POLICY FOR PROFESSOR OF THE PRACTICE APPOINTMENTS IN THE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCE

April 16, 2009

Professors of the Practice in the School of Engineering & Applied Science demonstrate mastery in the practice of their disciplines and are acknowledged experts and leaders in their fields. Candidates are expected to have had a long and distinguished industrial career that will enable them to contribute in a unique fashion to the professional education process. Only exceptional candidates will be considered for appointment as a Professor of the Practice.

1. Appointment Details:

a. Professor of the Practice appointments are neither with tenure nor on the tenure-track. Appointment to Professor of the Practice may not be made if the overall responsibility of the prospective appointee is substantially the same as that carried by a faculty member who is tenured or on the tenure track. While the presence of a Professor of the Practice is expected to enrich the curriculum and enhance the classroom experience, the School’s hiring priorities should continue to be the recruitment and appointment of outstanding tenured and tenure-track faculty.

b. The length of the initial appointment and any reappointment will be determined by the Dean in consultation with the Chair or Program Director requesting the appointment. Appointments are normally full-time.

c. A candidate for appointment as Professor of the Practice should have a distinguished record of professional achievement, as evidenced by outstanding technical contributions, regional or national prominence, or international recognition.

d. Professor of the Practice appointments are subject to institutional criteria, such as the budgetary and teaching requirements of the Department or Program, the School of Engineering & Applied Science, and the University.

e. Professor of the Practice responsibilities may include teaching, advising and program administration, but there is no expectation for the appointee to conduct research or engage in scholarly publishing. Professors of the Practice may collaborate in research with other faculty but may not serve as a Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator on research grants and contracts; nor may they serve as a principal thesis advisor for doctoral or master’s students or serve on doctoral committees.

f. Professors of the Practice are not voting members of the Faculty Assembly. They may attend Faculty Assembly meetings by invitation; however, they may not vote.

2. Initial Appointments:

A Department Chair or Program Director may initiate a Professor of Practice appointment by submitting the candidate’s dossier to the Dean at least two months prior to the anticipated hire with the following:
a. Required: The Chair’s or Program Director’s letter of recommendation. This letter should:

- Explain how the Professor of the Practice appointment serves the needs of the Department or Program, how it fits in with the Department’s or Program’s future development, and why it is appropriate to make the appointment at the Professor of the Practice rank.

- Summarize the discussion of the Professor of the Practice candidate undertaken at the Departmental or Program level.

- Justify the exceptional attributes of the Professor of the Practice candidate that will strengthen the Department or Program.

- State the expected duration of the appointment to Professor of the Practice.

- List the proposed teaching and Departmental or Program duties expected of the Professor of the Practice.

b. Required: The candidate’s full curriculum vitae.

c. Optional: Any solicited evaluation letters received from external or internal experts.

d. Optional: Samples of the candidate’s work selected by the Chair or Program Director in consultation with the candidate.

If the Dean determines that the request should be forwarded to the Executive Committee for further review and recommendation, the Department Chair or Program Director will submit six (6) copies of the candidate’s dossier to the Dean’s office. The Executive Committee will review the dossier and make a recommendation to the Dean, who will then determine whether to approve the appointment.

3. Reappointments and Nonrenewals:

The decision to reappoint a Professor of Practice at the conclusion of an initial appointment term will be made by the Dean based on the recommendation of the Department Chair or Program Director. Notice that a Professor of Practice appointment will not be renewed, and notice of the terms and conditions of any renewal, will be given in accordance with section IV.B.4 of the University’s Policy on Academic Freedom, Responsibility, and Tenure.