

**Message to Faculty Concerning Optional Tenure Clock Extension  
due to COVID-19 (Summer 2020)**

FINAL

Yeshiva University recognizes that tenure-track faculty are facing a tremendous challenge during this historic period of disruption and fear occasioned by the COVID-19 health crisis. Opportunities for research and scholarship have been disrupted, while conferences and professional meetings have been either cancelled or delayed. The pressures on tenure-track faculty are enormous as they try to maintain their progress toward tenure.

Accordingly, the University is offering current tenure-track faculty, as well as newly-hired incoming faculty for the 2020-2021 academic year, the option of extending their tenure clock for either one or two years. **This option is entirely voluntary.** It is only available for these faculty, and is not available for faculty hired after the 2020-2021 academic year.

Tenure-track faculty members may exercise this option by written notice to the Provost's Office at any time **prior** to the commencement of the Spring semester before the academic year in which the tenure evaluation occurs - which usually is the Spring semester of the fifth year when the faculty members begins preparation of his/her Tenure Dossier. The option **cannot** be exercised after this deadline when the faculty member has already notified his/her Dean of the intention to be evaluated for tenure during the following academic year and begun preparation of his/her Tenure Dossier.

Tenure-track faculty who wish to come up for tenure in the traditional sixth year of their contracts may continue to do so. Faculty electing an extension of the tenure clock will not be evaluated more rigorously than those who choose to advance without an extension. All tenure-track faculty will be held to the same standards whether or not they choose to take advantage of the University's offer.

The COVID-19 health crisis has disrupted higher education, research, and scholarship in ways that we are still trying to understand. The University wants you to know that the University is aware of the professional and personal stress that you are experiencing and is taking steps to help mitigate the adverse impact on the tenure process. We thank you sincerely for your dedication to your students and your persistence in academic life at Yeshiva. I look forward to working with you during the remainder of this crisis and to emerging from it with the hard-earned wisdom and humility that can result from continuing to remain positive and thoughtful in all our endeavors.