

University of Texas at Arlington
Policy Statement on Tenure Clock due to Covid-19
April 14, 2020

Background

UT System Board of Regents' Rules and Regulations 31007, Sec. 5.1(b)(4) delegates the authority to the provost (chief academic officer) to make the decision to grant a one-year extension of the tenure clock. RR 31007 addresses extension requests that are due to a faculty member's personal circumstances. In those cases, RR 31007 allows for two one-year extensions.

One-Year Additional Extension for FY2019-2020

In the face of extraordinary circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic where actions of the university curtail the research, teaching, and service of faculty, to alleviate the stress that pre-tenure faculty may experience, the UT System authorizes a one-year extension of the tenure clock at all eight academic institutions.

Options

Each institution may choose one of the following two ways of implementing this policy. An institution may choose an opt-in approach, whereby a faculty member must request the authorized one-year extension. Alternatively, the institution may choose an opt-out policy, whereby an additional year will be added to the tenure clock for all current tenure-track faculty. In the case of the opt-out policy, pre-tenure faculty who believe they are sufficiently advanced in their careers may opt out of the additional one-year extension and maintain their original tenure review schedule. This decision is strictly at the discretion of the faculty member.

Policy Adopted by UT Arlington

UT Arlington with endorsement from the council of deans and faculty senate choose to add an additional year to the tenure clock for all current tenure-track faculty (9/1/2019 or earlier start date) with each faculty member having the choice to opt-out of the additional one-year extension and maintain their original tenure review schedule. This extension does not apply to faculty members currently preparing their dossiers for the upcoming tenure and promotion process in fall semester 2020.
