

M e m o r a n d u m

To: University Senate
From: Rebecca Andridge, Chair, Council on Academic Affairs
Subject: Proposal to Establish a Professional Practice Faculty Track
Date: January 20, 2023

A PROPOSAL FROM THE COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH A PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE FACULTY TRACK, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

- Whereas University Libraries, as a tenure initiating unit (TIU), proposes the establishment of a Professional Practice Faculty track with appointments at the Professional Practice Assistant Professor, Professional Practice Associate Professor, and Professional Practice Professor levels with their primary responsibilities being the practice of librarianship (at least 90%), advising and service, and selected voting privileges; and
- Whereas there is a well-defined rationale that includes: alignment with peer institutions; connecting the research, instructional and service support provided by University Libraries, the Health Sciences libraries, the Law Library and the libraries on the regional campuses; and addressing the issue of librarian roles performing similar functions operating in different classification schemes; and
- Whereas the percentage of professional practice faculty will not exceed 20% of the total faculty members within the TIU, and it is expected that the overwhelming majority of appointments will be extant staff librarian roles from across the University's libraries, and so an exception is requested to the established expectation of a probationary period for the transitional group; and
- Whereas criteria for appointment, reappointment and non-reappointment, and promotion of professional practice faculty have been established, as well as a process for the transfer of faculty to the practice track; and
- Whereas the proposal has the support of the University Libraries faculty and Dean and has been discussed with the Offices of Academic and Human Resources; and
- Whereas the proposal was reviewed by a subcommittee and then approved by the full Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on December 7, 2022; and

Therefore be it resolved that the University Senate approve the proposal to establish a Professional Practice Faculty track for the University Libraries and respectfully requests approval by the Board of Trustees.