

ARPT Committee

ARPT Report for Academic Year 2012–2013

TO: Duncan Quarless, Chair, Faculty Senate
FROM: Christopher Hobson, Jingyi Song, Co-Chairs, 2012–2013
SUBJECT: ARPT Annual Report 2012–2013
DATE: February 1, 2014

This report covers ARPT's actions in the 2012–2013 Academic Year and is overdue, since the Bylaws provide for annual reports to be submitted by August 1 following the conclusion of the academic year. We apologize for the delay.

ARPT's major problem in 2012–2013, as in some earlier years, was a difficulty in filling all positions. This problem occurs because ARPT is a high-workload committee, meeting three Fridays a month for most of the fall and spring semesters; members must take substantial time before meetings to read files. Nonetheless, the committee's work is vital and, if we may so express it, satisfying: we contribute materially to the job of creating the best possible faculty for the College. In 2012–2013, ARPT began the year with only five positions filled, and one member stepped down to become chair of a Department. The remaining three positions were filled by appointment, thanks to hard work by then-Senate chair Jacob Heller.

Drs. Jingyi Song (HP) and Christopher Hobson (EL) were elected co-chairs for 2012–2013. During the year, ARPT considered 23 cases: eight first reappointments, one second reappointment, nine third (year-to-tenure-review) reappointments, and five tenure/promotion cases. There was very little controversy at any level about these cases. In all 23 cases, ARPT supported the same outcome (reappointment or tenure/promotion) as the Department, and the eventual Administrative decision supported the same outcome.

In three cases, involving two Departments, the Departments recommended three-year initial reappointments for candidates they felt were exceptionally strong; all three Department votes were unanimous. ARPT supported the recommendations for three-year reappointments—unanimously in one case, by majority in two (with the other votes supporting two years). In all three cases, the Administrative decision was for a two-year initial reappointment, sending, in our view, a clear signal that Administration is strongly committed to the norm of two-year reappointment steps and will consider exceptions only very rarely.

A report from Provost O'Sullivan detailing the cases, Department and ARPT votes, and outcomes is attached.

