

POLICY ON MEMBERSHIP

The Area Committees are asked to make recommendations to the Executive Council regarding approval of nominations to faculty membership of individuals who are not tenure-track or tenured members of the faculty of Rutgers University or of the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School of UMDNJ. The Committees are generally accommodating to such nominations when Associate Membership is requested, but set a higher bar for Full Membership, which authorizes individuals to chair Ph.D. committees.

In the experimental sciences, where postdoctoral fellowships are typically a part of individual career paths and where these sometimes evolve into assistant research professorships, there is usually a question of the independence of these individuals and their ability to support doctoral students in adequate space and with their own grant funding. Most have not been vetted by the primary appointment and promotion process of the universities; the universities, in turn, have made no long-term commitment to them. They do not have the benefit of the kinds of start-up support given to tenure-track faculty members and their own research is often intertwined with that of the head of the laboratory in which they work. In non-experimental fields there is still a question of the research stature and continuing availability of such nominees.

The area committees will recommend Full Membership only for individuals who, in experimental fields, have achieved research independence, who seem likely to have the research support that will allow them to support students, and who are able to ensure appropriate space for such students. In addition, the Committees expect that nominees to Membership will show past or planned participation in the graduate program through teaching or other service. They must, of course, as must all members, present evidence of significant publications for which they are the corresponding authors, preferably publications for which their sponsors are not co-authors, and a reasonable likelihood that they have a long-term relationship with the university that provides confidence that they can supervise doctoral students they take on through to their degrees.

The Committees further request that all such nominations be accompanied by a cover letter that indicates the numerical vote of the program faculty on the nomination.