This document was developed and approved by the faculty members of the Department of Mechanical Engineering to provide guidance in applying College standards of promotion and tenure to our discipline. The guidelines are meant to be used by both faculty members eligible for promotion and the Promotion, Tenure, and Review Committee (PTR) to interpret the relative merit of various types of scholarship that are generally performed in the discipline.

The activities and accomplishments listed below represent forms of valued scholarship within the Department. It is important to note that the Department considers all the forms of scholarship within this document to be highly beneficial to the individual faculty, any involved students, the Mechanical Engineering Department, reputation of the Engineering Division and College as a whole, and the field of mechanical engineering (and related technical and educational areas). Thus, this document hopes to clarify the relative beneficial value and merit of scholarly accomplishments typically achieved by department faculty members.

While scholarly work from all three categories listed below must be considered in a faculty member's evaluation, the members of the Department feel strongly that junior faculty must demonstrate some scholarship at the “Most Beneficial and Meritorious Scholarly Accomplishment” level in order to receive support for tenure and promotion from the Department. The Department feels that faculty members desiring to be promoted to full-professor should also demonstrate scholarship at the “Most Beneficial and Meritorious Scholarly Accomplishment” level. However, the Department feels that some circumstances may arise which merit support when the faculty member engages in significant scholarship only at the “Highly Beneficial and Meritorious Scholarly Accomplishment” level.

It is important to note that the intent of this document is not to limit the types of scholarship in which faculty engage. In cases where a faculty member’s scholarship does not fit within these guidelines, the faculty member should work with the department head to provide PTR with guidance on applying the College’s promotion and tenure requirements and the department’s scholarship guidelines to the individual faculty member’s scholarship. Moreover, these relative merit rankings are considered to be typical and faculty are invited to present both to the Department Head and the PTR Committee rationale to move relative rankings on an individual basis for promotion and tenure.
Most Beneficial and Meritorious Scholarly Accomplishment:
◊ Publication of peer reviewed and archived journal articles

Highly Beneficial and Meritorious Scholarly Accomplishment:
◊ Peer reviewed conference proceedings
◊ Publication of a peer reviewed societal standard or specification
◊ Publication of a textbook
◊ Authorship of a book chapter
◊ Successful peer reviewed competitive grant
◊ Patents
◊ Publication of Peer reviewed “scientific method based” pedagogical article
◊ Consulting with a clearly identifiable scholarly component

Beneficial and Meritorious Scholarly Accomplishment:
◊ Conference presentation
◊ Non-peer reviewed conference proceeding
◊ Publication of General Pedagogical article
◊ Pedagogical presentation