ARTICLE 17. ASSIGNMENT OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Preamble. The University and the Union recognize that, given the diverse nature of the work performed by bargaining unit faculty members, the varying types of appointments, and the needs of the university, the weighting of assignments and the particulars of individual assignments will vary both between and within units. The University and the Union also recognize that each bargaining unit faculty member has the obligation to devote their best efforts to the university, and particularly to students; to perform all duties with professionalism and diligence and in accordance with the standards appropriate in AAU institutions; to act ethically and in compliance with the accepted professional standards; to account for all money or property received; to use money and property only for lawful purposes and in accordance with policy; to treat confidential information as confidential; to cooperate with the university with regard to investigations, audits, and legal proceedings; and to represent the university with professionalism.

Section 1. The faculty in each department or unit will maintain unit-level professional responsibilities policies in accordance with Article 4. Assignment of professional responsibilities may consist of some combination of instructional activities (including class preparation, classroom teaching, evaluation of student work, advising and mentoring, and various forms of communication with students); research, scholarship, and creative activity; service within the department, school, college, institute, libraries, or the University; service to external organizations or communities; and professional development activities.

Section 2. Workloads. A bargaining unit faculty member’s particular workload shall be assigned in accordance with their position description and unit-level policy. Assignments shall reflect:

a. The instruction, research, and service needs of the university and its departments, institutes, centers and other academic units;

b. The bargaining unit faculty member’s qualifications, and expertise, and potential to acquire the appropriate expertise;

c. The bargaining unit faculty member’s evolving professional interests;

d. Generally accepted practices in the field; and

e. A realistic balance of duties consistent with the criteria for review.

All bargaining unit faculty members in instructional classifications and categories at 1.0
annualized FTE shall be assigned at least 0.1 FTE for professional development. Bargaining unit faculty members teaching nine or more classes with 1.0 FTE shall have their course load reduced by one course to allow FTE for professional development.

All bargaining unit faculty members in instructional classifications and categories at 1.0 annualized FTE shall be assigned at least 0.1 FTE for service expectations.

Section 3. Assignments. The Office of the Provost shall be ultimately responsible, subject to delegation, for the assignment of all bargaining unit faculty members’ professional responsibilities.

Bargaining unit faculty members shall be afforded the opportunity to meet with their department or unit head annually, before responsibilities are assigned, to discuss the bargaining unit faculty member’s preferences regarding assignments for teaching, research/creative work, service and other professional responsibilities as set forth in this Article, and the member’s anticipated resource needs. At the bargaining unit faculty member’s request, their caregiving responsibilities shall be considered in the scheduling of assignments.

The department or unit head may modify scheduled assignments, provided they discuss changes with the bargaining unit faculty member before they are made and that changes are not made for arbitrary or capricious reasons. Bargaining unit faculty members shall be given as much notice as possible about potential changes to their scheduled assignments.

Bargaining unit faculty members may request to adjust schedules or assignments that shall not be unreasonably denied.

Section 4. Each bargaining unit faculty member must be fully engaged in teaching, research/creative work, and service work for the university to the extent of their appointment, and must be engaged in work or reasonably available for work for the entirety of the term for which the bargaining unit faculty member is employed unless on approved leave. There is no expectation that a faculty member engage in work for the University outside of their appointment and a faculty member’s election not to work outside of their appointment shall not be considered in assessing or reviewing their performance.

Section 5. Impact of Enrollment on Tenure-Track and Tenured and Career Faculty Assignments. In the event of course cancellation for insufficient enrollment:

a. The University will work with the affected faculty member to determine if it is possible to replace the course assignment with an equivalent course assignment within the same academic year. The assignment of an equivalent course pursuant to the Section shall not be considered an overload assignment. TTF faculty will not be expected to teach more than two courses in a term and Career faculty will not be expected to teach more than three courses in a term unless the faculty member agrees.

b. If it is not possible to replace the course assignment within the same academic year, the department may provide an equivalent, alternative assignment or combination of
assignments consistent with the department’s workload policy. Examples of such work include but are not limited to the following: advising; determining course equivalencies for transfer credit; assessment projects; curriculum development; substitute teaching; recruiting for study abroad programs; and course development for future years. The equivalent, alternative assignment must be completed during the same term the canceled course was scheduled.

c. If assignments cannot be made under (a) and (b) of this section, the bargaining unit faculty member shall be assigned faculty-related work by the Dean’s office.

Section 6. Overloads. An overload assignment is (1) an assignment that is in addition to the bargaining unit faculty member’s regular assignment and FTE status; (2) a one-time or limited assignment, made or approved by the Office of the Provost, that is in addition to or different from regular or usual assignments for the member’s classification and rank; or (3) assignments unrelated to the bargaining unit faculty member’s primary job responsibilities; or (4) work normally completed by a GE.

Overload appointments, except those with alternative compensation models, will be assigned an FTE percentage commensurate with normal workload duties and compensated accordingly. Bargaining unit faculty members may request that overload compensation take the form of a course release when the duties are completed in the same academic year as the release within one year of the release. No bargaining unit faculty member may be disciplined or terminated for refusing an overload assignment.

Appointments for which compensation is paid, in whole or in part, with sponsored federal funds may be ineligible for overload appointment or compensation.

Section 7. Bargaining unit faculty members will be eligible to buy out courses with external grant funds or other research funds at the rate of 10% of their base salary.