

To: Natalie Hopson

From: Connie Richards

Subject: Professor Emeritus

CC: Timothy O'Rourke

Natalie,

I am writing to request that the procedure for promotion to Professor Emeritus be revised, allowing faculty who often have devoted decades of service to this institution to receive this honor immediately upon retirement. Under the current system, the Promotions Committee acts on these requests in the spring semester; however, in a recent conversation with Dr. Jeanne Whitney, current chair of this committee, I was told that chairs could not forward these requests the spring semester prior to retirement and had to wait until after the faculty member in question had indeed retired. This is nearly a one-year time lapse that is not in the university's best interest and, from reports I've heard across campus, produces animosity towards the university on the part of the retiree.

I would like to see a policy that would allow chairs to forward names to the Promotions Committee during the last semester of service (fall or spring), enabling retirees to receive this honor immediately upon retirement.

Please let me know if I might be of further service in this matter.

Connie Richards