Part-time, regular faculty members are eligible for College housing on the same basis as full-time faculty. Visiting faculty, full- or part-time, are eligible for College housing, but only after all regular faculty have been considered.

3. Insurance Coverage

Health insurance is available on a proportionate cost basis. The appointee shares the cost based on the terms of the appointment. Premium payments by the College are prorated for employees working on a part-time basis.

4. Life and Disability Insurance

The TIAA basic and optional group life insurance and long-term disability plans are available according to the terms of the current plan, as is the College's death benefit.

Tags: [benefit programs for part-time faculty](#) | [benefits](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [fringe benefit programs](#) | [fringe benefits](#)

College Facilities and Services

[A. Libraries](#)

1. The Libraries on the Amherst College Campus
2. Five-College Library Cooperation

[B. Department of Information Technology](#)

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1. Campus Mail and Post Office
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Tags: [college facilities and services](#) | [dean of the faculty](#) | [facilities](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [services](#)

Libraries

1. The Libraries on the Amherst College Campus

The Amherst College Library consists of the main Robert Frost Library, the Keefe Science Library, the Vincent Morgan Music Library, and the Visual Resources Collection. In addition, a portion of the mathematics collection is housed in the Olds Mathematics Library in Seeley Mudd and an affiliated collection, the Amherst Center for Russian Culture, is located on the second floor of Webster Hall. The Frost Library houses the collections in the social sciences, humanities, and fine arts and is a designated Federal Depository Library. Frost is also home to the Archives and Special Collections, the “behind-the-scenes” departments that administer library services.

The library’s collections include more than 1 million volumes and 575,000 other media materials. Notable holdings include the Robert Frost Collection, the Emily Dickinson Collection, and the Papers of Louise Bogan. Most of the Library’s holdings are readily available in the campus libraries, although some older materials, mostly journals, have been moved to off-site storage. The online Four-College Catalog provides access not only to Amherst’s collections, but also to those of Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, and Smith College.

To facilitate communication and foster collaboration between the library and the Faculty, each academic department is assigned a library liaison. A liaison serves as a department’s primary contact person in the library for collection development issues, seniors working on theses, and information about library services, making referrals to other librarians and library departments as needed.

Research and Instruction Services

The library emphasizes strong support for faculty members in their research and course development. In addition to providing general reference service at Reference in Robert Frost Library, in Science, or in Music, librarians are available for individual appointments for in-depth assistance or to go over online research and electronic resources from individuals’ own workstations.

Many of the library’s electronic resources may be accessed from home as well as on campus. Follow Information Technology’s directions for connecting from off campus.

Librarians support teaching by providing instruction in using the library and its resources. In addition to offering general research sessions, librarians work with faculty members to design library instruction sessions tailored to the research needs of their courses and assist in integrating library research guides and resources into Blackboard courses. Individual research appointments provide the opportunity for students to meet individually with a reference librarian to discuss resources and research strategies for term paper assignments, research projects, class presentations, and honors theses. Faculty members who wish to discuss the various options for instruction in their courses should contact their library liaison.

Borrowing

Amherst College faculty members have generous borrowing privileges from Amherst College libraries: 365 days for books and scores, three days for journals, seven days for media materials, and twenty-eight days for Music CDs. A valid Amherst College ID is required.

New Materials for the Library

Faculty members are encouraged to participate in collection development by recommending all types of materials for purchase. Each academic department is assigned a library budget allocation, with unencumbered funds reverting in April to the general acquisitions fund, to be spent in the best interest of the library. While the library's primary responsibility is to support the curriculum and College programs, the library also supports faculty research when possible. Requests may be sent through the library's online purchase request form, via email or on paper, including clearly marked catalogs and announcements from publishers and dealers. Faculty members should contact their library liaison with questions and ideas about developing the library's collection.

Supplementary acquisitions funds are available for new faculty members to select extra materials in their areas of scholarly interest and for all faculty members who are developing new courses. For information about those funds, contact the Librarian of the College (x2212 or email: sharrington).

Reserve Services

Physical and electronic reserve services are offered by Frost, Science, Music, and Visual Resources. Reserves are commonly used to provide supplemental readings, to make an item available throughout an entire semester, and to provide a convenient locale for students to use required materials. All types of materials, including books, copies of articles, problem sets, and video and sound recordings, can be placed on reserve.

Submit reserve reading lists as early as possible to allow sufficient time for recalling books that have been charged out and for purchasing or borrowing books and articles not in the collection. For new purchases, use the online form. Enter the course number and set Special Handling to "Rush." Extra copies of reserve books are charged to a separate reserve book fund.

Interlibrary loan service

Books and scores, journal articles, and other materials not available through the Four-College or University of Massachusetts catalogs can be requested through ILLiad, the College's interlibrary loan system. First-time users are required to register with the library and set up an ILLiad account. There is no charge for interlibrary loans.

Media Center

The Media Center provides campus-wide classroom media support, as well as language-learning and media production facilities in the center itself. The center, located on Frost Library Level A, houses a large collection of films, videotapes, and DVDs, all listed in the Four-College Library Catalog, as well as a variety of cameras and other video production equipment. The center collections and equipment are available for loan. Use the online form to request media support for your class.

For more information, consult Services for Faculty, drop by one of the libraries, or visit the library's home page: <http://www.amherst.edu/~library>. Faculty members who have questions about the library should send the reference librarians email from the homepage or call them at x2319.

2. Five-College Library Cooperation

The Five-College libraries share resources by making their collections easily accessible to all members of the five cooperating institutions. There is one online library catalog for the four colleges (Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith) and another database for the holdings of the University of Massachusetts Library. A search in one catalog is easily redone in the other. Amherst faculty members may borrow in person from any of the Five-College libraries or may have books from any of those libraries retrieved and delivered through the “Request” feature offered through the online catalogs.

Tags: [dean of the faculty](#) | [facilities](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [libraries](#)

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Department of Information Technology

The Department of Information Technology provides a wide variety of services and facilities to faculty and students. A standard computer, printer, and a suite of software are provided to all full-time faculty, as well as to part-time faculty where appropriate. A high speed Ethernet network reaches all faculty offices and classrooms, allowing faculty to connect to systems and resources on campus, in the library, and on the Internet at large. Email accounts, web accounts, and voice mail are provided for all faculty and students. Faculty also have access to private disk storage space. There are a variety of high speed color and black-and-white printers, scanners, and other specialized devices available for use in the Computer Center on the first floor of Seeley G. Mudd Building. A telephone help desk service, answered by professional staff, is available during normal business hours at 542-2526. The College participates in purchase programs with both Dell and Apple which permit faculty to buy personal computers at a discount for home use.

Curricular Computing Services, also located on the first floor of the Seeley G. Mudd Building, provides support to faculty using technology in their teaching. The department runs workshops and seminars for faculty and seminars for faculty and student technology assistants on a variety of topics. Faculty are welcome to come by the Faculty Computer Research Center in the Curricular Computing Office to browse the technology reading materials or to meet with a Curricular Computing Services staff member for one-on-one consultation and project planning assistance.

Most Amherst students own their own computers. Students may buy computers at discount prices from both Dell and Apple, either directly or through the College with the support of an interest-free College loan. The campus-wide Ethernet network extends to all dorm rooms, allowing students to connect their computers to the Internet. All students may use College-owned computers in the Seeley G. Mudd Building; in the Computer Center from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 a.m. most days. Students can print from their rooms to the high-speed laser printers available in the Computer Center. They also have access to the special resource room containing various scanners and specialized software.

Tags: [college facilities](#) | [college facilities and services](#) | [Department of Information Technology](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [IT](#)

Office of Administrative Services/Mailing Center

Work processing, copying and mailing services are available to all faculty members and, in particular, to those departments which have less than full-time department coordinators. The department is located in the basement of College Hall and is open five days a week during the entire year.

Available services include word processing, offset press work for high quality printing, high speed copying for medium to high volume of copies per originals, color copying, scanning of images, typesetting of invitations, brochures, notices, etc., and mailing of notices both on campus and through the U.S. Postal system. All work done by this office is charged to the department concerned. While all departments have access to low volume copiers with usage charges allocated back to the department, these copiers have a charge of .05/copy, where as the charge through OAS is cheaper.

Because there is a particularly heavy demand for copying services at certain time of the year, such as the start of each semester, and because other offices of the College rely on the services of OAS, it would be helpful if the faculty could allow at least two working days of lead time in submitting requests for classwork to OAS.

Tags: [college facilities](#) | [facilities and services](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [Mailing Center](#) | [Office of Administrative Services](#)

Athletic Facilities

Year-long athletic passes are available to all College employees, Passes may be obtained at the Alumni Gymnasium Building.

The athletic facilities are available to students, staff, administration, and faculty of Amherst College. Schedules for the fitness center, swimming pool, tennis courts, squash courts, and indoor track are published periodically by the Physical Education Department along with a listing of courses offered each semester.

A partial subsidy (approximately 40%) toward individual membership dues at the Amherst Golf Club, a corporation separate from Amherst College, is available to members of Amherst College, both presently employed or retired. Information concerning golf or other athletic programs may be obtained from the Physical Education Department.

Tags: [Athletic Facilities](#) | [college facilities](#) | [facilities and services](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#)

Reserving Campus Facilities

The Registrar's Office is responsible for the scheduling of all academic and classroom space during the class day (8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) throughout the academic year.

The Rooms Reservations Office books all rooms needed after 4:00 p.m. on week days and on Saturdays and Sundays. This includes Alumni House, Johnson Chapel, and Porter Lounge in Converse Hall.

There is no fee for the use of College space for College-related business, with the exceptions of Physical Plant charges to accommodate special requests, and of Amherst College Dining Service charges, if the event is catered.

Members of the Amherst College community may reserve College space for non-College related events. In that event, a modest rental fee will be charged.

Tags: [college facilities](#) | [facilities and services](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [reserving campus facilities](#)

Campus Services

1. Campus Mail and Post Office

There is a substation of the Amherst Post Office in the Campus Center. Among the services available are: Certified Mail, Express Mail, Parcel Post, Registered Mail, Stamps, United Parcel Service (incoming parcels only). Post Office window hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; and 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday hours are 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Mail addressed for internal campus delivery can be routed through the College Post Office without paying postage, but such mail must be addressed with campus post office box numbers. When mailing more than ten pieces of mail at one time, the mailing must be sorted in numerical order by post office box number. Likewise, mail to be delivered by the Five-College Messenger can be routed through the Post Office without paying postage.

2. The Purchasing Office

The Purchasing Office in the Physical Plant Department will assist faculty members in purchasing furniture, equipment, supplies, etc. from outside vendors, or locating other College departments who may have such items for sale or donation. Each department office has purchase orders and office supply order forms. These forms can be obtained from the Purchasing Office. Faculty members are welcome to visit this office to use furniture catalogs and to obtain price quotations. The purchasing agent can visit the faculty member's office to advise on furniture needs.

3. Campus Police

The function of Campus Police is to ensure the safety and protection of all persons and property at Amherst College and to enforce campus rules and regulations as directed by College officials. Campus Police Officers are empowered to enforce the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. All patrols are equipped with radios and are in constant contact with the College Operator. The patrol can always be reached in an emergency by calling the campus emergency number 542-2111. Security can be reached for non-emergency purposes by calling 542-2291. The Campus Police Office, which is located in the Service Building, Physical Plant, is open Monday through Friday during normal business hours. A security dispatcher is on duty at all times in the Campus Police Office and is available to deal with unusual situations or emergencies. Faculty members must register automobiles and obtain Amherst College parking decals at the Campus Police Office. In addition to patrolling the campus, Campus Police are responsible for registering motor vehicles, traffic and parking control, accident and complaint investigations, transportation of the ill and injured, cash escorts, temporary storage of funds, maintaining a "lost and found" service, and providing personal safety escorts between College facilities during late evening and night hours. Campus Police also performs fire safety patrols and inspections, residence checks of College housing and provides Administration vehicle service.

4. Physical Plant Service Center

Routine maintenance and repairs can be requested by calling the Service Center at ext. 2254. Other work

should be requested on purchase orders, on which the proper customer account number and Department Head signature is provided, and sent to the Service Center. All requests pertaining to College housing should be called in to the Service Center at ext. 2254. Some situations require prompt attention to avoid danger to health, property damage, or severe inconvenience. Examples of such emergencies are power and heating system failures, and serious roof and pipe leaks. Emergencies should be called in to the Service Center at ext. 2254 Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Evening, weekend and holiday emergencies should be called into Campus Security at ext. 2291. Emergency work has hop priority followed by routine maintenance, and then discretionary work and special services are scheduled for the remaining time available and in the order in which they are received. Physical Plant services are limited to College-owned property.

Tags: [campus services](#) | [college facilities](#) | [facilities and services](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [services](#)

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Telephone Service

The Network Department is responsible for all aspects of the College's telephone and voice mail systems. The Network Department can be reached by calling 542-2410, by writing to AC # 2216, or by emailing sajudycki@amherst.edu. Business hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Tags: [college facilities](#) | [facilities and services](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [telephone service](#)

Student Life and Welfare

The Dean of Students and the Registrar are in charge of the administration of academic affairs and College regulations, and the student Deans are in charge of participation in extracurricular activities. Consult the *Student Handbook*, published each fall, for further information.

Information on student organizations, health and safety, psychological services, and religious guidance is also available in the *Student Handbook*. Further information on the advisor system is available in the *College Catalog*. Information on general conduct and residence regulations is available in both the *Student Handbook* and the *Catalog*, and Chapter IV of this *Faculty Handbook* includes a section on Academic Regulations.

Tags: [dean of the faculty](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [student life](#) | [student life and welfare](#) | [student welfare](#)

General Information

1. The Town of Amherst

The Town of Amherst was settled in 1731 as the "Third Precinct" of Hadley, the next town to the west. Amherst was incorporated as a separate town in 1759. In origin solely a farming community, it is now known chiefly for its three educational institutions. Amherst is a town of more than 35,000 inhabitants; the ultimate control of the Town's affairs rests with a representative town meeting. Approximately one-third of the members of the meeting are elected each year for three-year terms by the registered voters. Several members of the College faculty, administration, and staff are town meeting members. A Town Manager conducts town affairs subject to the authority of the Board of Selectmen, a group of five residents elected by the registered voters for three-year terms.

Citizens of Massachusetts, or of other states, moving to Amherst need only provide evidence of their residence in the town to become eligible to vote.

Registration for voting should be arranged with the Town Clerk.

2. The Five-College Area

The [University of Massachusetts](#) was founded as a land grant institution, Massachusetts Agricultural College, in 1863. It became one of the nation's leading centers of agricultural research and instruction. In 1931 its name was changed to Massachusetts State College and in 1947 to the University of Massachusetts. Before World War II it was approximately the same size as Amherst College. Its enrollment is now 23,500, of whom 5,500 students are seeking graduate and professional degrees.

[Mount Holyoke College](#) in South Hadley, ten miles to the south, was founded in 1837 as the first women's institution of higher learning in the country. Its present enrollment is approximately 2,000.

[Smith College](#), seven miles to the west in Northampton, was founded in 1875 and has a current enrollment of about 2,600.

[Hampshire College](#), in South Amherst, enrolled its first class of students in September, 1970. The other four institutions have been instrumental in the growth of Hampshire College and the four presidents are members of Hampshire's governing board. Its enrollment is approximately 1,250.

Among the five institutions there is an extensive program of cooperation in teaching, libraries, educational radio, exhibitions, concerts and dramatic productions, a scheduled bus system, and a joint Five-College calendar. Together the five institutions in the area consist of about 30,000 students and 2,600 faculty members.

A faculty member interested in further details concerning any aspect of Five-College cooperation should consult the Office of the Five-College Coordinator or the Dean of the Faculty.

3. The Amherst Public Schools

[The public schools in the Town of Amherst](#) are managed by an elected school board and an appointed Superintendent. The schools provide classes from kindergarten through the senior year of high school under the direction of the Amherst School Committee (grades K-6) and the Amherst-Pelham Regional School Committee (grades 7-12). Emphasizing individualized instruction, cooperative teaching and continuous progress, the elementary schools are housed in several facilities located throughout the Town. The secondary schools operate a flexible academic program based on achievement, allowing students to accelerate their course work to include college courses while still in high school. The regional junior and senior high schools, located near the center of Amherst, have facilities offering optimum opportunities for many varied programs. These secondary schools are regionalized with the neighboring towns of Pelham, Leverett and Shutesbury. All the public schools of Amherst are under the administrative direction of one superintendent and staff who help provide educational continuity from kindergarten through the senior year in high schools.

4. Automobile Registration in Massachusetts

The State of Massachusetts requires that a car brought into the State be registered in Massachusetts within a period of 30 days. The closest State Registry of Motor Vehicles is located on Russell Road (Route 9), Hadley; operators' licenses and automobile registrations are obtainable at that office between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The State law requires certification by an agent of an insurance firm licensed to practice within the Commonwealth that certain standards of liability insurance are met. Massachusetts State Law requires that motor vehicles registered in the State be inspected once a year by certain authorized garages.

An Amherst College faculty sticker, available from the Amherst College Security Office (Service Building, Physical Plant), is necessary for parking in College lots or on College roads.

Tags: [Amherst Public Schools](#) | [Automobile Registration in Massachusetts](#) | [dean of the faculty](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [general information](#)

The Folger Shakespeare Library

The Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., was established by the will of Henry Clay Folger, of the Class of 1879. Mr. Folger's original collection, which remains the nucleus of the Library's holdings, emphasized Shakespeare, Shakespeare's contemporaries, and the history of Shakespeare production. Continuing acquisitions of books and manuscripts have increased the size of the collection many times over and broadened the scope of the Library to include every phase of Tudor and Stuart civilizations. At present the Library is second only to the British Museum in its holdings of books printed in England between 1475 and 1640. Its holdings in the period from 1540 to 1715 in materials relating to the Continental Renaissance, and in such specialized areas as Renaissance musicology and drama are also extensive.

In his will, Mr. Folger spoke of an institution "for promoting and diffusing knowledge." The Library has sought continuously since its creation to enlarge its educational function. Its reading room is open to all qualified scholars. Through its photo duplication department and its traveling exhibits it provides services for scholars and school groups outside of the Washington area. The Folger Fellowship program offers senior, short-term, and dissertation year fellowships to both foreign and American scholars. Folger Institute seminars are offered annually in cooperation with the consortium universities of the Washington area. A program of lectures, concerts, and cultural events is held at the Folger theater and open to the general public. A publication program further contributes to the Library's objective of "defusing knowledge" of Shakespeare, of English culture, and of the Renaissance.

Through the generosity of the Friends of the Amherst College Library and the Alpha Delta Phi Fund, two Amherst students each year are offered Folger Fellowships. These Fellowships, available by application to the Folger Grants Committee, cover the costs of a two-week January residence at the Folger to work on an honors or other project of the student's design. [Folger Shakespeare Library](#)

Tags: [dean of the faculty](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [libraries](#) | [The Folger Shakespeare Library](#)

The Doshisha University

Located in Kyoto, Japan's ancient imperial capital, The Doshisha was founded by Joseph Hardy Neesima of the Class of 1870, the first Japanese to graduate from a Western institution of higher learning. Neesima stowed away aboard a clipper ship from Japan while it was still officially "closed." From the China Coast he eventually arrived in New England in 1865 aboard a ship owned by Alpheus Hardy who was a trustee of both Phillips Academy, Andover, and Amherst College.

After graduating from both Andover and Amherst, Neesima returned to Japan to found a Christian college in Kyoto. From this modest start The Doshisha has developed into a University of 19,000 students, a separate (but adjacent) Women's College, four senior and three junior high schools, and a kindergarten, with a total enrollment of approximately 30,000 students on four different campuses. The Doshisha is one of the oldest and best known private educational institutions in Japan.

Through the generosity of alumni and friends of the College, Amherst House, a New England Georgian style residence, was built on the Doshisha campus in 1932 as a memorial to Neesima and to Stewart Burton Nichols of the Class of 1922, the first student representative. It houses some twenty Doshisha students and serves as a center for cultural exchange between faculty and students from East and West. Since 1958, a graduating senior has been selected as the Amherst-Doshisha Fellow to live in Amherst House and teach English for one year. Over forty Amherst graduates and numerous Amherst Faculty have taught at The Doshisha.

In 1962 the College, thanks to further generosity of friends and alumni, built a Guest House of modern Japanese design, which includes well-appointed guests suites and dining facilities to enhance the possibilities of cultural exchange.

The six faculties and various institutes of Doshisha University include a Center for American Studies. The environs of Kyoto are among the finest in Japan for the study of classical art and architecture. Since 1976 an arrangement with Doshisha University has been established which permits a member of one of Doshisha's six Faculties (Theology, Letters, Law, Economics, Commerce, Engineering) to spend a year's leave at Amherst. Faculty members interested in the possibility of visiting Kyoto or of doing academic research in Japan, based at The Doshisha, should consult with the President, Dean of the Faculty, or the [Doshisha Committee](#).

[The Doshisha University](#)

Tags: [dean of the faculty](#) | [Doshisha Committee](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [The Doshisha University](#)

Appendix: Federal, State and Local Policies and Regulations

[A. Copyright Law](#)

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[C. The Family and Medical Leave Act](#)

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[G. Patent Policy](#)

Tags: [dean of the faculty](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [faculty handbook appendix](#) | [policies and regulations](#) | [state and local policies and regulations](#)

Copyright Law

All employees of the College are expected to respect the copyright associated with intellectual property which, except under specified circumstances, prohibits the duplication, public display, or performance of such property without permission of the owner of that copyright. Intellectual property includes visual images, software, and other creative expressions, whether fixed electronically or in "hard copy." The copyright law is a particularly important part of the legal framework governing an academic community.

The most important exception to the prohibition against unauthorized copying is "fair use." The meaning of "fair use" has been much litigated, most recently in connection with the production of "course packs" - anthologies of copyrighted materials specially duplicated and sold for particular courses. The courts have been clear, however, that such copying is not fair use, and permission must be obtained for items duplicated as part of such course packs. A useful handbook *Questions And Answers On Copyright For The Campus Community* amplifies the meaning of "fair use" for faculty members, and is available from the Office of Administrative Services.

Permission to copy items is relatively easy to obtain electronically for the large number of items for which the Copyright Clearance Center manages the copyrights, and both Departmental Assistants and OAS are available to help. Usually, the publisher must be written for permission to copy other items.

As the fees demanded by publishers for granting such permissions have risen dramatically, the College is reviewing its policy of paying those fees. In general, whether the College or student pays such fees, faculty members should be as sensitive to these costs in selecting these materials as they are in selecting books for which, of course, the copyright fee is embedded in the purchase price.

Unusual questions concerning copyrights should be addressed to the Office of the Dean of Faculty which will attempt to obtain a professional answer.

Tags: [Copyright Law](#) | [dean of the faculty](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [faculty handbook appendix](#)

Policies and Procedures in Cases of Alleged Misconduct in Science

1. Definition of Scientific Misconduct

Scientific misconduct may consist of fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, or other practices that seriously deviate from those that are commonly accepted within the scientific community for proposing, conducting, or reporting research.

2. Receipt of Allegations or Evidence of Scientific Misconduct

To ensure impartiality in the receipt of allegations or evidence of scientific misconduct and impartiality in the initiation of immediate inquiry into them, all allegations will be addressed to and initially reviewed by the Dean of the Faculty, the Chief Academic Officer of Amherst College.

3. Initiation of Inquiry

Upon receipt and initial review of an allegation of scientific misconduct, the Dean of Faculty will convene that standing committee of the College known as the Committee of Six, consisting of six (6) members of the faculty, elected at large by the faculty. The Dean of the Faculty and the Committee will conduct the initial inquiry.

4. Process of Inquiry

The Committee of Six will review the allegations and/or evidence and will, within sixty days of accepting its charge, complete its initial inquiry, unless circumstances clearly warrant a longer period. The Committee will prepare a written report stating what evidence was reviewed, summarizing relevant interviews, and presenting the inquiry's conclusions. If an inquiry takes longer than 60 days to complete, the report will also contain documentation of the reasons for exceeding the 60-day period.

The Dean of the Faculty will provide the subject of the inquiry with a copy of the report. If the subject comments on the report, the comments will be made part of the record.

The Dean of the Faculty and all persons involved in conducting the inquiry will protect, to the maximum extent possible, the privacy of those who in good faith report apparent misconduct.

They will also effort the affected individual(s) confidential treatment to the maximum extent possible and will permit the subject to comment on the allegations and findings of the inquiry.

5. Records of Inquiry

The Dean of the Faculty will maintain for three years sufficiently detailed documentation of inquiries to permit later assessment of the conclusion that an investigation was not warranted, providing those records to the government on request.

6. Initiation of Investigation

If, after an inquiry, it is determined that an investigation is warranted, the Dean of the Faculty will notify the Office of Research Integrity in writing before the date the investigation begins. The notification will include the subject's name, the general nature of the allegation, and the PHS application or grant numbers involved.

The investigation will be initiated within 30 days of the completion of an inquiry that provides sufficient evidence that an investigation is warranted.

7. Process of Investigation

The investigation will be conducted by an ad hoc committee composed of members of the Amherst College faculty. The members of the committee will be named by the Committee of Six. When appropriate, persons with particular expertise in the area(s) under investigation will be included on the ad hoc investigating committee. The investigation will pursue all significant issues and will include examination of all available documentation, including relevant research data and proposals, publication, correspondence, and memoranda of telephone calls. The investigation will include interviews with individuals who have or might have information about the allegation and/or evidence. Each interview will be completely summarized in writing, and reviewed and commented upon by the person interviewed. A complete record of documentation will be maintained, substantiating the findings of the investigation. If the investigation cannot be completed within 120 days from its initiation, the Dean of the Faculty will request from the Office of Research Integrity an extension, including with the request an explanation for the delay, an interim progress report and an estimated completion date.

8. Outcome of Investigation

If the ad hoc committee charged with conducting an investigation concludes that there is substantial evidence to support an allegation or evidence of scientific misconduct, they will submit their report together with any recommendations for the imposition of sanctions to the President of the College who will act upon the report and its recommendations. The President will communicate his or her decision to the individual(s) found to have engaged in scientific misconduct and will require of said individual(s) a written statement of their views, including their views of the sanctions imposed upon them.

The Dean of the Faculty will notify the Office of Research Integrity of the outcome of the investigation and will submit a detailed report of the policies and procedures of the investigation, sources of information, findings and the basis for findings, the response of the individual(s) charged, and a description of any sanctions taken. The Dean will prepare and maintain documentation to substantiate an investigation's findings, and will make this documentation available to the Director of the Office of Research Integrity.

The Dean of the Faculty will also, if necessary, take interim administrative measures to protect federal funds.

9. Notification of the Office of Research Integrity

In addition to notifications of the Office of Research Integrity as provided for in Sections 6, 7 and 8 above, the Dean of the Faculty will also promptly advise ORI of any developments during the course of the investigation which disclose facts that may affect current or potential DHHS funding for individual(s) under investigation or that the PHS needs to know to ensure appropriate use of federal funds and otherwise protect the public interest. Furthermore, if there is any plan to end an inquiry or an investigation early, the Dean of the Faculty will notify ORI, explaining the reasons for the decision.

The ORI will also be informed at any stage of an inquiry or investigation of any immediate health hazard, need to protect federal funds or equipment, or need to protect the interests of persons involved in the inquiry or investigation (including those who have made or who are the subject of allegations, their associates, and investigators), or if it is probable that the alleged misconduct is about to be reported publicly.

ORI will also be informed within 24 hours after receiving any reasonable indication that a crime may have been committed.

10. Protection of Individuals

The College will take precautions against real or apparent conflicts of interest among persons involved in an inquiry or investigation. It will undertake diligent efforts, as appropriate, to restore the reputations of persons alleged to have engaged in misconduct when allegations are not confirmed, and also undertake diligent efforts to protect the positions and reputations of those persons who, in good faith, make allegations.

11. Dissemination of Policy

The Dean of the Faculty will distribute annually to all faculty and research associates at Amherst College who are engaged in scientific research a copy of this statement of policies and procedures with a letter emphasizing the importance of compliance with them.

Adopted 1990, revised 1995 .

Tags: [alleged misconduct](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [faculty handbook appendix](#) | [misconduct](#) | [Policies and Procedures in Cases of Alleged Misconduct](#)

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The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993

FMLA requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to "eligible" employees for certain family and medical reasons. Employees are eligible if they have worked for a covered employer for at least one year, and for 1,250 hours over the previous 12 months, and if there are at least 50 employees within 75 miles.

Reasons For Taking Leave

Unpaid leave must be granted for any of the following reasons:

to care for the employee's child after birth, or placement for adoption or foster care:

to care for the employee's spouse, son or daughter, or parent, who has a serious health condition: or

for a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the employee's job.

At the employee's or employer's option, certain kinds of paid leave may be substituted for unpaid leave.

Advance Notice and Medical Certification:

The employee may be required to provide advance leave notice and medical certification. Taking of leave may be denied if requirements are not met.

The employee ordinarily must provide 30 days advance notice when the leave is "foreseeable."

An employer may require medical certification to support a request for leave because of a serious health condition, and may require second or third opinions (at the employer's expense) and a fitness for duty report to return to work.

Job Benefits and Protection:

For the duration of FMLA leave, the employer must maintain the employee's health coverage under any "group health plan."

Upon return from FMLA leave, most employees must be restored to their original or equivalent positions with equivalent pay, benefits, and other employment terms.

The use of FMLA leave cannot result in the loss of any employment benefit that accrued prior to the start of an employee's leave.

Unlawful Acts By Employers:

FMLA makes it unlawful for any employer to:

interfere with, restrain, or deny the exercise of any right provided under FMLA:

discharge or discriminate against any person for opposing any practice made unlawful by FMLA or for

involvement in any proceeding under or relating to FMLA.

Enforcement:

The U.S. Department of labor is authorized to investigate and resolve complaints of violations.

An eligible employee may bring a civil action against an employer for violations.

FMLA does not affect any Federal or State law prohibiting discrimination, or supersede any State or local law or collective bargaining agreement which provides greater family or medical leave rights.

For Additional Information:

Contact personnel office of nearest office of the Wage and Hour Division, listed in most telephone directories under U.S. Government, Department of Labor.

Tags: [Faculty Handbook](#) | [faculty handbook appendix](#) | [family leave](#) | [medical leave](#) | [The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993](#)

Drug Free Schools and Communities Act

The provisions of the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act Amendment of 1989 require Amherst College, as a recipient of federal financial aid and grants and contracts, to adopt and implement programs to prevent the use of illicit drugs and unlawful use of alcohol by employees and students.

Specifically, the Act requires the following actions by the College:

- 1) To establish standards of conduct that prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of drugs and alcohol by employees on campus or during any campus activities.
- 2) To apprise employees of the applicable legal sanctions under local, State and Federal Law and of the sanctions the institution will impose for violations of the policy.
- 3) To alert all such persons of the health risks associated with drug and alcohol abuse; and to inform employees about available counseling, treatment, and rehabilitation programs.
- 4) Conduct biennial reviews of their programs to assess their effectiveness, and the need for changes to ensure consistent enforcement of sanctions.

Amherst College fully supports the objectives of the Act, as expressed in the policy statement below, which is in effect for all faculty, administration, and staff. The Dean of Students has prepared a separate statement of policy regarding standards of conduct for students.

Campus Guidelines for Federal Drug Free Schools and Communities Act

Amherst College, in accordance with both federal legislative and existing policy, is committed to providing a drug-free, healthy, and safe environment for all faculty and staff.

The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of a controlled substance, and the unlawful possession or use of alcoholic beverages on the campus is prohibited. If it is determined that a violation of this policy has occurred, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with appropriate handbooks and referral to government authority for prosecution will result, where clearly required by law. Legal penalties for violation of these regulations include possible fines and/or imprisonment.

Alcohol abuse is the principal drug problem in this country, and the cause of grievous effects on behavior and health. It regularly impairs judgment, vision, coordination and speech, and often leads to dangerous and violent conduct, with tragic consequences to the individual and others. Over the long-term, the danger resulting to an alcoholic's own health and a family's well-being may be irreversible. And as with alcohol, regular users of other drugs develop physical dependence, so that when denied drugs, they experience withdrawal symptoms. Beyond that, psychological dependence occurs when the drug becomes central to the user's life and dominates all decisions.

Amherst College recognizes alcohol and drug dependency as an illness and a major health problem, and is anxious to help both those directly affected by it, and their families, who suffer the consequences. Employees

who need help with substance abuse problems, or co-workers/family members of substance abusers are encouraged to use the [Employee Assistance Program](#) located at the University of Massachusetts at 545-0350. Services include assessment, referral to professional treatment and self-help programs, an early recovery group and extensive follow-up. All contacts are confidential and conscientious efforts to seek help will not jeopardize any employee's job.

Issued 1990

Tags: [Drug Free Schools](#) | [Drug Free Schools and Communities Act](#) | [Faculty Handbook](#) | [faculty handbook appendix](#)

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Town of Amherst Regulations Prohibiting Tobacco Smoking in Public Places and Places of Employment

The Town of Amherst Health Department has enacted an ordinance prohibiting smoking in all workplaces including those of private employers. The ordinance now strictly prohibits smoking in all workplaces, including private offices, classrooms, meeting and conference rooms, recreational and dining facilities, restrooms, lounges, or any other enclosed place where College business might normally be conducted.

The College has been advised that the Amherst Health Department views dormitory rooms to be exempt from the ordinance on the basis of their definition as private residences. In all dormitory building common areas, however, smoking shall be prohibited. Outdoor areas of the campus are not regulated by the provisions of this ordinance. The ordinance carries the full weight of State law, deriving its authority from Chapter 111 of the General Laws. Penalties for violations in the form of fines may be imposed on both individual employees and on the College itself. Continued violations may jeopardize other existing permits issued to the College by the Amherst Health Department.

Tags: [Faculty Handbook](#) | [faculty handbook appendix](#) | [regulations](#) | [smoking](#) | [smoking in public places](#)

Sexual Harassment Policy

I. Introduction

This policy incorporates and supplements the 1993 Statement on Sexual Harassment voted by the faculty and applies to all College employees, including faculty, trustee-appointed administrative and professional staff, and all other staff.

It is the goal of Amherst College to promote a workplace that is free of sexual harassment. Sexual harassment of employees occurring in the workplace or in other settings in which employees may find themselves in connection with their employment is unlawful and will not be tolerated by the College. Further, retaliation against an individual who has complained about sexual harassment or who has cooperated with an investigation of a sexual harassment complaint is similarly unlawful and will not be tolerated. To achieve the College's goal of providing a workplace free from sexual harassment, inappropriate conduct described in this policy will be dealt with using the established informal and formal procedures of the College, including disciplinary action, where appropriate.

Amherst College takes allegations of sexual harassment seriously and will respond promptly to complaints. Where it is determined that such inappropriate conduct has occurred, the College will act promptly to eliminate the conduct.

Please note that while this policy sets forth the College's goals of promoting a workplace that is free of sexual harassment, the policy is not designed or intended to limit the College's authority to discipline or take remedial action for workplace conduct which is unacceptable, regardless of whether that conduct satisfies the definition of sexual harassment.

As stated in the Faculty Statement on Sexual Harassment, the sexual harassment of students by College employees (faculty or staff) is also a violation of law and of College policy and will be cause for disciplinary action. (Sexual harassment of students by peers is covered in the *Student Handbook*.)

II. Definition of Sexual Harassment

In Massachusetts, the legal definition for sexual harassment is this:

Sexual harassment means sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when

(a) submission to or rejection of such advances, requests or conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of employment or as a basis for employment decisions;

or

(b) such advances, requests or conduct have the purpose or effect of unreasonable interfering with an individual's work performance by creating an intimidating, hostile, humiliating or sexually offensive work environment.

Under these definitions, direct or implied requests by a supervisor for sexual favors in exchange for actual or promised job benefits such as favorable reviews, salary increases, promotions, increased benefits, or continued

employment constitutes sexual harassment. For purposes of this policy, senior faculty may be considered to be in a supervisory relationship with junior faculty. Faculty of all ranks may also be in a supervisory relationship with staff and students.

The legal definition of sexual harassment is broad and, in addition to the above examples, other sexually oriented conduct, whether intended to be or not, that is unwelcome and has the effect of creating a work place environment that is hostile, offensive, intimidating, or humiliating to male or female employees may also constitute sexual harassment.

While it is not possible to list all of the circumstances that may constitute sexual harassment, the following are some examples of conduct which if unwelcome, may constitute sexual harassment depending upon the totality of the circumstances, including the severity of the conduct and its pervasiveness:

- Unwelcome sexual advances - whether they involve physical touching or not;
- Sexual epithets, jokes, written or oral references to sexual conduct, gossip regarding one's sex life; comment on an individual's body, comment about an individual's sexual activity, deficiencies or prowess;
- Displaying sexually suggestive objects, pictures, cartoons;
- Unwelcome leering, whistling, brushing against the body, sexual gestures, suggestive or insulting comments;
- Inquiries into one's sexual experiences; and,
- Discussion of one's sexual activities.

All employees should take special note that, as stated above, retaliation against an individual who has complained about sexual harassment or who has cooperated with an investigation of a sexual harassment complaint is unlawful and will not be tolerated by the College.

III. Complaints of Sexual Harassment

If any employee believes that he or she has been subjected to sexual harassment, the employee has the right to make use of all the established procedures of the College, including the filing of a complaint. This may be done in writing or orally.

If an employee wishes to file a complaint he or she may do so by contacting the Special Assistant to the President for Diversity, AC # 2217, 102 Cooper House, telephone 542-5832; or the Director of Human Resources, AC # 2204, 201 Converse Hall, telephone 542-2334; or the Dean of the Faculty, AC # 2209, 103 Converse Hall, telephone 542-2334. These persons, as well as the ombudsperson, AC # 1920, Room 117 Valentine Hall, telephone 542-5156, are also available to discuss any concerns an employee may have and to provide information about the College's policy on sexual harassment and its complaint procedures under the employee's applicable *Handbook*.

IV. Sexual Harassment Investigation

When the College receives notice of conduct which appears to be sexual harassment, it will promptly investigate the allegation in a fair and expeditious manner. The investigation will be conducted in accordance with the College's customary procedures, and in such a way as to maintain confidentiality to the extent practicable under the circumstances and permissible by law. The investigation may, as appropriate, include private interviews with

the person filing the complaint, with witnesses, and with the person alleged to have committed sexual harassment. When the investigation is completed the person filing the complaint and the person alleged to have committed the conduct will be informed, to the extent appropriate, of the results of the investigation.

V. Appropriate Response/Disciplinary Action

If it is determined that inappropriate conduct has been engaged in by an employee, appropriate action will be taken immediately, using the College's established procedures, to fulfill its obligation under the law to promote a workplace that is free of sexual harassment. Such action may range from counseling to termination of employment, and may include such other forms of disciplinary action as appropriate under the College's procedures.

VI. State and Federal Remedies

In addition to the above, employees who believe they have been subjected to sexual harassment may file a formal complaint with either or both of the government agencies below. Using the College's internal complaint process does not prohibit filing a complaint with these agencies. Each of the agencies has a short time period for filing a claim. The MCAD's time frame is 300 days from the date of occurrence. A charge must be filed with EEOC within 180 days from the date of the alleged violation, in order to protect the charging party's rights. This 180-day filing deadline is extended to 300 days if the charge also is covered by a state or local anti-discrimination law. For ADEA charges, only state laws extend the filing limit to 300 days.

The United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

John F. Kennedy Federal Building

4th Floor, Room 475

Boston, MA 02203

Phone: 617-565-3200, 1-800-669-4000

Fax: 617-565-3196

TTY (Deaf and Hearing Impaired) 617-565-3204, 1-800-669-6820

The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD)

Boston Office:

One Ashburton Place, Room 601

Boston, MA 02108-1518

(617) 994-6000

Springfield Office:

436 Dwight Street, Room 220

Springfield, MA 01103

(413) 739-2145

TTY (Deaf and Hearing Impaired) 617-994-6196

Tags: [Policies and Procedures](#) [Sexual Harassment policy](#) [dean of the faculty](#) [policies](#) [sexual harassment](#)

Patent Policy

The aim of Amherst College's Policy on patents is to make available College technology for the public benefit, while providing recognition of individual inventors and encouraging the prompt and open dissemination of research results (see [Faculty Handbook Sec. D \(15\)](#), for statement on Classified Research). This policy is designed to enable the College to fulfill its responsibilities under the law or contractually to the Federal Government and other entities that provide funds to the College for sponsored research.

I. Application

This policy applies to inventions which were conceived or first reduced to practice by Amherst faculty, students, staff, and any others, including visitors, in the performance of research, work, or study supported by externally sponsored funds administered by the College, or involving the material use of funds or facilities of the College. When an inventor is uncertain about the application of this policy to an invention, he or she is encouraged to disclose it promptly to the College so that application of this policy might be agreed upon in advance of any attempts to commercialize it. All such disclosures should be made to the Comptroller. The College will accord such disclosures the confidentiality required to preserve the patent rights associated with them and will promptly inform the inventor(s) of any claims it might make to any such rights.

II. Federally Funded Research

The disposition of patent rights to inventions conceived or first reduced to practice in the performance of work under a funding agreement between Amherst College and an agency of the Federal Government is provided in detail by federal law and the funding agreement to do so as well, including disclosure to the College and the Federal Agency of any such inventions, the assignment of any patent rights to the College, the sharing of any royalties with the inventor(s) should the College pursue the commercial licensing of those rights (see the royalty sharing provisions below), the assignment of such patent rights to the Federal Government in the event the College elects not to pursue their commercialization, and the right of the inventor(s) to request from the Federal Government the retention of such patent rights. To the extent they are not inconsistent with federal law and funding agreements, the College will follow the policies outlined below in Section V. The Comptroller, in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty, is the person responsible for administering the College's patent matters, and must be notified of each such invention promptly after its discovery.

III. Research not funded by federal contract and not making material use of funds or facilities of the College

This policy does not apply to inventions discovered in the course of work which does not involve the material use of College facilities or funds (whether reimbursed or not). The College disclaims both ownership and liability pertaining to any such inventions.

IV. Research making material use of funds or facilities of

the College and funded by others than the Federal Government

The patent rights provisions of funding agreements between Amherst College and funding sources other than the Federal Government involving the material use of College facilities or funds, will be flexibly negotiated on an ad hoc basis, with due regard to the rights and interests of the College and, in particular, the provisions of the *Faculty Handbook* regarding [Classified Research, Sec. D \(15\)](#). As a general rule, the College will seek to incorporate the provisions of Section V. below in any such agreement, but recognizes that any or all of such provisions may need to be amended to satisfy the funding source. The College will not enter into any such agreements with patent rights provisions unacceptable to the principal investigator.

V. Patent rights for inventions arising out of work not funded by outside sources but involving the material use of College resources or funding

Unless explicit arrangements are made to the contrary, the following principles generally prevailing at research institutions of higher education will apply to inventions conceived or reduced to practice in the performance of work not funded by outside sources and making material use of funds or facilities of the College.

1. Patent rights to such inventions are owned by Amherst College.
2. The Comptroller, in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty, is the person responsible for administering the College's patent matters, and must be notified of each such invention confidentially and promptly after its discovery in order to determine whether the College will undertake the expense of pursuing its commercial potential.
3. The College will promptly evaluate that commercial potential, confidentially and without jeopardizing the patent rights, in consultation with the inventor(s) and utilizing outside evaluation services such as Research Corporation Technologies where appropriate.
4. If the College determines not to pursue its patent rights, it will promptly assign the same to the inventor(s), without reservation, except that the inventor(s) will not be permitted to utilize the College's name in connection with the marketing of such invention or any derivative products.
5. If the College determines to pursue the commercialization of its patent rights, it will do so promptly and diligently, and, except as otherwise negotiated with the inventor(s), it will undertake all of the expenses of the same. Without the agreement of the inventor(s), the College will not enter into any commercialization agreements which prohibit the free use of the invention by the inventor(s) for research or educational purposes.

VI. Royalties

Under all of the circumstances outlined above where it elects to pursue the commercialization of inventions subject to this policy, the College will remit to the inventor(s) 50% of all royalties it receives, after deduction of expenses directly related to such commercialization (e.g. patent filing fees and attorneys fees). Where special arrangements are made with the inventor(s) for the sharing of such expenses, or where the inventor's use of College facilities or funds is insignificant, other distribution percentages may be negotiated which will

reflect the relative contributions of the College and the inventor(s).

(Approved May 20, 2000)

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Amherst College

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Duration of Appointments and Procedures For Reappointments To Tenure-Track Positions

1. Duration of Initial Appointment

Initial tenure-track appointments to the Faculty will be made for a term of three years unless some other term is agreed upon by the Dean of the Faculty, the department, and the appointee at the time of hiring.

The Chair of each department will make clear to its non-tenured Faculty the considerations governing reappointment. Recommendations concerning reappointment will be reviewed by the Committee of Six.

The reappointment review of untenured faculty, at both the department and College levels, is normally conducted in the Spring term of the third year of employment. (Voted by the Faculty, May 1995)

Department Chairs and candidates for reappointment will be notified of the schedule and procedures for reappointment in the spring of the penultimate year of the initial appointment. When notification is given in the last year of the current appointment that a reappointment will not be made, an additional, terminal year will be granted. When, however, notification is given during the penultimate year of appointment that a reappointment will not be made, the contract ends at its original term.

2. Annual Conversation with the Chair

The Chair shall have at least one formal conversation per year with the department's untenured faculty member(s) to discuss in detail performance and progress in teaching and research, and evidence thereof. As to teaching, this evidence should include all semester-end evaluations by students with signatures removed, the testimony of colleagues who have observed the untenured faculty member's teaching, and such course materials as the untenured faculty member see fit to submit for discussion (Voted by the Faculty, November 1998). A sum and substance letter about the conversation should be given to the untenured faculty member and be placed in the records of

the department. (Voted by the Faculty, May 1995).

3. The Meaning of Reappointment

The decision to reappoint is important, but should not be confused with the decision on tenure. A decision to reappoint is an expression of satisfaction with past performance and of confidence in the faculty member's potential for continuing development. At the time of the department's recommendation concerning reappointment, the Chair of the department will discuss the department's recommendation (whether positive or negative) with the particular faculty member; if the decision is made to reappoint for a second term, the Chair will discuss considerations which may enter into a subsequent tenure decision.

4. Reappointment Procedures

In preparation for recommendations concerning reappointment, the department will gather evidence concerning teaching effectiveness, scholarly or creative growth, and other contributions to the life of the College. (Voted by the Faculty, October 2004) Evaluations of teaching are to be requested of all students from every course, including every honors and special topics course taught by an untenured faculty member. These evaluations are to be signed and are normally to be solicited in essay format in all classes in the final week of each semester on a form to be devised by the instructor in collaboration with the department. After the submission of grades they will be made available to the instructor without the names of the respondents. In addition, all departments will be required to have solicited from all students confidential letters of evaluation at the time of reappointment review (Voted by the Faculty, October 1998). All student evaluations of teaching collected for purposes of reappointment are to be submitted to the Committee of Six with the department's recommendation. (Voted by the Faculty, May 1995)

The departmental evaluation of teaching effectiveness should draw upon a representative range of teaching activities in addition to evidence described above. Evaluation should derive from, but need not be limited to, conversations about courses with some members of the department; attendance by some members of the department at a number of class meetings at mutually agreed upon times; and assessment, by the candidate with at least one senior member of the department, of the accomplishments of at least one of the candidate's courses at the end of a semester. (Voted by the Faculty, May 1999)

The departmental evaluation of scholarly or creative growth should take into account any or all of the following: published work, publicly presented work, projects currently under way, plans for future projects. (Voted by the Faculty, October 2004)

Candidates for reappointment will each submit a letter to their department/s by December 1.

Candidates should address their teaching experience at the College, the present state of their scholarship or creative work and their aims and plans for the future, and their engagement in College life. The letter will serve as the basis for a conversation between the candidate and tenured members of the department/s before the department meets to finalize the reappointment recommendation. The letter itself will not become part of the reappointment or tenure dossier. (Voted by Faculty, February 2005)

A letter about reappointment will be sent by the President to the individual under review, with copy to the department Chair, indicating the recommendation which the President intends to make to the Board of Trustees. Formal notification of reappointment will follow confirmation by the Board of Trustees. The Dean will invite each candidate who is reappointed to meet with him or her soon after the reappointment process is completed to discuss the Committee of Six's reading of the candidate's case. The Dean will also discuss the Committee's view with the department Chair. (Voted by the Faculty, February 2005)

After the department has reviewed the evidence and come to its recommendation, it will send a formal letter (with such accompanying evidence as seems appropriate) to the Dean of the Faculty. The Chair of the department will provide the candidate with the text of the department's letter, or copy which has been edited to protect confidentiality, and will discuss that letter with the candidate (Voted by the Faculty, May 1992). If a candidate wishes to comment on the departmental recommendation, he or she may send written commentary, in confidence, to the Committee of Six, within two weeks of receiving that recommendation (Voted by the Faculty, November 1998)

In cases where there are fewer than two tenured faculty in the department of a candidate for reappointment, the Dean of the Faculty and the Committee of Six will appoint an *ad hoc* committee of tenured faculty in related departments to supplement or to serve in lieu of the departmental committee in making a recommendation to the Committee of Six. The Dean will remind departments of deadlines for review of individual reappointments. These are usually taken up by the Committee of Six early in the spring semester unless a department makes a negative recommendation in the spring of the penultimate year of a faculty member's initial appointment. In that case, the Committee of Six will review the case in the spring of the penultimate year.

The Dean of the Faculty will report each department's recommendation to the Committee of Six and provide an opportunity for the Committee to review the evidence upon which a recommendation is based. The Committee of Six, as a safeguard to individuals, will also attend to negative recommendations.

After the Committee of Six has had an opportunity to review recommendations and to raise questions, the Dean of the Faculty will convey any questions or comments to the department

Chair.

A letter about reappointment will be sent by the President to the individual under review, with copy to the department Chair, indicating the recommendation which the President intends to make to the Board of Trustees. Formal notification of reappointment will follow confirmation by the Board of Trustees.

5. The Reappointment Schedule in Relation to the Tenure Decision

A faculty member whose first regular full-time appointment is at Amherst College will normally be considered for tenure in his or her seventh year at the College. A faculty member who comes to Amherst College after not more than three years of regular full-time teaching at another college or university will normally be given appointment at Amherst College of such duration that the total possible period of untenured service, allowing for a terminal extension, will be eight years, including any comparable prior teaching. (For part-time faculty, see Section F.) Any agreement about counting prior service will be made explicit in writing at the time of the person's initial appointment at Amherst College, and the most appropriate way of computing previous experience may be discussed at this time. The decision on tenure for such persons may be made in the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, or seventh year of full-time service at Amherst College, depending on the circumstances at the time of appointment.

All letters of appointment or reappointment shall specify the anticipated time of the decision.

The timing and duration of appointments in the Department of Physical Education and Athletics differ from those of academic faculty in that the total probationary period may extend for up to twelve years, allowing for multiple reappointments.

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