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NTT titles and changing ranks – in the right direction?

Over the past couple of weeks TAUP has been receiving inquiries and complaints from nontenure-track faculty (NTTs) who have received new position titles. A number of Senior Lecturers, for instance, have been informed by their Deans that they will henceforth have the rank of Assistant Professor. Some of them had been promoted from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer. Now they feel they are being demoted. Some Lecturers may also be seeing their titles changed to Instructor.

These title changes are taking place following the issuance of guidelines by Provost Lisa Staiano-Coico in May (see <http://www.temple.edu/vpfaculty/newfaculty.html>) for the appointment and promotion of NTTs.

In the current contract negotiations, however, TAUP has proposed a system of transition from old titles to new ones: Instructor to Instructor; Lecturer to Assistant Professor; Senior Lecturer to Associate Professor; and Distinguished Lecturer to Professor. This transition makes sense to us, but in the absence of a new agreement with management, apparently that is not what happening.

If you are a nontenure track faculty member, please contact us and tell us your previous rank and title, the new rank and title you have been assigned, and in what college and department you work. The more information we have, the better able we will be to ask questions of management and to present information to back up our proposals. Of course, we will keep confidential all information you provide us and will not identify you without your explicit permission.

Thanks for your help.

Art Hochner
TAUP President