

# New Faculty Mentoring Workshop

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## Housekeeping – CODE OF CONDUCT Duties and Responsibilities of Faculty Members

**McMaster Policy:** Code of Conduct for Faculty and Procedure for Taking Disciplinary Action

(<http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/faculty/Conduct/CodeofConduct-ProceduresforDisciplinaryAction.pdf>)

Unless stated otherwise in the letter of appointment (and/or the annual contract, if applicable), faculty members have obligations to McMaster University in three areas: (a) teaching; (b) research, scholarly, or creative activities; and (c) university service.

- a) Each Faculty member is responsible for teaching effectively and in a conscientious manner. Without limiting the generality of this requirement, faculty members
  - Will follow Senate and Graduate Council policies regarding course outlines, and will inform students of assignments and methods of evaluation;
  - Will make themselves accessible to students for consultation, for instance, by posting and maintaining reasonable office hours;
  - Will adhere to the published time-table in all but exceptional circumstances, and will take reasonable and appropriate steps to inform both students and the University of any necessary cancellation and rescheduling of instruction; and
  - Will be conscientious in grading student assignments and commenting on these in a timely fashion, and will adhere to the schedules for submission of grades and evaluations by Department, Faculties and the School of Graduate Studies.

- (b) Each faculty member will devote a reasonable portion of time to research, scholarship, or creative work. All faculty members will make the results of such work accessible to their peers in the scholarly community, and, where appropriate, to the general public, through publications, lectures, and other means.
- (c) Each faculty member is responsible for participating in the life of the university, in governance and administration. They will normally do so through participation in committees of the University, and/or by accepting a fair and reasonable share of the administrative responsibilities in their Department, their Faculty, and the University.
- (d) Each faculty member is responsible for conducting himself/herself in a professional and ethical manner towards colleagues, students, staff, and other members of the University community. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, faculty members at McMaster University.
- Will not infringe the academic freedom of their colleagues:
  - Will not discriminate against any member of the University community on grounds prohibited by the Ontario Human Rights Code;
  - Will observe appropriate principles of confidentiality, particularly regarding students;
  - Will, in their published work, whenever it is appropriate, indicate publicly the assistance of academic colleagues or students;
  - Will disclose conflicts of interest or other circumstances which may reasonably introduce or appear to introduce bias into any academic or administrative decision to which they may be a party; and
  - Will observe all the published rules and policies of the University and its legislative bodies.

**CRITICAL FOR OUR SUCCESS WITH CEAB!!!**  
**Become a P. Eng./Requirements for Licensure**

To be granted a licence to practise professional engineering in Ontario, an applicant must:

- be at least 18 years old;
- be of good character;
- meet PEO's stipulated [academic requirements](#) for licensure (hold an undergraduate engineering degree from a Canadian Engineering Accreditation board (CEAB)-accredited program, or possess equivalent qualifications), and, if required, successfully complete any [technical exams](#).
- fulfill the engineering [work experience requirements](#) (demonstrate at least 48 months of verifiable, acceptable engineering experience, at least 12 months of which must be acquired in a Canadian jurisdiction under a licensed professional engineer); and
- successfully complete PEO's [Professional Practice Examination \(PPE\)](#).

Applicants are not required to be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant, making it easier for those from outside of Canada to apply for and obtain a licence.

More information is available here, [http://www.peo.on.ca/index.php/ci\\_id/2057/la\\_id/1.htm](http://www.peo.on.ca/index.php/ci_id/2057/la_id/1.htm)

**\*\*Please note that the Dean's office will cover the cost of the application fee.**

# Objective of Workshop

- Communicate requirements for tenure/permanence
- Practical advice on
  - Finding a mentor
  - time management
  - teaching
  - service
  - research
  - work/life balance
- Want this to be an informal discussion!
  - Panel: please jump in with ideas
  - New Faculty: There are no dumb questions

# T & P/Permanence Requirements

- Yellow document has details:  
link: [http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/faculty/Appointments/Tenure\\_and\\_Promotion\\_January%202012.pdf](http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/faculty/Appointments/Tenure_and_Promotion_January%202012.pdf)  
(or just google: “McMaster policy tenure and promotion”)
- Requirements for tenure:
  - Effective teacher
  - Scholarly achievement: promising program of scholarly work, record of peer review publications, strong promise of more to come.
  - Diligent service
- Requirements for permanence:
  - Excellent teacher – higher standard of performance

# Assessments:

- Teaching:
  - Student course evaluations (“effectiveness of instructor” is key question)
  - Peer review assessments
- Research:
  - Publication records
  - Funding
  - External referee reports (6 names required)
- Citizenship:
  - Less important than research/teaching for assessment of tenure (but there are other reasons to do a diligent job on committee work)

# Find a Mentor!

- Someone that you can ask for advice
- Characteristics to look for in a mentor:
  - A desire to help
  - Has had positive experiences being mentored
  - Good reputation for developing others
  - Time and energy
  - Demonstrated effective mentoring skills
- Talk to your chair about who should be your mentor



# **TIME MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL TIPS**

# Time Management/Organization

- Keep a list of long term goals
- Break down long term goals into do-able short term goals
- Set goals for each day. Consider long-term goals in daily tasks.
- Consider working at home 1 day a week
- Watch for diminishing returns in how you spend your time: (example – overly elaborate website for your course).

# Organizational Tips

- Record of Activities:
  - FILL IT IN AS THE YEAR PROGRESSES!
- EMAIL: Always use correct SUBJECT and put key info into SUBJECT line.
- Example:
  - SUBJECT: I.P. Knightly (#1312333) – Rusty Bedsprings
- Use “second signature in Outlook” as a way to send out answers to frequent questions

# “Reference” Binder

- Create a ‘reference binder’: If there is stuff you are constantly looking up, print it out and put it in a binder that you keep near your desk. Example:
  - Dept regulations for grad students
  - 12 point system conversion to %
  - Status of Ph.D. students – who is on their committee, when they last had their committee meeting.
  - Software manuals
  - Technical stuff: fluid properties, ...
  - Phone numbers...

# Try to Avoid:

- Perfectionism!
- Internet: facebook, twitter, ...
- Procrastination: difficulty with starting a new task. Technique is to say:
  - “I will work on this task for 10 minutes.” Once you get started it is not as bad as you thought it would be.
- Multi-tasking:
  - More effective to work through your to-do list one at a time.

**TEACHING**

# Suggestions – Teaching

- Lectures:
  - Be organized.
  - Information should be presented in logical and methodical order.
  - Use consistent notation. Define all symbols.
  - Always do an example after introducing new theory
  - Don't use examples from the textbook – try to find other textbooks to help with lecture prep

# Suggestions – Teaching (con't)

- Start lecture by reminding students of what was done at last lecture (if appropriate)
- Be enthusiastic and energetic: almost any topic can be made interesting
- Smile!
- Don't talk to the chalkboard
- Watch for diminishing returns in your work (e.g. no need for elaborate website)



# Suggestions – Teaching (con't)

- ENGAGE the students!
  - Ask them questions.
  - Try to get them to think and be interactive during the lectures.
  - Check out “Eric Mazur – Confessions of a Converted Lecturer” on youtube
- Rethink whether ppt is best way to present material (esp. mathematical equation development). I like overheads (with two projectors). Benefits: always facing the class, helps with maintaining correct pace of lecture.

# Suggestions – Teaching (con't)

- To gain control of a large noisy class:
  - STAY CALM. Don't get angry.
  - Pause the lecture (the students will eventually notice)
  - Distract them with a “shiny object” like a youtube video
- Informal teaching evaluation:
  - Consider having an informal assessment after a few weeks into the term. CLL (or its current equivalent) can arrange this. Request: “Refining a Course”

# Tests and Exams

- ALWAYS do the test yourself to ensure:
  - Correct level of difficulty
  - Appropriate timing (they need 2-3 times longer)
  - Catch any mistakes in the questions
  - Ask a T.A. to also write the test.
- Order of exam questions: start with the easier questions then have tougher ones at the end
- I err on making the test a bit hard and then adjust the marking to get a reasonable average
- Visit the room assigned for the test and make sure it is appropriate
- Be clear about how much time there is to write the test: i.e., does it finish at 12:20 or 12:30?

# Interactions with Students

- Be reasonable with students.
- Follow 3Fs: fair, firm, friendly
- Organizational tip – re: grade changes:
  - In my course binder I have a blank sheet of paper in which I write down all changes to student grades (or any student issues). That way it is in one place and I don't need to go through a gazillion emails to correct the grades before I submit them.

# Teaching Timeline - Housekeeping

- **3 months before term starts:**
  - inform the bookstore of the required textbook
- **1-2 months before:**
  - inform library of reserve items
  - book computer labs (if required) and make sure software is working

# Teaching Timeline (con't)

- **a few weeks before:**
  - go to the classroom that the registrar has booked. Make sure that it has sufficient seats for the expected number of students. Familiarize yourself with the lights, screens, etc. so that you aren't fumbling on the first day!
  - Meet with the teaching assistants once they have been assigned. Fill out the 'Hours of Work' Form (this is a requirement from the t.a. union). Determine the tasks (and associated hours) that each t.a. will perform.
- **Early in the term:**
  - Decide on a date for the midterm(s) and book a testing room ([bookings@mcmaster.ca](mailto:bookings@mcmaster.ca)). Go to the room and ensure that it is suitable.

**SERVICE**

# Service

- Yellow document: “expected that...perform such assignments diligently and effectively.”
- Want to develop a good reputation
- Opportunity to raise your profile outside of your department or possibly faculty
- Opportunity to meet potential collaborators or mentor
- BUT – be prepared to say NO if you are asked to be on too many committees. Get advice on this from your mentor.



# Service – Suggestions for Success

- Organizational tip: Use a separate file for each committee. I staple together loose-leaf paper and put all my meeting notes in that. I will print out important emails and tape them into my stapled paper. This means that I don't lose notes and all my notes are with me in one place. I have found this very effective.

# Service – Suggestions for Success

- Come to meetings on time and prepared
- Complete your actions
- Don't promise something you can't complete
- Respond to emails in a timely manner
- Use the correct SUBJECT in your emails (so important yet rarely done!!!)

# More suggestions - Service

- Be engaged! Don't be afraid to talk if you have something to contribute.
- Treat people with respect.
- Always say thank you.
- Be a positive and enthusiastic colleague. It is exhausting to be around people who complain about the work that needs to be done (i.e., graduate attributes assessment).
- Watch for diminishing returns.

# RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDENT SUPERVISION

# Graduate Student Supervision

- Tenure timing: normally assessed during 5<sup>th</sup> year. This means that your dossier is put together after you have been at the university for 4 years.
- Timing of tenure and the lag between when a student starts and when they publish add more challenges to getting tenure.
- Try to get grad students as soon as you can
- Consider collaboration with other profs – but need to also develop independent research program.

# How to find good students?

- 4<sup>th</sup> year capstone design students
- If you teach 4<sup>th</sup> year, try to encourage strong students to stay for grad school
- Hire summer u/g students
- If you can arrange: speak to 4<sup>th</sup> year class at other schools
- Foreign students:
  - Easy to find foreign students, but riskier?
  - At a minimum arrange a phone call (or Skype) prior to accepting to assess English.
  - Some profs get foreign students to write up a short review of a paper or topic as a way of assessment of suitability for grad school.

# Graduate Student Supervision

- Set expectations at first meeting
- I go through a document that lists my expectations:
  - Strong work ethic
  - Come to meetings on time
  - Come prepared for our meetings (results, problems, solutions, next steps)
  - Bring paper and pen
  - Respond to emails
  - Technical expectations: grid independence....
- Discuss plagiarism and give them information on proper referencing

# Interactions with Grad Students

- Various methods:
  - Weekly scheduled meetings vs. as-needed meetings
  - Individual meetings vs. meetings with a group of students working in similar areas
- Students should leave the meeting with a clear understanding of what to do next. Keep long-term goals in mind
- Tailor your interactions to the needs of the students. Some students need a lot of supervision and others are able to work independently.



# McMaster Ph.D. Rules

- Need a Supervisory Committee
  - Composition may vary with dept?
- MUST meet every year
- financial penalty if supervisory committee meeting is missed!
- Ph.D. Comprehensive exam:
  - Often at around 18 months into Ph.D. program
  - Rules vary with department

# Publishing

- Obvious stuff:
  - Papers should have an original contribution
  - Must be well written
- Start with best appropriate journal to submit to.
- Develop a thick skin. Some reviewers can be mean.
- Learn from what the reviewers say and incorporate comments if appropriate.
- If you disagree with reviewers, then make a case and let the editor know. Sometimes they will reconsider acceptance.

# Conferences

- Tenure: Need visibility and develop research reputation.
- Use conferences as a way to develop a list of external referees. (But be careful about how you interact with them – they must be at arms length to be referees for tenure case).
- Can also develop potential collaborations through networking at conferences.

# Collaborations

- Good to have a balance of independent and collaborative research
- Best collaboration is when each person brings something different to the partnership – complementary skills.
- Need to be careful about collaborating with senior faculty (at tenure time they might attribute the work to the senior person)

# GRANTS

- Easy-ish:
  - MITACS
  - NSERC: ENGAGE, CRD (need industry partner with matching funding)
- Getting hard:
  - NSERC-DG
- Key point: get someone to review your proposals!

# FORM 101 - NSERC-DG TIPS

## (Lessons learned from being on GSC-1054)

- Important point: Make your research sound compelling. Explain why the work is hard. What is the 'discovery' component.
- Make it easy for the reviewers:
  - Consider 'readability' of text: font, spacing,...
  - Upshot: don't want to annoy the reviewers
- avoid acronyms
- don't list too many projects
- be clear about methodology
- emphasis novelty of work and potential impact
- don't be vague
- Communicate that you understand limitations of techniques

# Form 101 – con't

- literature: make sure lit review is current and don't just refer to your own work!
- include a clear plan for how the HQP will be involved in the work
- use all 5 pages
- avoid using the words “I” and “my”. Better to use “We”.
- At the end of the day, there is a ‘subjectivity’ to the NSERC review. Sometimes one member can really sway the committee.

# Form 100/Common CV

- be honest and don't pad the form 100 by listing student theses etc.
- under 'Peer Reviewed Conferences': don't list conferences where only the abstract is reviewed. You can list those under a separate conference section where you are very clear that only the abstract is reviewed
- Masters students: let the committee know if the students are course masters students
- talk about how you interact with the students (i.e., weekly meetings). Also importance of 'soft skills'.
- clarify your role in co-supervisions and also indicate your contribution to papers.
- the GSC liked to see that the applicant was doing 'community' work like organizing conferences, reviewing journal papers, etc. (i.e., that the applicant is actively involved in the community that they work in)



# Form 100/Common CV (con't)

- under 'reasons for delays in research': don't list something that won't be resolved in the next grant period. For example, if you list being department chair as a reason for a delay in research, but you have just started your chair term and will be chair for a few more years, this won't help your case!
- large numbers of publications or large numbers of graduate students will raise eyebrows. It begs the question: how much involvement does the applicant really have with their grad students and /or how much input to the paper is the applicant giving. Again explain your contribution to the papers.
- if you say "I'm an international leader..." make sure that you can justify that!
- think carefully about the time that you allocate for each project (in the 'Current Funding' section of form100)
- in the list of papers, make sure you indicate which authors are your students. The committee liked to see the HQP publishing their work.

# Work/Life Balance

# Misc. Suggestions – Work Life Balance

- Life is short!
  - Don't obsess with work
  - Make time for yourself
  - Exercise
  - find time for some hobby that you are passionate about
  - Have a room in your house that is clutter free that you feel happy in.
  - Wine/beer/hot tub is the answer to most problems
  - Make time to see your friends and do stuff with your partner.
- From Dave Weaver:

“Make the most of where you are along the path.”