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Role of the Professorial Promotions Committee (PPC)

The chair and members of the PPC are appointed by the Dean and serve in an advisory capacity to the Dean and the Advisory Board of the Medical Faculty (ABMF). The PPC is the only committee in the School of Medicine that provides a standing report at each regular meeting of the ABMF. The charge to the PPC is not to set the criteria for promotion, but to interpret those criteria with respect to individual candidates as published within the "Gold Book" (i.e., Policies and Guidelines Governing Appointments, Promotions and Professional Activities of the Full-Time Faculty of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine) for full-time faculty, and in the "Blue Book" for part-time faculty. In this respect the role of the PPC is analogous to a judicial body, which interprets and applies the law to individual cases, but does not write or amend it. Unlike a court, however, the PPC does not make the final decision regarding an individual's promotion, but serves in an advisory capacity to the Dean and the ABMF for their final decision. Indeed, although uncommon, recommendations by the PPC have been overruled by the ABMF.