

Role of the Texas Agriculture and Life Sciences Peer Review Committee

The Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Directors of Texas AgriLife Research and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service use the Agriculture and Life Sciences Peer Review Committee to review all requests for promotion/tenure from respective departments and off-campus research units. The committee reviews all promotion and tenure recommendations and ensures equitable review and evaluation of on- and off-campus promotion candidates, relative to the position description for each candidate.

The Agriculture and Life Sciences Peer Review Committee will be comprised of 16 senior faculty members appointed by the Vice Chancellor, in consultation with the Dean of the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Director, Texas AgriLife Research; and Director, Texas AgriLife Extension Service. The makeup of the committee will reflect the composition of the faculty within the College, Texas AgriLife Research, and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, and will be reviewed every three years to ensure it continues to represent the demographics of the faculty. Committee members shall serve two-year terms, with approximately one-half of the committee rotating each year. As with the departmental peer review committees, all members of the Agriculture and Life Sciences Peer Review Committee may vote on promotion and tenure decisions; however, the vote of the tenured faculty must be kept separate. The results of the committee's anonymous vote and the overall assessment of the committee relative to each faculty member under consideration shall be explained by the Chair of the Committee in a statement to the Vice Chancellor on each candidate.

The Agriculture and Life Sciences Peer Review Committee shall review all promotion and tenure recommendations in accordance with the following:

1. Review completeness of promotion/tenure candidate's file, requesting additional information, if necessary, particularly if the candidate's department or unit is not represented on the committee.
2. Review recommendations of the departmental peer review committee, Department Head and respective Resident Director, as appropriate. The Agriculture and Life Sciences Peer Review Committee should focus on nominations of a marginal nature. Specifically:
 - a. If the departmental peer review committee and the administration strongly recommend a decision and the Agriculture and Life Sciences Peer Review Committee does not concur, then the Agriculture and Life Sciences Peer Review Committee may request further input prior to a final recommendation. Detailed comments should accompany all Agriculture and Life Sciences Peer Review Committee recommendations which are in opposition to the recommendations of the departmental peer review committee or administration.
 - b. If the departmental peer review committee and the administration are in direct conflict, the Agriculture and Life Sciences Peer Review Committee should carefully review the entire file, including external letters, to determine the merits of the file. If necessary, the Agriculture and Life Sciences Peer Review Committee may invite the appropriate Department Head (and respective Resident Director, as appropriate) and chair of the departmental peer review committee to the meeting to gain further information.
3. The Chair of the Agriculture and Life Sciences Peer Review Committee will be responsible for transmitting written results of the committee's deliberations and make recommendations regarding desired changes to the process.

(Excerpt from College of Agriculture and Life Sciences/Texas AgriLife Research/Texas AgriLife Extension Service Promotion Guidelines)