

Proposed creation of Professor of Practice title & Faculty Handbook change

February 12, 2015

The Faculty Senate endorses the creation of a new instructional staff position entitled Professor of Practice. Comparable positions exist at a number of peer and aspirational schools including Columbia University, Georgia Tech, RPI, the University of Maryland, the University of Virginia, and Virginia Tech. The provisions contained in this statement are consistent with established practices at these schools.

Purpose

The purpose of the new Professor of Practice position at NJIT is to engage individuals who possess expertise representing state-of-the-art contemporary practice in fields such as business, industry, government, the arts and the professions. Professors of Practice are expected to serve as points of contact between the university and these fields of practice in identifying opportunities that support student learning and NJIT's programmatic goals.

Hiring Process

Professors of Practice may be hired by an academic department, or single-department school or college, through open search or nomination, in accordance with procedures established by that academic unit and recorded in its by-laws. All hires are subject to approval by the relevant dean and the provost, and to Equal Opportunity Employment policies established by the NJIT Department of Human Resources.

Qualifications of Candidates

At the time of hire, Professors of Practice are expected to have:

- substantial current professional expertise in areas important to NJIT's academic programs;
- a graduate or professional degree in the discipline, or a related discipline, or equivalent stature by virtue of experience;
- relevant licenses and/or certification;
- a national or international reputation for excellence in their fields;
- a demonstrated record of transferring their practical experience into instruction through teaching, advising and/or mentoring.

Term of Appointment

The Professor of Practice is a one-semester or one-year non-tenure-track position which may be renewed for up to six semesters. Appointments may be on a part-time or full-time basis. Professors of Practice shall be reviewed annually by the academic unit prior to renewal.

Status

Professors of Practice may participate in the academic affairs of their academic unit as described in its by-laws, but do not enjoy Faculty voting rights and other privileges reserved for the Faculty. While they may maintain a research agenda, Professors of Practice are not subject to the same expectations for research and scholarship as members of the Faculty.

Draft Handbook description, to be inserted at the beginning of Section 2.3.2.

Professor of Practice

Professor of Practice. This full-time or part-time non-tenure-track position is intended for accomplished professionals who possess state-of-the-art expertise in contemporary practice in fields such as business, industry, government, the arts and the professions. Appointments are made for one semester or one year in accordance with the policies and procedures of the hiring administrative unit, and may be extended for up to three years based on an annual review by the academic unit.