

FAS-SEAS SENATE

AN ELECTED BODY OF THE
FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES &
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED
SCIENCE YALE UNIVERSITY

Resolution to Transition to a Teaching Professor Model

Approved by the Senate on October 15, 2026

WHEREAS Yale’s newly reaffirmed mission states that “Yale’s core mission is to create, disseminate, and preserve knowledge through research and teaching”; [1]

WHEREAS the Report of the Committee on Trust in Higher Education calls on Yale to focus on its mission, support academic freedom, re-center the classroom, and govern collaboratively; [2]

WHEREAS Yale’s instructional faculty advance that mission significantly through classroom and laboratory instruction, language teaching, advising, mentoring, curricular development, and academic service;

WHEREAS the May 2026 Interim Instructional Faculty Climate Report of the FAS-SEAS Faculty Senate, while recognizing improvements made in earlier years, describes a troubling university climate for Instructional Faculty and documents longstanding problems extending across reports issued in 2017, 2023, and 2026, including job insecurity, inconsistent review practices, insufficient mentoring, exclusion from decision-making, and inadequate institutional records; [3–5]

WHEREAS both the 2023 Off the Ladder report and the 2026 Instructional Faculty Committee Recommendations approved by the Senate on September 10, 2026 expressly recommend a Teaching Professor model and clearer promotion procedures, and protection of academic freedom; [6]

WHEREAS peer universities, including Cornell, Brown, Columbia, Stanford, UChicago, CalTech and Duke, have adopted professorial titles for faculty whose principal responsibility

is teaching, demonstrating the feasibility and providing precedents for professional recognition. [7–10]

WHEREAS a Teaching Professor model elevates the stature of the University and preserves the University’s ability to recruit and retain established top-tier teaching faculty;

AND WHEREAS the transition to a Teaching Professor Model involves no increase to the University’s budget;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Yale FAS–SEAS Faculty Senate call upon the President, Provost, and Deans of FAS and SEAS to establish the following Teaching Professor model, in collaboration with the faculty and through the faculty and Corporation approvals required for its enactment:

1. Establish the ranks and convert existing appointments.

BE IT RESOLVED, that Yale replace the Lector- and Lecturer-track faculty ranks in FAS and SEAS with Assistant Teaching Professor, Associate Teaching Professor, and (Full) Teaching Professor. All current faculty in the covered ranks, whether full-time or part-time, shall receive the corresponding rank shown below. One-year or non-renewable appointments shall use the corresponding visiting title under paragraph 2. Promotions within the ranks shall follow current procedures, other than the change in the name of the rank.

Current teaching rank	Corresponding rank
Lector; Lecturer	Assistant Teaching Professor
Senior Lector I; Senior Lecturer / Senior Lecturer I	Associate Teaching Professor
Senior Lector II; Senior Lecturer II	(Full) Teaching Professor

For this conversion, “Senior Lecturer I” includes the rank styled “Senior Lecturer” in the current Faculty Handbook. [9] Conversion shall occur without a new search, competitive application, additional degree requirement, or re-evaluation of an already attained rank. It shall preserve salary, appointment fraction, accrued service, benefits, contractual rights, and eligibility for advancement. For non-renewable multi-year contracts, departments, in consultation with their instructional faculty, shall identify appointments supporting continuing instructional responsibilities under common criteria. Non-renewable multi-year positions may instead receive the corresponding visiting designation under Section 2.

2. Use visiting titles for one-year and non-renewable appointments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that faculty holding one-year and non-renewable teaching appointments receive, as appropriate to their existing rank or assessed qualifications, the title Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor, Visiting Associate Teaching Professor, or Visiting Full Teaching Professor. “Visiting” shall identify the appointment’s duration and shall not require an appointment elsewhere, imply inferior qualifications, or reset accumulated service. An annual salary letter issued under a multi-year or indefinite appointment shall not trigger a visiting designation. Upon transition to a multi-year or indefinite appointment, the visiting designation shall be removed without loss of rank.

3. Provide a stable path for continuing instructional work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that multi-year appointments become the established appointment for ongoing instructional responsibilities, with renewable terms ordinarily of three years at the assistant rank and five years at the associate and full ranks, unless a longer appointment or security of employment applies. Faculty who have completed three years of Yale service on appointments of one year or less shall receive a documented review for conversion to a multi-year appointment. Continued use of short appointments shall require a specific written justification. No current longer-term appointment shall be shortened by this transition.

4. Implement the transition through shared governance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Provost, in consultation with the Senate and Deans, convene an implementation committee within sixty days of adoption of this resolution. At least half its members shall be instructional faculty selected in consultation with the Senate, with representation from both FAS and SEAS Lecturer and Lector ranks, and different appointment lengths.

The committee shall prepare the necessary Faculty Handbook revisions, appointment and review procedures, and recommendations for any required faculty or Corporation action. It shall consult the affected faculty and submit its proposed policy for Senate consideration and the required faculty approvals before the end of academic year 2026–27, with a target effective date of July 1, 2027.

Sources

[1] Yale University. “Mission Statement.” Yale University. <https://www.yale.edu/about-yale/mission-statement>. Current statement identifying research and teaching as the core mission. See also Maurie McNinnis, “Report of the Committee on Trust in Higher Education,” April 15, 2026. <https://president.yale.edu/posts/2026-04-15-report-of-the-committee-on-trust-in-higher-education>.

[2] Yale University. Report of the Committee on Trust in Higher Education. April 10, 2026. <https://president.yale.edu/sites/default/files/2026-04/Report-of-the-Committee-on-Trust-in-Higher-Education.pdf>. See recommendations 2, 4, 10, and 16, pp. 23–24, 27, and 30, concerning mission, academic freedom, the classroom, and collaborative governance. The report does not itself recommend a Teaching Professor title.

[3] Yale FAS Faculty Senate. Report on the Status, Pay, and Conditions of Non-Ladder Faculty in FAS. April 13, 2017. <https://fas-seas-senate.yale.edu/media/253/download?inline>

[4] Yale FAS-SEAS Faculty Senate. Off the Ladder: Revisiting the Status and Condition of Instructional Faculty. May 18, 2023. <https://fas-seas-senate.yale.edu/media/212/download?inline=>. See especially pp. 5–7 on review for multi-year appointments after three years, and promotion; pp. 8–10 on professional support and inclusion.

[5] Yale FAS-SEAS Faculty Senate. FAS-SEAS Faculty Senate Interim Report on the Climate for FAS-SEAS Instructional Faculty in this Year of Unprecedented Budget Cuts. May 2026. Approved by the Senate May 12, 2026. <https://fas-seas-senate.yale.edu/media/391/download?inline=>. See pp. 1–4 on prior reports and budget uncertainty; pp. 5–9 on the troubling climate emerging from an April 2026 climate survey; and pp. 9–10 on institutional records.

[6] Yale FAS-SEAS Faculty Senate. Instructional Faculty Committee Recommendations. September 10, 2026. <https://fas-seas-senate.yale.edu/media/395/download?inline=>. See recommendations A1–A2 and A6, p. 3; B15, pp. 4–5; B21–B23, pp. 5–6; C29 and C34, p. 7; and implementation and assessment, pp. 3 and 8. The Senate’s reports index records approval on September 10, 2026. <https://fas-seas-senate.yale.edu/fas-seas-senate-reports>.

[7] Brown University, Office of the Dean of the Faculty. Updates to the 2025–26 Handbook of Academic Administration. https://dof.brown.edu/sites/default/files/HAA%20updates%2025-26%20summary_0.pdf. PDF p. 1 records the replacement of regular lecturer-track terminology with Teaching Professor ranks to align with revised Faculty Rules and Regulations.

[8] Cornell University Faculty Senate. “Resolution 195: To Establish a Teaching Professor Track.” Passed April 26, 2024. <https://deanoffaculty.cornell.edu/faculty-governance/archives/resolutions/resolution-195-to-establish-a-teaching-professor-track/>. See also “Resolution 206: College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Professor Proposal.” Passed November 21, 2025. <https://deanoffaculty.cornell.edu/faculty-governance/archives/resolutions/resolution-206-college-of-arts-and-science-teaching-professor-proposal-2/>. The latter approves Arts and Sciences

implementation. Its proposal addresses field-appropriate credentials, including language teaching, and normally provides for three-year assistant and five-year associate/full appointments.

[9] Columbia University Senate. University Senate Plenary Binder. April 10, 2026. [https://senate.columbia.edu/sites/senate.columbia.edu/files/content/Plenary%20Binders%202025-26/US Plenary%20Binder 20260410-U-PP.pdf](https://senate.columbia.edu/sites/senate.columbia.edu/files/content/Plenary%20Binders%202025-26/US%20Plenary%20Binder%20260410-U-PP.pdf). See the resolution at PDF pp. 15–17 and supporting materials at pp. 18–26. See also Columbia University Senate, Faculty Affairs Committee, “Faculty Affairs.” <https://senate.columbia.edu/committees/faculty-affairs>. The committee records Senate ratification in April 2026 and the Trustees’ statutory update in August 2026.

[10] Yale University, Office of the Provost. Yale University Faculty Handbook. July 1, 2026. <https://provost.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/July-1-2026-Faculty-Handbook-.pdf>. See FAS instructional ranks, pp. 44–46, and SEAS lecturer appointments, p. 64. The handbook uses “Senior Lecturer” for the first senior lecturer rank. The resolution treats “Senior Lecturer I” as referring to this rank.