



Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

April 27, 2018

Judi McDonald
Professor, Mathematics and Statistics
Chair, Faculty Senate
Washington State University

Dear Judi,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine in support of proposed changes to the WSU Faculty Manual regarding the Teaching Portfolio proposed by the College of Veterinary Medicine. My office in the ESFCOM is responsible for Faculty Affairs and we share the concern that faculty for whom teaching is the major part of their responsibilities, particularly clinical faculty, are not able to fully represent their accomplishments via the relatively restrictive format for the teaching dossier. As a consequence, we join the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine in advocating for the use of a teaching portfolio along the lines of that recommended by the Consortium of West Region Colleges of Veterinary Medicine (https://teachingacademy.westregioncvm.org/initiative_eprt/). This type of dossier uses an evidence-based process that is consistent with the American Association of Medical Colleges Toolbox for evaluating educator faculty.

The primary constraint in the current WSU Faculty Manual is page length allowed for the teaching portfolio. The current Faculty Manual strictly limits an applicant's teaching portfolio to 5 pages and refers to both the writing and reading of a longer portfolio to be a 'burden'. On the contrary, these limits restrict faculty from fully articulating their academic contributions in the area of education, and result in a less-than-complete representation of the depth and breadth of their accomplishments. Of course, longer does not equal better, so we are advocating for a particular, evidence-based approach be taken such that the teaching portfolio contributes a higher value to the promotion dossier.

In summary, we support the College of Veterinary Medicine's proposed alternatives of either, 1) increasing the page limit; or 2) inserting language allowing for substitution of an alternate format, providing the format is evidence-based and/or supported by the profession.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Roberts".

Ken Roberts, PhD
Professor, Biomedical Sciences
Vice Dean, Academic and Community Partnerships