While I understand that no personnel information may be shared about a specific case, I have a question about the process that is not addressed in the available documentation. I do not want to engage in ex parte communications. To whom may I address my question?

As outlined in AC70, ex parte communications are “any communications, direct or indirect, between parties and Committee members shall be prohibited, unless all parties are given notice and an opportunity to participate.” Questions about the process associated with AC70 may be available in the public information about the AC70 process, including the AC70 policy and the joint SCJOT procedural guidelines maintained by the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and the Office of the University Faculty Senate. If these documents do not have the answer to your question, please contact the policy steward for the policy, the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs. Please do not contact any of the committee members including the chair.

Who is subject to confidentiality provisions associated with the Standing Joint Committee on Tenure?

The process associated with the Standing Joint Committee is posted on the Senate website. Regarding a specific case, all those who participate in a matter before the Standing Joint Committee on Tenure are participating in a confidential process. This includes members of the administration (i.e., dean, provost, vice provost for faculty affairs, staff in the office of general counsel), University Faculty Senate (executive director, administrative staff), members of the standing joint committee on tenure (members and outside counsel for the committee), and the faculty member before the committee (including that individual’s outside counsel).

What constitutes a conflict of interest?

A conflict of interest occurs when an individual’s judgment or decision making may be compromised by a secondary interest (such as interests or concerns related to any party involved, outside / third parties, or the individual). It is a conflict between the individual’s own interest or concerns and the individual’s obligations to make fair and objective decisions, and is present when it would appear to a reasonable person that the individual’s decision making would be compromised because of the conflict. In the context of service on the University’s SJCOT, individual members of the SJCOT should, on a case-by-case basis, determine whether they may have a conflict that impairs their ability to serve as an objective member of the SJCOT. Without limitation, this may include a personal or professional relationship with the subject faculty member or the relevant University dean, public statements or prior advocacy on behalf of the subject faculty member with respect to the particular matter at hand, predetermination of the matter, or financial or professional interest in a particular outcome. The SJCOT is responsible for making ultimate determinations regarding members’ conflicts of interest in particular matters.