Research Professor Positions at UIUC

why and how

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Motivation

- Not everybody fits the tenure mold
  - good for the department, but will not make it through tenure process
  - different mix of research/teach, part time...
- Special situations
  - failed tenure case, spouse...
- Makes the dept/college stats look good
- Current situation: 5 research professor (1 assistant, 4 associate) vs. 50 tenure track
  - up from 0 three years ago and growing
  - all but one have part time res. prof. appointments and part time lecturer appointments.
Procedures

- University does not have consistent policies; dept. did not have any either until recently

- Appointments & promotions:
  - internal process similar (but less strict) as for tenure-track; no (real) review at college/campus level; similar criteria as for tenure track (but applied more leniently, in practice)
  - periodic (5 year) review

- Need appointment in Graduate College to advise students; such appointment is pursued by default

- Can be PI on grants

- No voting rights in department (but few decisions taken by formal vote, anyhow)
Issues

- One year, renewable contract; no long-term commitment (on paper)
  - in theory, less stability than in an academic professional position
  - in practice, fraction of salary is funded from hard money and positions are stable

- University has no clear policy
  - faculty is of two minds: no 2nd class citizens vs. the benefits of research professors (faculty in liberal arts more opposed)

- Status of research professors in the dept. is “work in progress”