

Proposed Senate Council Motion to the University Senate Regarding Proposed KCTCS Board Actions

In light of plans to place on the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) Board of Regents agenda for its forthcoming meeting a proposal to end tenure in the Kentucky's community and technical college system, we, the members of the University of Kentucky Senate Council and University Senate in our capacity to represent the faculty of the University of Kentucky, wish to express our strong and principled support for the practice of tenure in KCTCS for current and future faculty.

At the University of Kentucky, tenure is traditionally given to academic faculty members achieving senior faculty status after a successful probationary period that includes demonstration by the faculty members that they are likely to succeed and contribute to the institution on a long-term basis. The tenure policy exists primarily to ensure the continuation of an atmosphere of academic freedom. The tenure process rigorously applies the university's standards of teaching, research, and service to its faculty candidates. The representative faculty bodies of the University of Kentucky are committed to a tenure system as a measure of excellence and symbol of academic quality. As KCTCS is an institution that strives to maintain its status as a national leader in community and technical college education, it is important for KCTCS to maintain their current tenure policies.

According to the American Association of University Professors:

Tenure is a means to certain ends; specifically: (1) freedom of teaching and research and of extramural activities, and (2) a sufficient degree of economic security to make the profession attractive to men and women of ability. Freedom and economic security, hence, tenure, are indispensable to the success of an institution in fulfilling its obligations to its students and to society.

Based upon information brought to our attention regarding this drastic, and likely irreversible step, it is our conclusion that the rationale and evidence thus far presented are neither strong nor compelling enough to warrant termination of tenure within the Kentucky Community and Technical College system.