Amendment to Academic Staff Personnel Policies and Procedures, Chapter 104.03

On 13 May 2008, the Academic Staff Senate unanimously approved the changes to Academic Staff Personnel Policies and Procedures, Chapter 104.03, Probationary Appointments shown below. This change clarifies the policy regarding probationary period extensions, provides procedures for making such requests, and incorporates language regarding probationary period extensions based on the Wisconsin Administrative Code, Rules of the University of Wisconsin System, 10.03.

Current 104.03:

104.03 Probationary Appointments
A probationary academic staff appointment is one leading either to review and a decision on indefinite appointment or to non-renewal of the appointment. The probationary period shall be not less than one year nor greater than seven years. Any period in which the probationary appointment is less than 50% time is excluded in calculating the probationary period.

Prior service may be granted at the time of the initial probationary appointment and shall be clearly stated in the initial probationary contract. Prior service may be granted for time spent in full-time equivalent service in the employee’s position or appointment immediately prior to the initial probationary contract. If, immediately prior to the initial probationary appointment, the staff member was either a classified employee or was employed outside of the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, the staff member may be granted up to three years of prior service for that employment. If the staff member was in a fixed-term appointment immediately prior to the initial probationary contract, the staff member may be granted up to four years of prior service to be applied to the probationary appointment.

Prior service shall be included in calculating the length of the employee’s probationary appointment and in determining the notice requirements set forth in Chapter 108.

A probationary academic staff member may subsequently accept a fixed-term appointment. If such a change occurs, previous probationary service shall not be lost and shall continue if he/she returns to a probationary appointment in the same position.

Proposed revised 104.03

104.03 Probationary Appointments
A probationary academic staff appointment is one leading either to review and a decision on indefinite appointment or to non-renewal of the appointment.

(a)Length of Probationary Period. The probationary period shall be not less than one year nor greater than seven years.

(b)Minimum Percent of Probationary Appointment. Any period in which the probationary appointment is less than 50% time is excluded in calculating the probationary period.
(c) **Prior Service.** Prior service may be granted at the time of the initial probationary appointment and shall be clearly stated in the initial probationary contract. Prior service may be granted for time spent in full-time equivalent service in the employee's position or appointment immediately prior to the initial probationary contract. If, immediately prior to the initial probationary appointment, the staff member was either a classified employee or was employed outside of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the staff member may be granted up to three years of prior service for that employment. If the staff member was in a fixed-term appointment immediately prior to the initial probationary contract, the staff member may be granted up to four years of prior service to be applied to the probationary appointment.

Prior service shall be included in calculating the length of the employee's probationary appointment and in determining the notice requirements set forth in Chapter 108.

(d) **Extension of the Probationary Period** Certain circumstances may impede an academic staff member's progress toward achieving indefinite status including responsibilities with respect to childbirth and adoption, significant responsibilities with respect to elder/dependent care, disability/chronic illness, or circumstances beyond the control of the academic staff member. Written requests for extensions of the probationary period should be made in a timely manner, proximate to the events or circumstances which occasion the request, and include appropriate documentation.

A request for extension of the probationary period with respect to childbirth and adoption and responsibilities carries with it the presumption of approval. More than one request may be granted but the total time granted for extensions does not ordinarily exceed one year. Multiple extension requests granted for childbirth/adoPTION may exceed one year.

Pursuant to *UWS 19.03, Wis. Admin. Code*, the procedures for requesting an extension are:

1. The academic staff member provides a written request to the supervisor/executive committee, which forwards the request with its recommendation to the Dean/Division Head.
2. Requests in cases of childbirth/adoPTION and those related to disability or chronic illness shall be approved by the Dean/Division Head after consultation with the Academic Staff Committee. Requests in other circumstances shall be approved or denied after consultation with the Academic Staff Committee.
3. A written decision on the request shall be provided to the Academic Staff member and the supervisor and shall be based upon clear and convincing reasons.
4. An academic staff member who believes that a request has been denied unfairly may file an appeal with the Academic Staff Committee for referral to Academic Staff Hearing and Appeals Committee.
5. If any academic staff member has been in probationary status for more than seven (7) years because of a leave of absence or because of those reasons described in the introductory paragraph above, the academic staff member shall be evaluated as if he or she had been on probationary status for seven years.

(e) **Other Appointments.** A probationary academic staff member may subsequently accept a fixed-term appointment. If such a change occurs, previous probationary service shall not be lost and shall continue if he/she returns to a probationary appointment in the same position.