

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT UNCLASSIFIED, ACADEMIC (9-Month) PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

PURPOSE

To set forth the Conditions of Employment for those employees appointed to Unclassified, Unranked, and Fixed-Term Nine-Month Appointments.

APPLICABILITY

Unclassified, unranked, fixed-term appointments of 9-months, referred to as Administrators or Administrative Staff.

GENERAL POLICY FOR ADMINISTRATORS OR ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

The *Conditions of Employment* shall constitute the policy under which administrators and administrative staff members of Western Oregon University are employed. Each notice of appointment for administrators or administrative staff shall incorporate this policy by reference and shall provide that acceptance of this appointment constitutes notice that these conditions apply.

Authority

Fixed-term appointments may be made and are renewable at the discretion of the president of the university or his designee.

Dual Appointments

Unclassified, unranked administrators or administrative staff members may hold dual appointments (i.e. employment as an administrator and simultaneous employment as a faculty member). The appointment that is controlling will be identified in writing at the time of employment. Each appointment will be governed by the applicable set of conditions of employment specific to the type of position (i.e. teaching faculty, research, etc.).

Appointments

Approvals

Authorization to fill an administrators or administrative staff position must be approved by the president. Appointments then become effective when approved by the appropriate vice president. In extraordinary circumstances, the president may give approval for direct appointment of an administrator or administrative staff.

Academic Year Appointments

Administrative staff shall receive Annually, an appointment for an academic year, usually 9-months, but may be extended beyond the 9 months. Appointments and reappointments shall generally be for one 9-month period, or a portion thereof, unless the president gives special approval for a contract of up to three years or less than 9-months.

Appointments Dependent On Grant, Gifts or Contracts

Appointments which are dependent for continuation on funding from a specific source other than state appropriations shall so state in the notice of appointment and may terminate when the funding is no longer available. These positions are covered by their own set of conditions of employment.

Compensation

Salaries

The president, vice presidents and directors set the salaries for the administrators and administrative staff. Cost-of-living and merit raises when available will be allocated by the president in consultation with the vice-presidents and within the limitation of available funds.

Outside Activities and Supplementary Compensation

Policies governing outside activities and supplementary compensation are administered by the university. These policies can be found in the Western Oregon University Staff Handbook, Western Oregon University Website under Policies; the Oregon University System Website and Oregon Administrative Rules.

Employment-Related Benefits

Fringe Benefits

Certain fringe benefits are made available to all state employees and are subject to change by the legislature, such as medical, dental and retirement benefits. Changes to such benefits will be made by the governor and legislature and normally to be effective at the start of the succeeding appointment period or as dictated by policy. Additional benefits may be added to be effective as determined by the legislature, the Board of Higher Education, Oregon University System and/or university president.

Sick Leave

Details are outlined in the employee handbook. Sick Leave policy is governed by OAR 580-021-0040

Duties and Responsibilities

Assignment of Duties

Duties and responsibilities of an administrator or administrative staff member shall consist of those assigned by the appropriate vice president and/or relevant supervisor. All duties and responsibilities shall be carried out under the direction of the relevant supervisor, who may alter or amend assigned duties at any time.

Unpaid Furlough/Reduction in FTE/Salary Reduction – Thirty-day Notice

Administrators or administrative staff may be required to take unpaid furlough, a reduction in FTE (full-time equivalent), or a reduction in salary during their contract period. The president, appropriate vice president and relevant supervisor will determine, because of significant financial or budget considerations, the necessity to implement a furlough, reduction in FTE, or reduction in salary process. Thirty-day notice will be given prior to the first day of implementation.

Evaluation

Performance of assigned duties by administrators or administrative staff shall be subject to evaluation by the appropriate vice president and/or relevant supervisor, and performance shall be considered in decisions relating to compensation, retention or termination, or a decision not to reappoint.

Reappointment

Continued Employment

The awarding of an administrative appointment carries no university commitment to continued appointment beyond the stipulated contract period.

Notification of Renewal or Non-renewal

Administrators and administrative staff shall be given a written notification of renewal or non-renewal of his/her appointment prior to the end of their current academic year appointment.

During the period between notifying an administrator of non-renewal and the end of the appointment period, the administrative staff member may:

- continue to work in the current position
- be assigned to work in another position (any such reassignment must be approved by the responsible vice president)
- voluntarily resign in lieu of non-renewal

In addition, the administrator or administrative staff member will be given a flexible work schedule as needed for a job search.

The administrative staff member is not entitled to a hearing upon a decision of non-reappointment. An administrative staff member whose appointment is not renewed shall not be entitled to a statement of reasons for that action.

Termination

Reasons for Termination During the Appointment Period

Not for Cause

Administrators or administrative staff may be removed by the president only for financial exigency (university-wide); retrenchment (university-wide); or significant organizational restructuring (department/unit), which is determined by the president, appropriate vice president and relevant supervisor to be necessary because of significant financial or budget considerations

that must be addressed immediately. An administrator or administrative staff member who is released not for cause before the end of their appointment period will receive a written notice of not less than 90 days. The decision will be final and cannot be grieved.

For Cause

Reasons for dismissal may include, but are not limited to, incompetence or dishonesty in professional activities, and neglect of properly assigned duties. Employees terminated for cause have access to the grievance procedure outlined in OAR 574-0100-0065.

Note

This communication is only a summary of key conditions of employment for unclassified professional employees. We have touched on the areas which have generated the most questions and those which are in transition. For more detail, you can find the Oregon Administrative rules (OARs) and the employee handbook on the Human Resources web page (www.wou.edu/admin/hr.php). Additional questions should be directed to the Human Resources Office at 8-8490.