



*Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic*

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Deans, Department Heads and Faculty

**FROM:** Michael Atkinson, Provost and Vice-President Academic  
Chair, University Review Committee

**DATE:** July 8, 2002

**RE:** *College and University Standards*

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I am writing to you today to advise you of the University Review Committee's progress in the review of college standards. As you know the Collective Agreement assigns to the URC the responsibility to establish standards and criteria for tenure and promotion. The Collective Agreement also gives the URC the responsibility to review and approve college standards. Since the URC approved new university level standards in February 2002, the committee has been actively engaged in the review of college standards with a view to determining their consistency with the new University Standards.

I am pleased to report that revised standards from the following colleges have now been approved: Agriculture, Arts and Science, Commerce, Dentistry, Education, Engineering, Kinesiology, Nursing, Pharmacy and Nutrition, and Veterinary Medicine. These college standards are now consistent with the February 2002 University Standards. ***These new college standards are in effect as of July 1, 2002.***

In February 2002, when the new University Standards were approved, I outlined the schedule for their implementation. Recent correspondence from the Faculty Association also addresses these issues. To ensure that there is no confusion, allow me to repeat the essence of my message sent on behalf of URC back in February.

- Faculty to be considered for *promotion* in 2002-03 (and subsequent years) will be governed by the February 2002 University Standards (and college standards that have been approved by URC as consistent with these new standards). [This decision is consistent with past practice and all revisions to college and university standards in the past 25 years.]
- Faculty appointed prior to July 1, 2002 will continue to be considered under the 1989 University Standards (and college standards approved in conjunction with the 1989 University Standards) for their *tenure* decision.
- Faculty appointed on or after July 1, 2002 will be subject to the February 2002 University Standards for *tenure, renewal of probation, and promotion* decisions.

This is the implementation schedule that the URC will follow beginning in the fall of this year. All candidates, department heads and deans are advised to become acquainted with, and to follow, the process requirements contained in these standards.

Over the course of the past several weeks, the URC also discussed the possibility that some colleges would not have new, approved standards in place before June 30, 2002, and that their existing standards may not be consistent with the February 2002 University Standards. Thankfully, this occurs only in a minority of cases. The URC has determined that, as of July 1, 2002, the new University Standards will prevail in these cases until new college standards are approved. This decision is consistent with the view, expressed unanimously during consultations, that the University Standards represent the minimum standards for tenure and promotion at the University of Saskatchewan.

In fairness to colleagues in the two colleges and two units which do not have approved standards consistent with the February 2002 University Standards, approvals of new college/unit standards will take place on an annualized basis. So, for example, college/unit standards approved after July 1, 2002 (but before June 30, 2003) will come into effect on July 1, 2003.

Changing from one system to another is never easy, and I apologize for the rather bureaucratic tone (and content) of the preceding paragraphs. I recognize, as well, that my attempt at clarification may raise other questions. If so, please do not hesitate to contact me or Pauline Melis at –8488 or [Pauline.Melis@usask.ca](mailto:Pauline.Melis@usask.ca).



Michael Atkinson

cc: Pauline Melis  
University Review Committee members