

**BYLAWS
Revised Spring, 2024**

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD SCIENCE

PREAMBLE

The University of Tennessee requires that each department, section, or separate unit adopt bylaws defining the core policies and procedures of the unit. These bylaws cover faculty governance in which opinions, advice, and consent of faculty members are required or essential.

MISSION

The mission of the Department of Food Science at The University of Tennessee is “to address global problems in food safety, quality and health through fundamental and applied research, prepare graduates for the global food industry or health professional programs, and deliver effective outreach education to the citizens of Tennessee and beyond.”

ARTICLE I – PURPOSE

The purpose of the bylaws of the Department of Food Science is to promote the orderly conduct of business. These bylaws address faculty governance in which the opinions, advice, or consent of faculty members are required or essential. These bylaws supplement policies of the Board of Trustees and The University of Tennessee Knoxville as described in the UTK Faculty Handbook and Bylaws of the Faculty of the Herbert College of Agriculture, AgResearch, and UT Extension. If these bylaws conflict with university policies, university policies will prevail.

ARTICLE II - THE DEPARTMENT

2.1. Membership

All faculty members and other academic, exempt, non-exempt employees and students (undergraduate and graduate) are considered members of the Department.

2.2. The Faculty

Membership of the faculty of the Department of Food Science shall consist of all persons holding departmental appointments as tenure-track and non-tenure-track faculty, Adjunct faculty, and Emeritus faculty (as defined in the UTK Faculty Handbook).

2.3. Voting Members

2.3a. Voting membership of the Department shall consist of all faculty members who are employed at the rank of Instructor or above and at least 75% salaried within the Department. All such persons shall enjoy full voting membership in the Department, with the exception of voting on matters related to retention, promotion, and tenure (see Article IV, Section 4.4). Persons employed in the Department at less than 75% will be granted voting privileges with the approval of two-thirds of the voting faculty. In general, this will be limited to rare exceptions.

2.3b. Faculty members who are not salaried in the Department, including Emeritus faculty, Adjunct faculty, visiting faculty, and faculty with full-time administrative appointments (other than the Department Head), shall be regarded as non-voting members of the departmental faculty, but shall enjoy the right of voice.

2.3c. Faculty members who are on full- or part-time leaves of absence (or reduced-time) shall enjoy the voting status that would be available to them were they not on leave.

2.3d. Proxy votes will be accepted but must be presented in a memorandum to the Department Head in advance of the meeting. A proxy vote shall not be used in lieu of a faculty member's presence in the determination of a quorum.

2.4. Department Head

2.4a. The Department Head is a voting member of the faculty who is assigned the duty of administering the Department, the primary link between the Department and the UTIA administration. Among the responsibilities of the Department Head are administration of teaching, research, and extension activities, personnel and facilities, financial matters, curricular and academic affairs, and international activities of the Department. In addition, the Department Head should provide leadership in creating and maintaining linkages with the food industry and in development (fundraising) activities.

2.4b. The Department Head encourages participation by the faculty in decision-making and departmental governance. The Department Head consults with the faculty and other employees on issues of concern to them. The Department Head is required to uphold University of Tennessee and UTIA policies and procedures.

2.5. Departmental Faculty Meetings

2.5a. Departmental meetings shall be scheduled regularly and not less frequently than twice per semester during the academic year. Additional meetings may be called by the Department Head or at the written request of twenty-five percent of the faculty.

2.5b. One-half of the voting membership of the faculty shall constitute a quorum. The withdrawal of any voting member after the commencement of a meeting shall have no effect on the existence of a quorum after a quorum has been established at such a meeting. A simple majority of those present shall decide an issue.

2.5c. The Department Head shall serve as chair of faculty meetings, unless delegated by the Department Head to another faculty member. Minutes of the meetings and reports submitted to the faculty shall be kept on file in the department office, and copies will be distributed to the faculty and others designated by the Department Head.

2.5d. The initial agenda for regular faculty meetings shall be prepared by the Department Head and distributed in written form to the faculty a reasonable time before the meeting. Additional items may be suggested by individual faculty and, at the discretion of the Department Head, be

added to the agenda for the forthcoming meeting. Alternatively, items may be placed on the agenda by written petition of twenty-five percent of the voting faculty. In addition, agenda items may originate in departmental committees. All such additions to the agenda must be made in a reasonable time before the meeting to be incorporated into the final agenda for the meeting. Reports and other documents requiring departmental deliberation shall be submitted to faculty members at least three calendar days in advance of the meeting during which the report or document is to be considered. Under exceptional circumstances, these requirements may be waived. Additionally, at the beginning of each faculty meeting, the Department Head will call for and consider “other” additions to the agenda. Such additions should be related to matters that have arisen in such time as to preclude inclusion in the agenda distributed reasonably in advance of the meeting and require faculty attention before the next scheduled meeting. “Other” additions will be considered for issues that are for faculty discussion only.

2.5e. Recording Secretary - A record of the meetings will be kept. The Department Head shall appoint one faculty member to take minutes which will be approved by all faculty at the next faculty meeting. The approved minutes will be placed in a shared departmental electronic folder.

2.5f. Representatives from all groups or classification (such as clerical staff, technical staff, postdoctoral research associate, and graduate student) of the department will be invited to departmental meeting before the faculty meeting while general announcement and information are exchanged.

ARTICLE III – COMMITTEES OF THE DEPARTMENT

3.1 Standing Committees

3.1a. Standing committees shall be established to facilitate execution of faculty responsibilities relative to academic, departmental, and related matters. Except where otherwise indicated, the following policies shall apply: Chairs and members of standing committees shall be appointed and serve at the discretion of the Department Head for a term not to exceed 3 years, and may be appointed to consecutive terms. The Department Head, as an *ex-officio* member of all standing committees, will be informed of the time and location of committee meetings. Where appropriate, students and staff may serve on committees and will be appointed by the Department Head.

Standing Committees and their responsibilities are listed in the Appendix 3.

3.1b. Regular appointment to standing committees should be made by the Department Head before the beginning of the academic year. Each standing committee shall inform the faculty of its substantive activities, decisions, and recommendations at intervals consistent with the level of committee activity. Committee chairs are responsible for ensuring that meeting minutes are maintained and made available to the faculty.

3.2 Search Committees

Faculty search committees will be formed by departmental faculty nominating potential search committee members from which the department head would select a search committee in consultation with the tenured and tenure-track faculty. A faculty search committee shall be comprised of no fewer than 4 faculty members which reflects the diversity of rank and research interests in the Department, a minimum of three from the Department and at least one external representative from another unit in the University of Tennessee. A graduate student representative and/or staff member may also be included on search committees as deemed appropriate by the faculty. The search committee arranges solicitation of applications, screening of applicants, and identifying finalists and alternates. Once permission is granted by the University, the committee will assist with inviting several candidates to visit the Department and interview with the faculty and appropriate members of the College and University administration. Finally, the committee members are asked to indicate which candidates are considered “acceptable” to the Department Head. If more than one candidate is considered “acceptable”, the Head will choose one candidate and recommend the candidate to the deans. If the deans agree with the recommendation, the deans will then recommend the candidate to the chief academic officer/Senior Vice Chancellor. If the head’s recommendation diverges from that of the faculty, the head must explain his or her reasons in detail to the faculty, who have the right to meet with the deans and the SVC about the recommendation. If the first candidate does not accept an offer, other “acceptable candidates” can be pursued with an offer in consultation with the Deans. Since the Department Head is also a tenured faculty member, the same search procedures shall apply to Department Head search, with the following exceptions: 1) the search chair should be a Department Head in the Herbert College of Agriculture, and 2) all faculty and staff shall have one vote to designate which candidates are considered “acceptable”. The votes will be collected by the search committee chair for communication to the Dean(s) and SVC who can make an offer to candidates considered “acceptable” by at least three quarters of the voting faculty. More details can be found at <https://facultyhandbook.utk.edu/>)

3.3 Faculty Review Committee

Faculty review committee shall follow the general guidelines in the Faculty Handbook. Annually, tenure-track faculty members will be reviewed by the Department’s tenured faculty for progress towards tenure. A review committee (at least three members) shall consist of all departmental tenured faculty with a rank higher than the review candidate. In the event of insufficient departmental members for the committee, the Department Head in consultation with the upper administration can appoint appropriate external UTIA faculty on the review committee, with the agreement from the candidate under review. A non-mentor review committee member will be appointed by the Department Head and prepare a written summary of the review committee discussion, a recommendation, and vote(s). The summary after review and approval by the entire review committee will be presented to the Department Head. The review committee will vote annually on each non-tenured, tenure-track faculty member to determine a) whether they are considered on-track for promotion and tenure, and b) whether the faculty member under review is recommended for retention. The Department Head may attend the review meeting but only to provide clarification on issues/questions raised by the committee.

ARTICLE IV - FACULTY APPOINTMENTS AND EVALUATION

4.1. Regular Faculty Positions

4.1a. The process of recruiting, interviewing, and selecting faculty for regular appointments, tenure track and non-tenure track, salaried within the Department shall be conducted according to University policies.

4.2. Non-Tenure Track Faculty Positions

Non-tenure track faculty (NTTF) members are hired on limited, but typically renewable, appointments to fill specific needs of the department. These faculty appointments can be categorized by their primary academic responsibilities as teaching, research, practice, and extension positions, or as adjunct, visiting, or joint appointments. The departmental needs may vary from year to year, so reassessment of the need and role of NTTF should be done as needed. Appointment of such positions should follow the general hiring procedure, and written expectation and contribution from the individual NTTF members should be made according to faculty handbook (<https://facultyhandbook.utk.edu/non-tenure-track-faculty/non-tenure-track-faculty-appointments/>).

4.3. Adjunct Faculty Positions

4.3a. Adjunct faculty having less than a full-time commitment to the UTIA are appointed outside the tenure system, and can be uncompensated or part-time compensated for service to the instructional, research, or extension programs with respect to their adjunct appointment.

4.3b. Nominations must come from a regular faculty member and shall include a written statement indicating the rationale for making the adjunct appointment. Once the nomination is approved by the Department Head, Department Head shall initiate the process of consideration for appointment. Documentation of professional credentials (e.g., curriculum vitae) to support the nomination should be submitted to the faculty. The nominee may be invited to the Department to present a formal seminar in support of his/her appointment.

4.3c. Appointment of adjunct faculty, with respect to procedures, titles, duties, privileges, and promotion shall be governed by The UTK Faculty Handbook. The faculty will vote by ballot to recommend approval or rejection and appropriate title of the nominee. The final decision will be made by the Department Head based on the faculty recommendation. Following approval of the adjunct, the Head will draft a letter of appointment, specifying the term of appointment, to be signed by both the appropriate Dean(s) and the Senior Vice Chancellor/Senior Vice President of UTIA upon their approval. Adjunct faculty will be appointed for a period of five years from the effective date specified on the letter of appointment. Renewal of an adjunct faculty appointment will follow the same procedure as initial appointment.

4.4 Emeritus Faculty Positions

Faculty who retire from the Department as professor or, in special cases, as assistant or associate

professor may request a recommendation for this appointment from the Department. The tenured faculty will vote on the request by secret ballot at a meeting called by the Department Head. The Department Head will forward the faculty decision to the Dean(s) and Senior Vice Chancellor/Senior Vice President of UTIA.

4.5 Faculty Mentor and Mentoring

For all new non-tenured faculty members, a mentor or a mentoring team will be established in the first year by the Department Head. The mentor or mentoring team is expected to meet with the faculty member at least once a semester and serve through the first promotion cycle. Mentor(s) can be changed through consultation with the Department Head. Mentoring will be considered part of a faculty member's assigned workload. The Department Head will conduct formal evaluations of the mentoring relationship, seek input from both mentor and mentee during the annual review process, and document such activity and effectiveness.

4.6 Retention, Promotion, Tenure, Evaluation, and Post-Tenure Review

4.6a. The Department Head is responsible for the Annual Performance and Planning Review (APPR) of all members of the faculty and shall follow the guidelines of the *Faculty Handbook* (<https://facultyhandbook.utk.edu/appointment-evaluation-promotion-tenure-and-review/>). Annual review of probationary faculty (i.e. Annual Retention Review) will be conducted in consultation with the tenured faculty as described in Article III, section 3.3 of this bylaws and Faculty Handbook (section 3.11.4.5) about schedule, mentor, preparation of retention review, review and vote by the tenured faculty, etc.

4.6b. A faculty member wishing to be considered for tenure and/or promotion must submit his/her application to the Department Head by the deadline established by UTIA. The Department Head will convene a committee of the tenured faculty holding the appropriate rank for evaluation of the candidate's research, teaching, extension, and service. All criteria and procedures listed under Section 3.10 and 3.11 of the Faculty Handbook will be followed.

UTIA Promotion and Tenure website (<https://utiaacademicaffairs.tennessee.edu/promotion-and-tenure/>) also has information on workshop, reference materials, forms, tips, and timeline for promotion, tenure, and post-tenure evaluations.

4.6c. Standards for tenure with promotion to the rank of Associate Professor, and for promotion to the rank of Professor, appear in the Appendix 1 and 2 of the departmental bylaws and they are consistent with the faculty handbook.

4.6d. Promotion and review of Non-tenure Track Teaching and Research Faculty should follow the UTK Faculty Handbook (<https://facultyhandbook.utk.edu/non-tenure-track-faculty/evaluation/>). For NTTF supported on research grant, the performance evaluation is as the case for tenured and tenure-track faculty with Department Head, in consultation with the faculty member who closely works with the research faculty.

4.6e. Periodic Post-Tenure Performance Review (PPPR) for Tenured Faculty Members is

required by the Board of Trustees Policies Governing Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure. Every tenured faculty member will receive a comprehensive performance review no less often than every six years. UTIA Procedures for Periodic Post-Tenure Performance Review as outlined in Faculty Handbook Appendix (<https://facultyhandbook.utk.edu/appendices-2/utia-procedures-for-periodic-post-tenure-performance-review/>) should be followed.

4.6f. Faculty collaboration on multiple disciplinary teams should be accurately documented and reported for their roles in annual evaluation and review documentation. Likewise, Department Head will work with faculty to ensure that these collaborative activities are clearly communicated to promotion and tenure committee in the process of review.

ARTICLE V - AMENDMENTS

A. Origin of Amendments

Proposed amendments to the bylaws shall originate from the Department Head or from at least twenty-five percent of the faculty members. Proposed amendments shall be presented in writing to the departmental faculty members for consideration at any regular meeting or any special meeting called for that purpose. Grammatical errors, misspelled words, and other simple typographical errors may be corrected at the discretion of the Department Head and shall not require faculty consideration and approval.

B. Notice

The proposed amendments shall be distributed with the agenda for the meeting at which they are to be discussed. Consideration of the amendments for voting by the departmental faculty members shall occur at a subsequent meeting, not less than ten days later, when the matter will have been included again in the agenda.

C. Ratification

These bylaws must be ratified by three quarters of the voting members of the tenured and tenure-track faculty. The revision will be effective after being reviewed by the UTIA Senior Vice Chancellor/Senior Vice President and the Faculty Senate Faculty Affairs Committee.

APPENDIX to the FOOD SCIENCE DEPARTMENT BYLAWS

Appendix 1: Criteria for Retention, Tenure, and Promotion

The department expects that all faculty members will contribute to research, teaching, extension, and service in a manner consistent with their academic appointment. A clear record of accomplishment and potential in the appropriate areas is necessary for achievement of tenure and promotion. Due to differences in faculty members' strengths and departmental needs, achievement of excellence in one area and satisfactory contributions to other areas may vary by individual. The following metrics of professional accomplishment and service, not presented in rank order, will be among the key factors included in consideration for annual retention review of tenure-track Assistant Professors, awarding of tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor, promotion to the rank of Professor, and for annual and cumulative post-tenure reviews.

Metrics

Teaching ability and effectiveness:

- courses taught in the department
- compilation of end of course evaluations
- peer evaluation of teaching effectiveness
- comments by colleagues (including external reviewers) who have first-hand knowledge of the faculty member's teaching effectiveness
- written comments of students
- curriculum or course developments and accomplishments
- national and/or local teaching awards
- successful advising of undergraduate and graduate students
- membership on graduate students' committees
- mentoring of undergraduate research

Research and scholarly activities:

- level of external support from federal agencies, industry, or other sources
- significance and number of publications in refereed journals
- contributions to edited volumes
- papers published in refereed conference proceedings
- papers, presentations, or extended abstracts published in conference proceedings
- invited presentations at scientific meetings
- comments by colleagues (including external reviewers)
- national/international awards and recognition
- local awards
- patents & invention disclosures

Service:

- participation in departmental faculty meetings, departmental, College, and University committee activities
- participation in professional outreach, youth education, regional industry, and/or community organizations
- contributions to national, regional and local agencies
- membership and participation in professional organizations
- participation in organization or as chairperson of scientific meetings/symposia
- editorship and *ad hoc* reviewing for journals and granting agencies

Appendix 2: Criteria by Academic Rank

These criteria expand on those outlined in the UTK Faculty Handbook and are specific to UTIA and Food Science department

I. Retention of tenure-track Assistant Professor

All non-tenured Assistant Professors should:

- a. hold a doctorate degree in an appropriate field
- b. have an active research program (consistent with appointment) with the goal of establishing a strong record of accomplishment involving the metrics listed above by the time of consideration for tenure and promotion
- c. demonstrate strong teaching effectiveness as measured by the metrics above (consistent with appointment)
- d. participate in service activities as listed in the metrics above
- e. demonstrate collegiality with students, staff, and colleagues

II. Tenure and promotion to rank of Associate Professor (and expectations of Associate Professors undergoing annual or cumulative review)

All Assistant Professors considered for promotion and tenure or Associate Professors undergoing annual or cumulative review should:

- a. normally have served as an Assistant Professor for a minimum of five years
- b. have a well recognized record of research or scholarly activity, as measured by the metrics above, with clear promise that promotion to Professor is likely at some point in the future
- c. successfully mentored M.S. or Ph.D. students*
- d. demonstrate consistent teaching effectiveness
- e. have a reasonable and balanced record of contributions to meeting the service needs of the University, the discipline, and the community
- f. proven record of collegiality with students, staff, and colleagues

III. Promotion to rank of Professor (and expectations for Professors undergoing annual or cumulative review)

- a. normally have served as an Associate Professor for at least four years
- b. have acquired a nationally and internationally recognized record of research and scholarly activity according to the metrics listed above that is indicative of continuous and progressive professional development since appointment to the faculty
- c. have successfully mentored Ph.D. students* and junior colleagues
- d. have achieved a demonstrated record of teaching effectiveness
- e. have achieved and maintained a record of significant institutional, disciplinary, and/or professional service
- f. have consistently demonstrated that they work well with colleagues and students in performing their university responsibilities

* According to offer or position responsibility letter

Appendix 3: Other Standing Committees and Expectations

Awards and Recognitions

The committee will identify opportunities for faculty and staff recognition (local, regional national, and international), coordinate nominations, and maintain records of nominations and awards. The committee will provide reports to the department head and departmental faculty, as needed.

Communications, Media, and Alumni Relations

The committee will plan, coordinate, implement, and evaluate communications from the department. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the departmental newsletter, website, and social media. This committee will also plan, coordinate, and implement efforts to interact with departmental alumni. Alumni relations responsibilities will include maintaining a list of departmental alumni. The committee will provide reports to the department head and departmental faculty, as needed.

Departmental Governance

The committee is responsible for proposing, developing, and coordinating departmental governance efforts. A primary responsibility of the committee is to review the departmental bylaws at least annually and in accordance with University Policy and departmental needs. The committee will make recommendations for changes in governance (e.g., bylaws) to the departmental faculty and the department head as needed.

Departmental Seminar

The committee will plan, schedule, and implement departmental seminars on relevant topics to enrich faculty, staff, and student learning, improve exchange of ideas, and to increase interaction with relevant speakers both internal and external to UTK. The committee will work with departmental faculty to solicit speaker nominations, determine seminar frequency, speaker coordination, and other arrangements.

Access and Engagement

The committee will evaluate access and engagement status and conditions in the department among students, staff, and faculty. The committee will plan, implement, and evaluate efforts to improve access and engagement conditions in the department. The committee will provide reports to the department head and departmental faculty, as needed.

Events

The events committee will plan, coordinate, and execute departmental gatherings (e.g., socials, celebrations, etc.). The committee will identify, recruit, and coordinate event volunteers, as needed.

Extension and Outreach

The committee will identify, plan, implement, and evaluate Extension and outreach programs for the department. The committee will provide updates and guidance to the department to that help identify industry needs or gaps in knowledge that may be addressed through research and

teaching efforts. The committee will develop and submit required reports and conduct Extension activities in accordance with guidance from UT Extension.

Facilities

The committee will assess facility and equipment needs and develop recommendations for facility utilization and equipment acquisitions, maintenance, locations, and disposal.

Graduate Program

The committee is responsible for recruitment and admission of prospective graduate students, proposing policy changes and curriculum improvement, updating program requirements, assessing current students, and identifying graduate students for awards and fellowships. The committee is responsible for updating and maintaining the departmental Graduate Student Handbook and annual programmatic assessment submission.

Research

The committee is responsible for promoting departmental research by identifying emerging research directions, needs, and collaboration opportunities. The committee will work to coordinate the use of shared equipment and develop recommendations for laboratory equipment acquisitions, maintenance, location, and disposal. The committee will evaluate departmental research metrics (e.g., number of grants submitted and awarded, F&A generated, publications, invited lectures, GRAs, technicians, and post-docs funded by grants, etc.) and make recommendations to the department.

Safety and Emergency Planning

The committee is responsible for promoting a safe environment in laboratories and pilot plants and planning for emergencies. The committee will work with UTIA Safety Office and UTK Environmental Health & Safety as well as departmental faculty, staff, and students to ensure compliance with laboratory safety requirements. The committee will work with departmental faculty, staff, and students to ensure emergency plans are up-to-date and in compliance with requirements. The committee will organize and deliver laboratory safety training as needed.

Student Recruitment & Retention

This committee is responsible for designing, implementing, and assessing an undergraduate student recruitment and retention plan. The committee will develop recruitment activities, identify recruitment opportunities, and enlist support from the faculty and students to participate in recruitment activities. Typical recruiting activities include visits to high schools and community colleges, hosting visiting students and groups, or similar events hosted by other colleges on campus. The committee works in collaboration with the college recruitment staff and programs. The committee will also coordinate with the Graduate Program Committee to support graduate recruitment efforts when appropriate.

Undergraduate Program

The committee is responsible for proposing curriculum improvement, implementation, and evaluation. It recommends and develops policies and procedures for curricular standards, reviews catalog offerings and degree requirements, and initiates discussions on curricular matters. This committee is also responsible for developing procedures for and coordinating

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student scholarship and awards, and student advising and mentoring by faculty. The committee is responsible for managing learning assessments and reports for departmental courses.

**All committees will prepare and deliver reports to the department faculty, the department head, and others as appropriate and as needed.*

Members of the Governance Committee:

Toni Wang (Chair), John Munafo, Tao Wu, and Qixin Zhong (2021-2024)

Bylaws is posted here: [https://foodscience.tennessee.edu/;](https://foodscience.tennessee.edu/)