

Statement about Lecturer Service

February 27, 2024

In response to confusion expressed about service expectations for lecturers, the present statement is intended to provide clarification. The statement is supported by both the UUP and the Provost's Office.

The following definitions are quoted directly from the SUNY website and describe the academic lecturer appointment and expectations. First, the definition of "qualified academic rank/lecturer" is:

"Qualified academic ranks are not "tenure track" - service in these titles does not count for meeting service requirements for continuing appointment even if appointees are subsequently appointed to academic rank. Appointees to Qualified Academic Rank are generally Lecturers who fulfill basic curricular needs but may not be assigned the full range of duties normally associated with academic rank appointees, particularly with regard to scholarship."

Then, a general parsing of what might constitute "effectiveness of University service," again from the SUNY website:

- *"... as demonstrated by such things as college and University public service, committee work, administrative work and work with students or community in addition to formal teacher-student relationships."*

For the purposes of clarifying expectations of service for lecturers at SUNY Plattsburgh, the following points hold true.

-All lecturers are hired with the expectation of service commitment. If there are lecturers hired prior to the issuance of this statement whose contracts explicitly state they have no service expectation, those contracts will of course be honored.

-A lecturer's service obligations cannot exceed the lecturer's contract length.

-A lecturer's service obligation might be met in a number of ways. These would include but are not limited to serving on committees or groups at the department level, school level, university level, or even community or other professional service. There are no "required" ways in which the obligation might be met. For the purposes of performance review, it is impossible to quantify the service requirement since service work at various levels and of various types require different time and effort commitments. However, in general the expectation for meeting performance review criteria is that a lecturer's service would involve participation in one service activity per semester, extending through the academic year depending on contract length, at a minimum. In other words, the lecturer would have a service commitment all academic year if the contract is for a full year.