

American University Tenure, Promotion, and Reappointment Guidelines Updates

Resource 7 CURRENCY in the FIELD

Section 15 of the *Faculty Manual* includes “currency in the field” among the general criteria for assessing term faculty performance. Academic unit guidelines define the phrase in various ways, and many include examples to illustrate the wide range of activities that belong to this category of faculty accomplishments.

Most “currency”-related activities are addressed in *Resource 5 (Scholarship)* and *Resource 6 (Service)*, especially 6’s subsection on “External Service and Professional Activities”.

When reviewing your unit’s guidelines concerning currency in the field, committees are invited to keep in mind the three tests from *Resource 3*:

1. Are we expanding criteria for assessing teaching, service, and scholarship¹ to recognize and reward inclusive and cross-disciplinary accomplishments which standard metrics tend to marginalize?
2. Are we ensuring [academic freedom](#) for all faculty by removing needless and discriminatory obstacles to the free choice of topics, themes, genres, methods, protocols, collaborators, and venues (etc.) for scholarship, teaching, and service?
3. Do the updated guidelines highlight multiple pathways of excellence and impact for faculty?

¹ In this and related documents, the terms scholar and scholarship always include research, creative, and professional activities and outputs, as per the *Faculty Manual’s* glossary.