2025-26 College of Engineering Professional Track Promotion Process Workshop

October 1, 2025



2025-2026 COE PROFESSIONAL TRACK PROMOTION REVIEW TIMELINE (v1; 9/12/25) Dates may be adjusted & finalized after the Oct 22 submissions of promotion candidates

Dates:	Who:	Action:	
September	Faculty & Admin Staff	Activity Insight training; live training sessions and recordings https://activityinsight.psu.edu/2025/07/28/activity-insight-training/	
September 11 - 12	Deans Office to Department Heads	Send 2025-26 guidelines, timeline, and spreadsheet of faculty who are potentially eligible for promotion reviews in 2025-2026.	
October 1 1:30-2:30 pm	All	Promotion Process Workshop for Faculty, Department Heads, and Administrative Staff https://psu.zoom.us/j/92423154975	
September 12 – October 17	Department Heads	Gather and review recommendations from faculty supervisors; meet with faculty to discuss their readiness for promotion	
October 20	Department Heads	Last date to submit list of those who will be going forward with promotion review	
October 20 – November 5	Admin Staff	Download SEEQs and SRTEs and submit any large sections for which AI summaries may be requested to the deans office	
October - November	Department Heads	Request letters of assessment to be included in dossier	
October 22 – November 10	Deans Office; All Professional Track Faculty	First-level and college promotion committee elections conducted; department head committee appointments made	
November	Candidates, Department Heads, Admin Staff	Required dossier pre-checks by dean's office (letters of assessment and student feedback evaluations are not required for this review)	
November - December	Promotion Candidates	Complete dossiers in Activity Insight after receiving pre-check feedback from the deans office	
November 11 – November 18	Department Heads	Committees formed and charged for student feedback reviews	

Dates:	Who:	Action:
December 4 3:30 – 5:00 pm	Elected Committee Members	Mandatory First-level and College Promotion Committee Workshop https://psu.zoom.us/j/91946717111
December 11	Student Feedback Committees, Candidates, Admin Staff	Student feedback committees complete their evaluations (750-word max). Evaluations are shared with candidates and added to dossiers. Candidates may choose to update their narrative statements after reading the evaluation.
December 18	Candidates, Department Heads, Admin Staff	Candidates complete final review of their dossiers and sign the candidate signature page attesting that the final version of the dossier is correct. Then the dossier (as signed) and assessment letters (not seen by candidate) are uploaded to PTORP. This must be completed before any reviews are initiated.
December 4 - 18	Department Head and Committees	Department heads charge first-level promotion review committees
January (date TBD)	Dean's Office (ADF)	Charge of college promotion review committee
February 6	First-level committees, FAC	First-level committees complete their reviews and submit recommendation memos to FAC (Amy Corbett) for upload to PTORP
February 9 - 20	Department heads	Any consultations with first-level committees completed
February 24	Department heads and admin staff	Department heads complete their reviews and submit recommendation memos to FAC for upload to PTORP
February 25 – March 27	College committee	Any consultations with department heads are completed
March 31	College committee	College committee completes their reviews and submits recommendation memos to FAC for upload to PTORP
April 6 - 23	Dean	Any consultations with college committee are completed
May	Dean	Dean notifies candidates of promotion decisions

Office of Faculty Affairs

University Faculty Affairs Website facultyaffairs.psu.edu/promotion-and-tenure/

- Administrative Guidelines for Policy AC21
- University Policy AC21: Definition of Academic Ranks
- Guidance on the Assessment of Teaching Effectiveness (separate section from P&T)

Center for Faculty Development and Advancement (CDFA)

Zoom link for all workshops: https://psu.zoom.us/j/99945127620?pwd=MljVPwy8zm1eX1NQlymfQwEzUtM4VW.1

#4 Advancement and Promotion for Non-Tenure-Line Faculty

Date and Time: Wednesday, October 15, 2025, from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Target Audience: Non-tenure-line faculty at all promotion levels

#6 Tips for Writing a Narrative Statement

Date and Time: Thursday, February 5, 2026, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Target Audience: Tenure-line and non-tenure-line faculty seeking promotion

#7 Tips for Creating a Teaching Portfolio

Date and Time: Thursday, February 26, 2026. 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Target Audience: Pre-tenure tenure-line Faculty

Recordings and slides from 2024-25 and 2023-24 workshops are also posted.

Updates to College Guidelines and Processes

- New COE Guidelines for Teaching Assessment (separate document)
 - Peer teaching reviews, both COE guidelines and all department guidelines
 - Student feedback in the dossier, COE guidelines (department guidelines to be added next year)
- Updated Calendar
- Required dossier reviews prior to PTORP upload (dates by cohort)

Timing of Promotion Consideration

- Faculty are eligible for review for first promotion during their 6th year in a fulltime professional track position
 - Discuss with their department head
 - Department head may request exception for earlier review on the basis of:
 - · Credit year was awarded or should have been awarded at the time of hire
 - Exceptional performance justifies consideration for early promotion
- No set years for second promotion
 - Focus should be on achieving the expectations for the next title, not on years or numbers of courses taught, etc., since the prior promotion
 - Time-in-rank is not a criterion for promotion to the highest rank. However, by the fourth year that a faculty member holds the penultimate rank, that faculty member's supervisor and the supervisor's unit head should discuss possible consideration of the faculty member for promotion during the supervisor's annual performance review with their unit head. Supervisors and unit heads should also bring exceptional cases for promotion consideration sooner than four years in the second rank to the attention of the Dean of Engineering.
 - Additional info in Section 3.1 (b) of the COE Guidelines.

Promotion Committee Structures – Elections

Only full-time professional track faculty members may serve on the promotion review committees. Committee members may only review those moving to their current *title* or below. Elections held after promotion candidates have been identified.

First-Level Review Committees:

- Three to seven members; at least three eligible for all decisions. This year's committees have 3 (B & C) or 5 (D) members.
- Must be Teaching or Research Professors, Professors-of-Practice (one), or Associate Teaching or Research Professors
- At least two-thirds were elected from the pool of all eligible faculty members in the group
- Remaining members appointed by the heads of the affected units, considering balance of departments and functional areas, when possible
- First-level committees will be charged by each unit head with a promotion candidate.

A: Acoustics, AERO, ESM+CNEU, NUCE+RSE

B: AE, CEE, LTI, ME

C: CSE+EE+EECS, IME, BME, CHE

D: Deans Office, Leonhard Center, SEDI

College Committee:

- Five members (3 elected and 2 appointed) from a pool of eligible candidates who have a primary budgetary appointment in COE
- At least three members will be Teaching or Research Professors or Professors-of-Practice while the other two members may be Associate Teaching or Research Professors

New Requirements for Student Feedback

- Student feedback committees a separate committee for each faculty member having a review
 - one member of the first-level review committee
 - one member appointed by the dept/school head/director from a list of two provided by the faculty member under review
 - recommended charge document on OFA website

Material provided to the committees

- SEEQs and SRTEs since last review, including both quantitative and qualitive student feedback
- Copilot® summaries for larger sections, upon request and if within department guidelines

Committee prepares an evaluative statement for the dossier

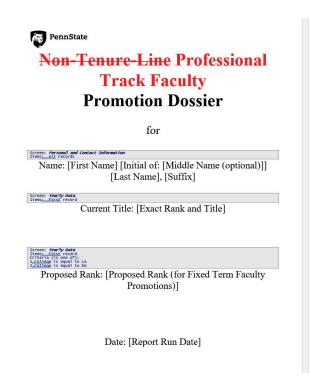
- Max 750-words; signed
- Use of Copilot® summaries must be noted if applicable (no direct use of Copilot® by the committees)
- Quantitative SEEQs and SRTEs moved to Appendix E of the dossier

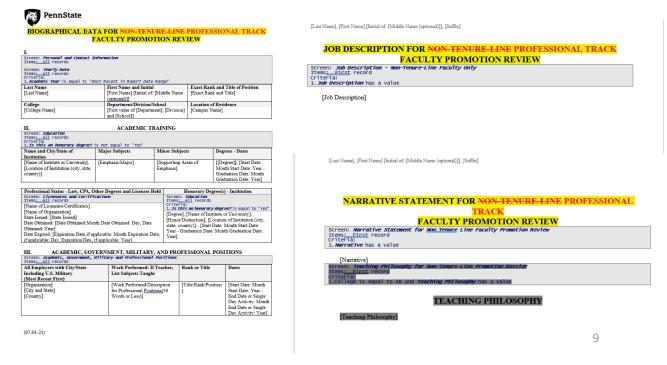
Candidate has the opportunity to review before signing the dossier

- factual errors should be pointed out to the department head
- narrative statement can be modified to address other concerns

Dossier Preparation – Quality Matters

- Dossier is a *shared responsibility* between the academic unit head and the faculty member
- · Allows evaluators to concentrate valuable time on assessing the candidate's record
- Use the current "non-tenure line" dossier format in Activity Insight (not the one that says TEST)
- Annotated dossier report template available for your use





Core Job Responsibilities / Functional Areas

Professional track faculty hold a broad range of academic appointments within the college that include teaching, research, and administrative responsibilities, and in many cases, a combination of these. While an individual may have an academic appointment of *research* or *teaching* faculty, or as professor-of-practice, their core responsibilities may be primarily administrative or a combination of functional areas. It should be noted that faculty members may wish to contribute in more than one core functional area, even if not directly related to core job responsibilities. The three key functional areas are:

- *Teaching:* Responsibilities that are primarily instructional in nature, focused on student instruction, advising, etc.
- Research: Responsibilities that are primarily related to research, including laboratory management.
- Administrative: Responsibilities that are primarily related to a management and/or leadership role in programs and initiatives that advance the mission of the COE. These roles may encompass responsibilities such as the management of lab personnel and budgets, outreach endeavors, the development of new revenue opportunities, execution of externally funded initiatives, technology transfer, program evaluation, or faculty development. These roles go above and beyond typical service expectations.

Job Responsibilities Statement

- Important because it affects how the review criteria are applied—what are your core responsibilities?
- Agreed upon in collaboration with the department/program/school head/director
- Updates are part of the annual review process (required by the university as part of first-year reviews with annual updates)
- If changing over time, include statements from multiple years in the dossier or include a summary of the changes

Promotion Criteria At-A-Glance

University AC-21 Guidelines

Faculty are hired at a specific rank with associated title

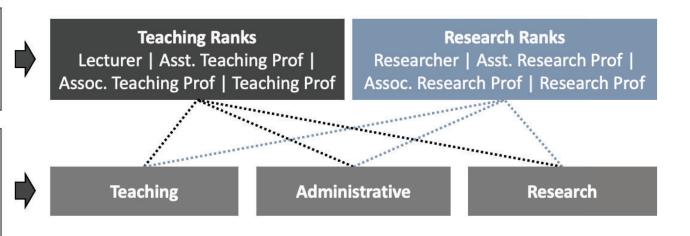
College

Core Functional Areas

Faculty will have one or more core functional areas that align with their job responsibilities

College Evaluation Criteria

Regardless of title and functional area(s), faculty will be evaluated across three criteria for promotion



Performance Excellence

Collective Success [Scholarship and/or Service]

Professional Development of Self and Others



Evaluation Criteria—Impact Areas

Promotion candidates will be evaluated based on their primary responsibilities, defined by the core functional areas.

Performance Excellence: Demonstrates excellence in executing and delivering **core job responsibilities**. Performance excellence can be demonstrated by quality and productivity measures — awards, feedback from students/colleagues/administrators, accomplishments, etc.

Collective Success: Collective success looks beyond individual achievement and towards the bigger picture of the collective mission of the university, college, or unit's strategic goals and is demonstrated as service activities. These activities may include but/or go beyond the core duties of the candidate's role and may include both internal and external activities that support the discipline or academic community. For example, a teaching faculty member may contribute to the collective success through scholarship or administrative service; a research faculty member may contribute to teaching or administrative service; or an administrative faculty member may contribute to teaching and/or scholarship activities. The definition of **scholarship** is expanded to include a more inclusive view of what it means to be a scholar, specifically a "recognition that knowledge is acquired through research, through synthesis, through practice, and through teaching." (Boyer, 1990).

Professional Development of Self and Others: The constant pursuit of personal and professional growth through self-reflection and strategic scholarship to advance and evolve to meet changing educational and research needs. This mindset also applies towards the support of others' growth (if applicable to the role) and development through effective performance of job responsibilities.

See Section 3.2 and Appendix C of the Guidelines!

CORE FUNCTIONAL AREA: TEACHING

To guide both promotion candidates and review committees, the following table outlines example key action words that can be helpful in communicating impact to support promotion relevant to each rank. These are *meant to be a guide and not comprehensive*. This process is designed to support the promotion candidate in demonstrating increasing depth and breadth of impact and growth as a PT faculty member moves through the ranks, regardless of specific job duties. The candidate should refer to the action word and impact area examples in the column *for the promotion title they are trying to attain*.

Key Action Words:

Assistant Teaching (or Research) Professor (without terminal degree)		Associate Teaching (or Research) Professor (with or without terminal degree)		Teaching (or Research) Professor (w/ terminal degree)	
Improves	Involves	Serves	Advises	Influences	Supervises
Attends	Collaborates	Accomplishes	Conducts	Initiates	Mentors
Demonstrates	Reviews	Presents	Engages	Leads	Sustains
Develops	Supports	Improves	Creates	Consults	Publishes
		Expands		Is recognized	

Examples across Impact Areas:

Note: A PT faculty member whose primary functional area is *teaching* is not expected to demonstrate ALL of these, rather the purpose of the following table is to demonstrate progression across ranks. This candidate may also have research or administrative responsibilities (which will be outlined in the narrative statement) where impact is significant. In this case, the research and administrative tables outlining potential progression across ranks may also apply and be important contributions towards faculty promotion. Outlining these duties will be described in more detail in the narrative statement.

To	Advance to:	Assistant Teaching (or Research) Professor (without terminal degree)	Associate Teaching (or Research) Professor (with or without terminal degree)	Teaching (or Research) Professor (w/ terminal degree)
Porfo	rmance	Improves curriculum for core course	Creates new courses	Recognized for teaching excellence
Performance Excellence		Demonstrates positive feedback from students	Demonstrates continued positive feedback from students and peers on course evaluations and feedback	Sustained record of highly effective teaching and teaching innovation
		Develops new methods of teaching content	Develops and disseminates teaching materials and innovations through presentations, workshops, or invited	Invited guest lectures, seminars, workshops, keynote speaker on teaching effectiveness and innovations
Calla	0.11	Reviews submissions for journals or	speaker opportunities, etc.	Holds leadership positions in professional societies
Collective Success [service and/or scholarship]	conferences	Serves in professional society (attending conferences,	(organizing sessions, officer, advisory board, editor)	
	Supports committee work	chairing sessions, etc.)	Leads department, college, or university level committees	
			Engaged at departmental, college and/or university level (e.g., committee work, judging, outreach)	Publishes in journals/conferences relevant to pedagogical approaches
			Advises student groups	
Profe	essional	Attends professional development events	Obtains new and relevant certifications	Mentors students or peer faculty
	lopment of and Others	and workshops (internal or external)	Expands opportunities for student professional development	Initiates professional development opportunities for peers 14

CORE FUNCTIONAL AREA: RESEARCH

To guide both promotion candidates and review committees, the following table outlines example key action words that can be helpful in communicating impact to support promotion relevant to each rank. These are *meant to be a guide and not comprehensive*. This process is designed to support the promotion candidate in demonstrating increasing depth and breadth of impact and growth as a PT faculty member moves through the ranks, regardless of specific job duties. The candidate should refer to the action word and impact area examples in the column *for the promotion rank they are trying to attain.*

Key Action	1
Words:	

Assistant Research (or Teachin (without terminal degree)	· ·	Associate Research (or Teaching) Professor (with or without terminal degree)		Research (or Teaching) Professor (w/ terminal degree)	
Publishes Particip	pates Serves	Reviews	Increases	Awards	
Contributes Suppor	rts Leads	Establishes	Develops	Manages	
Presents Review	vs Increases	Expands	Influences	Mentors	
Authors Assists	Obtains	Organizes	Directs	Administers	
	Reports	Advises	Is recognized	Consults	
			Invites		

Examples across Impact Areas:

Note: A PT faculty member whose primary functional area is *research* is not expected to demonstrate ALL of these, rather the purpose of the following table is to demonstrate progression across ranks. This candidate may also have teaching or administrative responsibilities (which will be outlined in the narrative statement) where impact is significant. In this case, the teaching and administrative tables outlining potential progression across ranks may also apply and be important contributions towards faculty promotion.

To Advance to:	Assistant Research (or Teaching) Professor (without terminal degree)	Associate Research (or Teaching) Professor (with or without terminal degree)	Research (or Teaching) Professor (w/ terminal degree)
	Publishes in refereed journals	Continued record of publications in refereed journals	Continued increase in publications and citations
Performance	Contributes to proposals	Lead, or senior, authorship on publications	Influenced body of work through publications
Excellence	Presents research	Increased number of citations from publications	
		Obtains funding from grants as PI or co-PI	
	Participates in professional organizations	Serves in professional societies (chairing sessions,	Leadership in professional societies (organizing sessions, officer,
	relevant to research agenda	etc.)	advisory board, editor)
Collective Success	Collaborates to support cross-disciplinary research	Leads sponsored research as Co-PI or PI Organizes and oversees projects in labs	Invited guest lectures, seminars, workshops, keynote speaker as an expert
[service and/or	Assists in lab management and processes	Translates research externally (e.g., invention	Directs and/or manages labs and supports grad student
scholarship]	Reviews submissions for conference or journals	disclosures, patents, trademarks, etc.)	development
	Assists with committee work within the		Leads department, college, or university level committees
	_department, college, or university		Translates research externally (e.g., entrepreneurial activities)
Professional	Attends professional development events and	Advises student organizations within the discipline	Mentors students or peer faculty
Development of Self and Others	workshops		Consults in field or industry relevant to expertise 15

CORE FUNCTIONAL AREA: ADMINISTRATIVE

To guide both promotion candidates and review committees, the following table outlines example key action words that can be helpful in communicating impact to support promotion relevant to each rank. These are *meant to be a guide and not comprehensive*. This process is designed to support the promotion candidate in demonstrating increasing depth and breadth of impact and growth as a PT faculty member moves through the ranks, regardless of specific job duties. The candidate should refer to the action word and impact area examples in the column *for the promotion rank they are trying to attain.*

	Assistant Teaching/Research Professor		Associate Teaching/Research Professor (with		Teaching/Research Professor	
	(without terminal degree)		or without terminal degree)		(w/ terminal deg	ree)
Key Action	Directs	Oversees	Innovates	Implements	Mentors	Is recognized
•	Succeeds	Meets	Grows	Generates	Advises	Applies
Words:	Manages	Develops	Improves	Initiates	Models	Consults
	Programs	Collaborates	Is responsible		Leads	Presents
	Supports	Contributes			Is impactful	

Examples across Impact Areas:

Note: A PT faculty member whose primary functional area is *administrative* is not expected to demonstrate ALL of these, rather the purpose of the following table is to demonstrate progression across ranks. This candidate may have impact areas that overlap with traditional teaching and research responsibilities (which are outlined in the narrative). In this case, the teaching and research tables outlining potential progression across ranks may also apply and be important contributions towards faculty promotion.

To Advance to:	Assistant Teaching/Research Professor (without terminal degree)	Associate Teaching/Research Professor (with or without terminal degree)	Teaching/Research Professor (w/ terminal degree)
Performance	Directs programs, services, or labs Successfully meets program, service, or lab	Grows program, service, or labs (e.g., increase in participation, revenue growth, outreach, etc.)	Models successful program, service, or lab processes, outcomes, and growth.
Excellence	objectives and goals Oversees budget responsibly and effectively	Improves processes or structures to support program or lab objectives and goals	Recognized as a leader in the administrative area
	Assists with committee work within the department, college, or university	Serves on committees in active roles within the unit, college, or university	Leads committees within the unit, college, or university
Collective Success	Manages and supports students or other employees to meet program, service, or lab goals	Expands opportunities for employees or students to contribute to program or lab goals	Consults with other internal/external organizations based on success in administrative
[service and/or scholarship]	Collaborates to support cross-functional initiatives	Initiates collaborations to support cross-functional work to achieve strategic objectives across the unit, college, or university	Oversees completion of strategic initiatives across-functions
	Participates and contributes to professional organizations as relevant to programmatic area or research discipline	Engaged and serves in professional organizations relevant to programmatic area or research discipline	Leadership in professional societies (organizing sessions, officer, advisory board, editor)
Professional	Attends professional development events and	Supports employee development within area of oversight	Mentors students or colleagues
Development of Self and Others	workshops	Continues to attend professional development events and workshops	Presents/conducts professional development events or workshops based on administrative area

The Narrative Statement – Two Purposes

Tell Your Story—First Person

- Must not be self-laudatory or congratulatory, but factual
 - You can state your aspirations and accomplishments
 - You should not assess them
- Not a direct repetition of the information in the dossier--Should focus on what you want evaluators to know that may not be clearly reflected in the dossier
- The impact, the why, the motivation, the goals
- May include pandemic or other effects on your work, if relevant
- May include a response to the new student feedback evaluation

Map to the Criteria

- Should help provide succinct support for reviewers
- Rather than dividing the narrative by Teaching, Research, Administration, Service, consider organizing it by:
 - Introduction and Overview
 - Performance Excellence (perhaps subdivided if more than one core responsibility)
 - Contributions to Collective Success
 - Professional Development of Self and Others

Limit of 2000 words, but more concise narratives are welcomed

Broader Context – Updated Language from the University

Broader context language for the narrative, assessment letters, and committee charge has been updated:

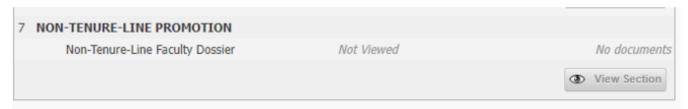
Remind committees and administrators that as they evaluate the candidate's record of teaching, research, scholarship, creative accomplishments, and university service, it is important to do so with full awareness of the broader context in which these responsibilities have been carried out. In recent years, faculty have faced unforeseen, significant and often unprecedented challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, civil and societal unrest, racial tensions, changes in federal research funding priorities, and increased scrutiny of diversity-related work. These factors have disrupted research agendas, constrained access to resources and collaborators, altered instructional modalities, intensified student needs, and reshaped the nature of service and shared governance. Committees and administrators should be reminded to interpret the candidate's contributions and trajectory with these challenges in mind, recognizing indicators of resilience, innovation, responsiveness to evolving demands, and potential for sustained impact across all areas of responsibility.

Internal/External Assessment Letters

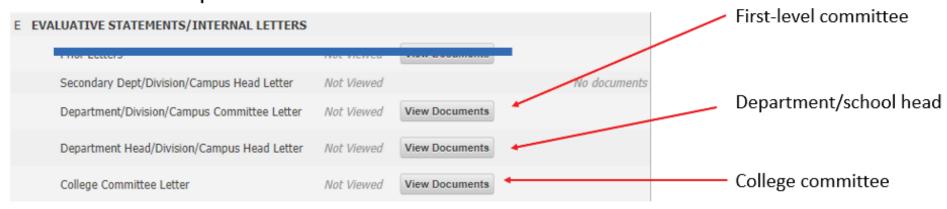
- A minimum of three letters must be included in the dossier.
- Department Head makes the requests for letters of assessment (not recommendations or endorsements).
 - Internal letters are sufficient but external letters may also be used.
 - The request to an evaluator should ask for a critical assessment of the candidate's achievements (and reputation, if appropriate) within his/her discipline within the context of the candidate's job responsibilities. The request should include the COE promotion criteria.
 - The candidate's CV or dossier and narrative statement, including the job responsibilities, should be provided with the request. Student and peer reviews should not be included.
- The faculty member's direct supervisor, if not the department head, may also provide a confidential letter that can be included at the end of Section A or B in the dossier, as appropriate. This would not be considered as one of the letters of assessment.
- The letters of assessment must not be available to the candidate either before or after the review. The identities of the assessment letter writers should not be shared. (Department heads may ask candidates for suggestions for possible letter writers.)

Submission of Materials in PTORP (by admin staff)

Packages should be submitted via Section 7 in PTORP including the required internal/external assessment letters.



Evaluative letters from first-level committee, department head, and college committee are uploaded to Section E.



Questions

- Email Amy Corbett auh243@psu.edu or Shelley Stoffels sms26@psu.edu
- Make an individual appointment **Book time with Stoffels, Shelley Marie**

Planned Interactions

- Dossier Support and Required Pre-checks (November)
- Workshop for Committee Members (December)
- Spring 2025 Professional Track Promotion Panel Discussion
 - Recording available on request

Administrative Staff

COE P&T Teams Channel <u>COE Promotion & Tenure | General | Microsoft Teams</u>

Questions and Discussion

