


Memorandum

To: Faculty Senate
Seton Hall University

From: Karen E. Boroff, Ph.D. 
Interim Provost and Executive Vice President

Re: Changes to *Faculty Guide* Article 1.4
(2018-FS-18)

Date: September 14, 2018

The Office of the Provost is in receipt of Faculty Senate approval of changes to Article 1.4 of the *Faculty Guide*. The change was approved at the September 7, 2018 meeting.

I am pleased to see the change from the older version of the *Faculty Guide*, which defined a department as “any academic unit composed of one or more full-time faculty members.” I think we can all envision the difficulties inherent in department composed of one full time faculty member or even two.

Departments need to have a base of tenured/ tenure-track faculty to provide the continuing presence and memory of curricular direction/changes and to advise students regarding their programs and career paths. Tenured/tenure track faculty add the measure of the research ethos, which is not expected of those who are here on a limited basis, and they are judged on their attention to scholarly work in a way that contract faculty are not. The process for promotion and tenure is anchored in having more senior colleagues who can review and mentor their junior colleagues. Those eligible to perform the duties of chair, which include oversight of departmental personnel, hiring and renewing of faculty, and facilitating faculty research should be tenured according to *Faculty Guide*, Article 10.1.b. Therefore, department should be constituted only where at least three faculty members are tenured or tenure-track faculty.

I would ask the Senate to consider this change.