

System-wide Policy: BT0007 - Policy on Faculty Handbook Revisions	
Version: 1	Effective Date: 06/18/1992

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
POLICY ON FACULTY HANDBOOK REVISIONS

The Academic Committee and The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees wish to affirm the Board's position regarding approvals needed for faculty handbook revisions. The bylaws of The University of Tennessee (*revised September 1989*)¹ are clear in terms of the Board's authority, but specific instances occasionally require clarification.

The Bylaws direct the Board of Trustees to establish "policies," but not to direct "matters of administration;" [*the Bylaws further state that "The Academic Committee shall approve and recommend to the Board . . . the adoption and revision of faculty personnel policies."*]²

This clear distinction between policy and administration should be applied to the approvals required to effect changes in faculty handbooks. The Board of Trustees is responsible for policy changes in areas such as the following:

- appointment, retention, promotion, probation, tenure, and termination;
- academic freedom and faculty rights; and
- intellectual property, compensated outside services, academic misconduct, and conflict of interest.

For editorial, technical, and other housekeeping changes in these policy matters, the Board delegates review-and-approval responsibility to the President, the General Counsel, and appropriate Vice Presidents.

For all revisions in handbook matters other than policies like those noted above, the Board delegates review-and-approval responsibility to the President, the General Counsel, and appropriate Vice Presidents.

History:

Adopted	06/18/1992
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¹ This reference no longer accurately reflects the date of the most recent revision of the Bylaws.

² The italicized text is no longer accurate. Specific responsibilities of the Committee are outlined in its Board-approved Charter. The charter provides that the Committee is to recommend to the Board "[p]olicies, including campus faculty handbook provisions, governing appointment, retention, promotion, and termination of faculty members; intellectual property rights; and compensated outside services by faculty members . . ."