

CHAPTER 4

The Faculty

Standard 401. QUALIFICATIONS

A law school shall have a faculty whose qualifications and experience enable the law school to operate in compliance with the Standards and carry out its program of legal education. The faculty shall possess a high degree of competence, as demonstrated by academic qualification, experience in teaching or practice, teaching effectiveness, and scholarship.

Standard 402. SIZE OF FULL-TIME FACULTY

A law school shall have a sufficient number of full-time faculty to enable the law school to operate in compliance with the Standards and carry out its program of legal education. The number of full-time faculty necessary depends on (a) the size of the student body and the opportunity for students to meet individually with full-time faculty members; (b) the nature and scope of the program of legal education; and (c) the opportunities for the full-time faculty to adequately fulfill its teaching obligations, conduct scholarly research, participate effectively in the governance of the law school, and provide service to the legal profession and the public.

Interpretation 402-1

A full-time faculty member who is teaching an additional full-time load at another law school may not be considered as a full-time faculty member at either institution.

Interpretation 402-2

Regularly engaging in law practice or having an ongoing relationship with a law firm or other business creates a presumption that a faculty member is not a full-time faculty member under this Standard. This presumption may be rebutted if the law school is able to demonstrate that the individual has a full-time commitment to teaching, research, and public service, is available to students, and is able to participate in the governance of the law school to the same extent expected of full-time faculty.

Standard 403. INSTRUCTIONAL ROLE OF FACULTY

- (a) **The full-time faculty shall teach substantially all of the first one-third of each student's coursework. The full-time faculty shall also teach during the academic year either (1) more than half of all of the credit hours actually offered by the law school, or (2) two-thirds of the student contact hours generated by student enrollment at the law school.**
- (b) **A law school shall ensure effective teaching by all persons providing instruction to its students.**

Interpretation 403-1

Efforts to ensure teaching effectiveness may include: orientation, guidance and mentoring for new faculty members; a faculty committee on effective teaching; class visits; critiques of videotaped teaching; institutional review of student course evaluations; colloquia on effective teaching; and recognition and use of creative scholarship in law school teaching methodology.

Standard 404. RESPONSIBILITIES OF FULL-TIME FACULTY

- (a) **A law school shall adopt, publish, and adhere to written policies with respect to full-time faculty members' responsibilities. The policies shall require that the full-time faculty, as a collective body, fulfill these core responsibilities:**
 - (1) **Teaching, preparing for classes, being available for student consultation about those classes, assessing student performance in those classes, and remaining current in the subjects being taught;**
 - (2) **Participating in academic advising, creating an atmosphere in which students and faculty may voice opinions and exchange ideas, and assessing student learning at the law school;**
 - (3) **Engaging in scholarship, as defined by the law school;**
 - (4) **Service to the law school and university community, including participation in the governance of the law school, curriculum development, and other institutional responsibilities described in the Standards;**
 - (5) **Service to the profession, including working with judges and practicing lawyers to improve the profession; and**
 - (6) **Service to the public, including participation in pro bono activities.**
- (b) **The law school shall periodically evaluate the extent to which the faculty discharges its core responsibilities under the law school's policies and the contributions of each full-time faculty member to meeting the core responsibilities of the faculty.**

Standard 405. PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENT

- (a) A law school shall establish and maintain conditions adequate to attract and retain a competent faculty.
- (b) A law school shall have an established and announced policy with respect to academic freedom and tenure of which Appendix 1 herein is an example but is not obligatory.
- (c) A law school shall afford to full-time clinical faculty members a form of security of position reasonably similar to tenure, and non-compensatory perquisites reasonably similar to those provided other full-time faculty members. A law school may require these faculty members to meet standards and obligations reasonably similar to those required of other full-time faculty members. However, this Standard does not preclude a limited number of fixed, short-term appointments in a clinical program predominantly staffed by full-time faculty members, or in an experimental program of limited duration.
- (d) A law school shall afford legal writing teachers such security of position and other rights and privileges of faculty membership as may be necessary to (1) attract and retain a faculty that is well qualified to provide legal writing instruction as required by Standard 303(a)(2), and (2) safeguard academic freedom.

Interpretation 405-1

A fixed limit on the percent of a law faculty that may hold tenure under any circumstances violates the Standards.

Interpretation 405-2

A law faculty as professionals should not be required to be a part of the general university bargaining unit.

Interpretation 405-3

A law school shall have a comprehensive system for evaluating candidates for promotion and tenure or other forms of security of position, including written criteria and procedures that are made available to the faculty.

Interpretation 405-4

A law school not a part of a university in considering and deciding on appointment, termination, promotion, and tenure of faculty members should have procedures that contain the same principles of fairness and due process that should be employed by a law school that is part of a university. If the dean and faculty have made a recommendation that is unfavorable to a candidate, the candidate should be given an opportunity to appeal to the president, chairman, or governing board.

Interpretation 405-5

If the dean and faculty have determined the question of responsibility for examination schedules and the schedule has been announced by the authority responsible for it, it is not a violation of academic freedom for a member of the law faculty to be required to adhere to the schedule.

Interpretation 405-6

A form of security of position reasonably similar to tenure includes a separate tenure track or a program of renewable long-term contracts. Under a separate tenure track, a full-time clinical faculty member, after a probationary period reasonably similar to that for other full-time faculty, may be granted tenure. After tenure is granted, the faculty member may be terminated only for good cause, including termination or material modification of the entire clinical program. A program of renewable long-term contracts shall provide that, after a probationary period reasonably similar to that for other full-time faculty, during which the clinical faculty member may be employed on short-term contracts, the services of a faculty member in a clinical program may be either terminated or continued by the granting of a long-term renewable contract. For the purposes of this Interpretation, “long-term contract” means at least a five-year contract that is presumptively renewable or other arrangement sufficient to ensure academic freedom. During the initial long-term contract or any renewal period, the contract may be terminated for good cause, including termination or material modification of the entire clinical program.

Interpretation 405-7

In determining if the members of the full-time clinical faculty meet standards and obligations reasonably similar to those provided for other full-time faculty, competence in the areas of teaching and scholarly research and writing should be judged in terms of the responsibilities of clinical faculty. A law school should develop criteria for retention, promotion, and security of employment of full-time clinical faculty.

Interpretation 405-8

A law school shall afford to full-time clinical faculty members participation in faculty meetings, committees, and other aspects of law school governance in a manner reasonably similar to other full-time faculty members. This Interpretation does not apply to those persons referred to in the last sentence of Standard 405(c).

Interpretation 405-9

Subsection (d) of this Standard does not preclude the use of short-term contracts for legal writing teachers, nor does it preclude law schools from offering fellowship programs designed to produce candidates for full-time teaching by offering individuals supervised teaching experience.