September 8, 2015

To: Tenure Eligible Faculty

From: P. T. Vasudevan, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Re: Tenure and Promotion Process

The 2015-16 Procedures and Criteria for Promotion and/or Tenure and the Instructions for Preparing the Promotion and Tenure Statement are available on the Provost’s Office web site at http://www.unh.edu/provost/promotion.html. These documents, in conjunction with the section on tenure and promotion in the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the AAUP and the USNH Trustees, are intended to assist you in planning and preparing for the tenure and promotion process. Changes to last year’s documents are in bold. In planning for the tenure and promotion process, you should also consult any college or school and department guidelines that have been developed to supplement the Collective Bargaining Agreement and these Guidelines.

If you have not already done so, I also suggest that you seek the advice and perspective of your department chair, dean, and experienced faculty in your department. From the university’s point of view, the tenure and promotion process is an important mechanism for assuring the quality of the faculty. From your point of view, you should see it as a process that guides continuing professional development in your roles of teaching, scholarship and research, and university and public service. For both you and the university, it is essential that you fully understand the criteria and procedures that guide the process.

The promotion process begins with your Department Promotion and Tenure Committee and department chair. They are charged with evaluating your performance, seeing that you prepare a Promotion and Tenure Statement, and providing a recommendation regarding promotion and/or tenure. The process then proceeds as follows:

December 4: The Chairperson transmits the Department Promotion and Tenure Committee’s recommendations and an independent recommendation to the Dean. The Chairperson also informs the candidate of these recommendations in writing.

February 5: The Dean of the candidate’s College or School transmits a recommendation, as well as that of the College Promotion and Tenure Committee and the Graduate Dean (when the candidate is a member of the Graduate Faculty), to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The candidate, Department Chairperson, and Department Promotion and Tenure Committee will be informed of these recommendations as well as the numerical vote in writing. If the Dean’s recommendation is negative, the statement will outline the basis for that recommendation.

March-April: The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs makes his recommendations and informs the candidate’s Dean. The Dean will inform the candidate, department chairperson and college Promotion & Tenure Committees of the Provost’s recommendation. At this point, the Deans are responsible for seeing that each faculty member not recommended is made aware that he or she may request a review. In cases where a review is requested the Dean shall inform the candidate, department chairperson, department and college Promotion and Tenure Committees and the review panel of the final determination.

May-June: The President’s recommendations go to the Educational Excellence Committee of the Board of Trustees.

June-July: The Educational Excellence Committee of the Board of Trustees acts on recommendations.

Whether you are being reviewed for tenure and promotion this year or some time in the future, you should be familiar with the criteria and guidelines. You should also be assembling materials that will document your contributions and you should periodically take stock of your work in preparation for writing a statement of self-evaluation, which will be an essential part of the review.

Please call this office if there are questions or if any part of the instructions needs to be clarified. Administrative matters will be addressed by Leigh Anne Melanson or Jim Varn.