

What New Faculty Need to Know

- **Performance Expectations**
 - Requirements for Institutional Success
 - What types of activities and accomplishments are most consistent with the faculty reward system
 - Criteria for contract renewal
 - Criteria for tenure
 - Criteria for merit pay
 - Criteria for promotion

- **Institutional Culture**
 - Is the culture marked by collaboration or competition
 - What is the state of faculty morale
 - Are faculty valued and nurtured
 - Faculty governance
 - Role of the administration
 - Are procedures and expectations clear and understood or ambiguous and widely misunderstood
 - How to accomplish routine tasks (e.g. ordering books for courses, getting materials printed or available on line, library reserve)

- **Institutional Politics**
 - How do decisions get made
 - Who to go to if you have questions or problems
 - How is change accomplished or hindered (change agents or obstructionists)

- **Faculty Evaluation**
 - How is performance assessed
 - Is peer review the norm
 - How is performance evaluation used (for professional development)
 - Are the purposes for faculty evaluation transparent
 - Is performance evaluation fair and equitable
 - What documentation should faculty be supplying

- **Time Management**
 - Are there techniques or guidelines that are particularly useful
 - Are priorities obvious

- **Institutional and Professional Service**
 - What service is most appropriate for new faculty
 - When, to whom, and how to say “no”
 - How to align service with professional and personal interests

- **Teaching and Curriculum Development**
 - Guidelines for syllabus construction
 - Institutional initiatives (e.g. early warning, attendance)
 - Do faculty peers and/or administrators review teaching in a meaningful way
 - How important are student evaluations
 - When to expect declines in student satisfaction and how to use the evaluations in such situations
 - Infusing technology into instruction
 - What is available to help develop teaching skill
 - Classroom management issues
 - Guidelines and resources for course development and structure
 - Guidelines for developing learning goals and assessment
 - Participation in program reviews and discussions

- **Research and Scholarship**
 - What forms and expressions of faculty scholarship are most valued
 - How to develop a research agenda
 - How and where to publish
 - Quantity and Quality
 - Advantages of collaboration
 - Sole authorship

- **Grantsmanship**
 - How is grant seeking supported institutionally
 - Characteristics of successful proposals
 - How important is demonstrating effort to secure external grants
 - How to collaborate with faculty from other divisions on grants

Some topics from Christopher J. Lucas and John W. Murry, Jr.,
New Faculty: A Practical Guide for Academic Beginners, Palgrave, New York 2002.