Guidelines for Secondary Appointments
in Mathematics and Statistics

Approved May 4, 2010

A secondary appointment in Mathematics and Statistics for individuals holding tenure in another department at UVM shall be for an initial period of up to five years, and subject to renewal thereafter. An appointment that is not renewed after a five-year period is automatically terminated. Under unusual circumstances, the Department may consider exceptions to the requirement that the individual already has tenure in another department. An individual with a secondary appointment may participate fully in the activities of the Department. In fact, such activities as collaborative research, research supervision, curriculum design, seminar direction or participation, etc. are encouraged. However, such an appointment does not carry voting rights or any form of salary compensation. The Department cannot guarantee any office space or secretarial assistance on a regular basis. The secondary nature of the appointment should be noted in print and online such as "Secondary Appointment as Associate Professor of Mathematics."

A faculty member from another UVM department who is a candidate for a secondary appointment in Mathematics or Statistics should possess a high degree of mathematical or statistical competence. As mathematics and statistics are foundational for a great many university disciplines across campus, this condition of itself is not sufficient. In particular, the use of standard mathematical or statistical methods in areas where these methods are already known to be applicable does not constitute a significant mathematical or statistical research component for the present purposes. A faculty member holding a secondary appointment in mathematics (statistics) is expected to enhance the development of mathematics (statistics) on campus.

The candidate should submit a letter requesting consideration for a secondary appointment and attach a curriculum vita. In assessing the research of a candidate for a secondary appointment, the following factors are relevant, and it is incumbent on the candidate to address these factors in the request for a secondary appointment.

(1) The candidate's personal research should have a significant mathematical or statistical component. This research should have the potential to develop new mathematics or new statistics, or involve novel and previously unsuspected applications of existing mathematical or statistical techniques.
(2) The candidate's research area should be compatible with the research interests of current faculty having primary appointments in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Active collaborations with Department faculty should not be viewed as a prerequisite for a secondary appointment. However, there should be at least the potential for interdisciplinary collaboration.
(3) The candidate should be able to fruitfully interact with graduate students pursuing advanced degrees in the Department.

It is understood that there may well be cases in which a secondary appointment in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics will be requested on bases other than research. The above criteria address only the context in which such appointment is based upon research interaction. Criteria involving other areas of interaction (e.g., mathematics education) will be addressed as the need arises.

The permanent faculty (i.e., tenure track faculty and senior lecturers) of the Department will review the credentials of a candidate for a secondary appointment and advise the Chair of their views. After careful assessment and discussion of the merits of the case, the permanent faculty shall vote on the appointment. A separate vote will be taken of the tenured faculty. Faculty should be encouraged to include reasons for their votes. These votes shall be advisory to the Chair. In a case in which the Chair's decision runs counter to the majority vote of the faculty, the Chair will again convene the faculty to discuss the reasons for that decision and ask the faculty to vote again. If the faculty and the Chair still disagree, then the Chair will report this disagreement in making the recommendation to the Dean.

These procedures shall also apply for renewal of an existing secondary appointment.