Beyond the First Semester

Mentor Activities

Striking the Right Balance
Take some time to think and talk about how you can prioritize students’ needs, while you further your own professional goals and pull your weight in your department. It’s important to prioritize, so one area doesn’t overshadow all the others.

Focus on Feedback
Faculty on annual contract are required to administer student feedback surveys in every section of every course every semester including labs, overloads and summer semesters. Look at Article 7, Section 3, C, 1, c of the contract. Take some time to analyze your student feedback. Identify areas for improvement and build strategies to address them. Recognize strengths and intentionally continue using successful methods.

Check your stats...
Go to the employee portal of the college’s website and look up the statistics from your first semester. You will be able to view
◊ Your grade distribution review
◊ Your Retention and Pass/Success Rates
◊ Your student feedback review
Talk about the conclusions that can and cannot be drawn from these results. Be proactive in considering both positive and negative interpretations of statistical data.

Keep It Fresh!
Even junior faculty can suffer from burn out. Recognize that there is more than one effective way to present course material. Mix it up and try new methods! If you find yourself grumbling, “Students are getting worse and worse,” recognize that it may be a matter of perspective. Draw on your students’ youthful outlook for inspiration.

Keep Excellent Records
Positive Student Comments and Correspondence
Classroom Observation by Your Chair
Your Self-Assessment
Performance Review