Communication from the Committee on Academic Personnel
Margaret Walsh, MS, EdD, Chair

July 15, 2008

Sally Marshall, PhD
Vice Provost, Academic Affairs
Campus Box 0652

Re: Appointment and Advancement in the Professional Research Series

Dear Dr. Marshall,

During the annual retreat with the academic deans, the Committee discussed the issue of the Professional Research series and the confusion regarding the criteria for this series. The language of the APM (310-4) appears contradictory to system-wide and campus practice. The Committee on Academic Personnel offers this description to clarify policy and practice regarding this series:

The Professional Research series is used for appointees who engage in independent or collaborative research equivalent to that required for the Professor series. Professional Researchers may or may not be Principal Investigators. Candidates in the Professional Research series do not have teaching responsibilities.

Advancement in this series requires meritorious contributions in the area of creative activity and professional competence. Candidates at the Assistant rank are not required to participate in University and/or public service; however at the Associate level or above, candidates are expected to participate in some form of service.

Appointments in this series can be made to individuals who contribute unique and essential expertise to a research program. Letters—internal, external, or from a Department Chair—written in support of an appointment to or an advancement within this series should include reference to the unique and essential contribution a candidate provides to a collaborative research effort (in the cases where the candidate is not working independently as a Principal Investigator).

The Committee hopes you find this helpful, and welcomes you to distribute this information across the campus as you see fit.

Sincerely,

The Committee on Academic Personnel

Margaret Walsh, EdD, Chair
Erika Froelicher, RN, PhD, FAAN, Vice Chair
Claire Brett, MD
James Cleaver, PhD
Nola Hylton, PhD
Stephen Kahl, PhD
Russell Pieper, PhD