GUIDELINES FOR FACULTY RECRUITMENT AND HIRING

This document arises from the College's commitment to appointing and retaining a faculty of the highest quality. The principle of inclusive excellence is a fundamental value of hiring at Kenyon; the College designates diversity of backgrounds as one of the measures of quality, and these guidelines, in aiming at the general goal of enhancing faculty excellence, have as a specific goal the broadening of the likelihood that faculty searches will generate candidate pools that contain women and persons from minority backgrounds. The guidelines below are consistent with other statements in the Faculty Handbook about the recruitment of faculty, and while they update the earlier "Guidelines" document, they are designed to be faithful to the commitment made in that document to promote equal opportunity in hiring.

A. Request for approval to conduct a search

1. A description of the position for which a search is requested is submitted by the Department/Program Chair to the Provost as far in advance as is reasonably possible.

   a. For Tenure-Track positions, a detailed description with supporting evidence (e.g., arguments concerning staff size, curriculum, enrollment, interdisciplinary range) will already have been endorsed by RAAS, the relevant subcommittee of the Executive Committee of the Faculty. The RAAS guidelines for FTE allocation and reallocation establish the procedures for the committee’s approval.

   b. In the case of full-year sabbatical or leave without pay replacement, a brief statement of the need is generally sufficient.

2. After discussion with the Provost, the Department/Program Chair and the Associate Provost for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion you will receive authorization from the Provost to prepare the job posting that will be placed on Kenyon’s employment sites. This authorization specifies rank and the character of the appointment (regular or visiting). Once such authorization is received, the search chair or department administrative assistant may add the job description into PageUp.

B. The Search Committee

1. For Tenure-Track appointments, the Department/Program Chair consults with the
Provost before selecting the search committee; for visiting appointments, the Chair consults with the Associate Provost who will oversee the department or program search. The Department/Program Chair may choose to serve as chair of the search committee, but many departments prefer to have another member handle this responsibility. The Faculty places three requirements on the formation of each search committee. First, the committee must include at least three faculty members. Second, the committee must include at least one faculty member from outside the department, chosen in consultation with the Provost for Tenure-Track positions and with the Associate Provost for visiting positions. This "outside" member is to be involved as fully as possible in all stages of the search and the selection process. The search committee will include at least one person of each gender.

C. Advertising the Position

1. The advertising copy must be approved by EEO and the Provost (for Tenure-Track positions) or the Associate Provost (for visiting positions) before placement. Such approval occurs ordinarily after the posting is constructed and submitted into the PageUp employment system; however, the chair may submit a preliminary draft of the posting via email before submitting it on the system.

2. Openings for all full-time positions, visiting and regular, if at least one year's duration, will be advertised nationally, except as noted in #3 and #4 below.

   a. The ad will include: 1) a description of the position; 2) a list of special qualifications and competencies desired; 3) either the deadline for the submission of applications or a date after which applications will begin to be considered at least 30 days from the initial appearance of the ad; and 4) statement that all applications must be submitted electronically.

   b. Ordinarily, ad placement will include but not be limited to graduate schools, professional journals or newsletters, field specific publications, electronic listservs, and publications such as The Chronicle of Higher Education and Inside Higher Ed. All postings should remain open until filled but should include a start date to review applicants.

3. Part-time openings or full-time visiting positions that become available too late for a full search must also be advertised if time permits. However, advertising for these positions may be limited to local or regional sources, and the application deadline may be more immediate. (See one day schedule for these searches)
4. For positions of no more than one year in duration the Provost or Associate Provost may, at the request of the department and in consultation with EEO, waive the obligation for a national search and authorize either a more local search or the appointment of a person with whose work the department and the College are already familiar.

5. Recruitment of candidates should not be limited to the running of advertisements. Written inquiries should be directed to graduate schools, institutions comparable to Kenyon, colleagues, and relevant "outside" professional individuals. Where available, the Provost and Associate Provost or Associate Provost for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion will supply names of prospective candidates from women and minority rosters; if the credentials of these persons appear to qualify them, they should be notified of the opening. Phone contacts and electronic postings are also appropriate.

D. Conducting the Search Prior to Campus Visits

1. In all searches, the search committee chair and administrative assistant of the department in which the appointment is to be made will meet with the Provost, the Associate Provost, and the Associate Provost for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at a workshop to review hiring procedures and discuss strategies for assuring success in the search. At this meeting special issues relevant to the particular search in question (e.g., recruitment strategies, make up of the candidate pool, anticipated start up costs, facilities needs, administrative support, procedures for equal opportunity monitoring) will be identified.

2. Whenever possible, recruitment and preliminary screening interviews should be conducted nationally at professional meetings. It is the College's policy to pay for the attendance of two department members for each search for interviewing purposes at a professional meeting. Whenever possible, an interview team should contain members of both genders. If the timing of professional meeting makes such meetings inappropriate for recruitment purposes, the interview team should conduct video interviews.

3. If visiting members of the Kenyon faculty who are eligible for consideration apply for a Tenure-Track appointment, they are to provide the same information required of other candidates (see #5 below), and if they are chosen for campus visits, these visits should conform as closely as possible to the model prescribed for those visits (see E-1-3 below) and the "Protocol for Searches with Internal Candidates," (available from
the Provost and the Associate Provost for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion).

4. After screening interviews, the search chair or the administrative assistant should bulk move the top ten candidates into the application status of “top 10 selection.” EEO will then review the online dossiers of the top ten candidates as well as others. 

Allow at least three (3) business days for review; the Provost or the Associate Provost must give approval to invite candidates to campus before any visits are scheduled and arrangements made.

Given the College's commitment to equal employment opportunity and diversity of the faculty, search committees will strive to identify and recruit minority and women candidates. When no such persons are included on the list of ten candidates, the chair of the search committee will offer an explanation in a conversation with the Provost (for Tenure-Track positions), the Associate Provost (for visiting positions) and the Associate Provost for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and, if there are minority and/or women applicants, supply their dossiers along with the top ten. The Provost or the Associate Provost may ask the search committee to reconsider its ranking in light of the conversation.

5. In consultation with the Chair and the Associate Provost for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, the Provost or the Associate Provost will identify the candidates to be invited to Kenyon for an on-campus interview. Normally, three candidates will be brought to campus, and ordinarily the Provost or Associate Provost will approve invitations to the top three candidates identified in their top 10 rankings. But if the Provost or Associate Provost believes that it is important, especially for purposes of diversity, to bring someone not in the top three to campus, the Provost or Associate Provost may direct that a fourth candidate be invited or that one of the top three be replaced by a candidate from lower down on the list.

6. When making housing arrangements for out of town candidates during the interview process it is preferred that people use the Kenyon Inn as their first choice in finding housing accommodations for job candidates since it is a College-owned hotel.

E. The On-Campus Interviews

1. During on-campus visits, interviews with candidates will be scheduled for: the Provost (for Tenure-Track positions) or the Associate Provost (for visiting positions); members of the department conducting the search; and a representative group of students.
2. The search chair should be sensitive to the need for, or the appropriateness of scheduling meetings with other faculty/community members that might include: members of cognate departments; women faculty members for female candidates; underrepresented faculty for underrepresented candidates; or any other groups that the candidate may requests. An inquiry should be made at the time of making the invitation if there are any representatives from the campus community at large that the candidate would like to meet.

3. During an on-campus visit candidates will be expected to teach a class session and make a presentation that demonstrates their scholarly/research/artistic interests and talents.

   a. The class will ordinarily be scheduled as part of a regular course, but it will be open to members of the search committee, who are expected to attend, and to the Provost or Associate Provost.

   b. The professional presentation will be announced to the campus via email and open to all interested faculty and students. Search committee members are expected to attend.

F. Identifying the Person to be Invited to Join the Faculty

1. When on-campus interviews have been completed, the chair of the search committee should seek and receive assessments from all department members and the students. Student feedback can be received through student membership on the search committee, the use of a parallel student committee, or some similar means which result in systematic evaluation from students.

2. Search Committee Chair confers with the Provost (tenure track search) or Associate Provost (visiting search) prior to search committee’s final deliberation meeting to select the person to be recommended for hire. Schedule meeting so as to allow sufficient time after last campus visit for discussion to occur; neither the Provost nor the Associate Provost is likely to be available upon short notice.

3. The Search committee meets to deliberate. The Chair brings copy of the job posting to meeting and reminds committee of the stated qualifications as well as any
agreements reached as to weighting of preferred qualifications (e.g. “Ph.D preferred,” value assigned to “degree in hand” vs “ABD;” “experience in ___ especially attractive,” etc.). The Chair is to record any such weighting employed in assessing candidates as well as the reasons for ranking the candidates who were interviewed on campus.

4. After the committee has considered all of the advice it has received, the search committee chair notifies the Provost or Associate Provost of the committee’s ranking of the top 3 with a recommendation of hire. The Provost or the Associate Provost will discuss with search chair the recommended candidates and authorize a hire. At this point the administrative assistant or search chair will move the candidate in PageUp to “recommend for hire.” This will trigger the offer process.