

ARTICLE 22
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

Section 1. The title of Distinguished Professor shall be awarded only to one already at the rank of professor at the University for five (5) or more years. The title of Distinguished Professor is an honor recognizing a career that demonstrates substantial professional accomplishments.

- A. Each department/school, or college without departments, shall develop criteria for distinguished professor including those expressed below in this section. Such criteria cannot be implemented without approval by both the dean and the Provost. In colleges without departments, the entire college faculty functions as the departmental faculty. Such criteria shall be formulated, revised as necessary, and approved before April 15, 2010.
- B. The nominee shall excel in teaching at the University at a level significantly beyond the current expectations for the rank of professor.
- C. The nominee shall excel in scholarly activity (pedagogical or discipline specific) or artistic performance at the University at a level significantly beyond the current expectations for the rank of professor.
- D. The nominee shall have made sufficient contributions to the discipline to be nationally recognized.

Section 2. Nominations for Distinguished Professor shall be made by tenured or tenure track bargaining unit members at the University. The nomination shall be submitted to the tenured faculty of the department/school for review and recommendation.

Section 3. Process for Departmental Recommendations

- A. Upon receiving a nomination, the department chair, school director, or dean in colleges without departments shall call a meeting of the departmental bargaining unit tenured members, excluding the nominee to form the distinguished professor review committee. The committee shall consist of all tenured Professors. If there are not at least three (3) tenured Professors then tenure track faculty shall be added to the committee in order of seniority (years of service at the University) until there are three (3) committee members. If there are several tenure track faculty with equal seniority whose addition to the committee would raise the membership above three (3), then names shall be chosen by lot to add to the committee so that the total membership does not exceed three (3). The committee shall elect a chair from among its members.

- B. The committee shall review the nomination and submit its recommendation – positive or negative to the dean, with a copy to the nominee. A simple majority of those voting is required for a positive recommendation.
- C. The department chair/school director shall make a separate recommendation, considered sequential, not hierarchical, and submit it to the dean, with a copy to the nominee. The nominee shall have the right to submit clarifications to the letters, to be included in the application. If the nominee wishes, his/her nomination can be withdrawn at this stage.

Section 4. When the dean receives the recommendations, he/she shall convene the distinguished professor college review committee and forward the recommendations to the committee chair.

Section 5. Each college faculty shall elect a distinguished professor college review committee to consider such recommendations. Only tenured bargaining unit members at the rank of Professor or with the title of Distinguished Professor are eligible to serve. No member of the department/school of a nominee shall participate in the discussion or voting concerning said nominee. The committee shall choose its own chair. A simple majority of those voting is required for a positive recommendation. If the recommendation is positive, it is forwarded to the dean who shall forward said recommendation, with his/her recommendation, to the University distinguished professor recommendation committee convened by the Provost. If the recommendation is negative, it is returned to the department/school.

Section 6. The University distinguished professor recommendation committee shall consist of six (6) Distinguished Professors chosen by lot by the Provost's office. Service on this committee shall last three (3) years and no person may serve on the committee for two (2) consecutive terms. Once chosen, the committee shall elect a chair from among its current membership. No member of the department/school of a nominee, or of the distinguished professor college review committee which considered said nominee, shall participate in the discussion or voting concerning said nominee.

- A. The first University distinguished professor recommendation committee formed under this Agreement shall be selected by lot by the Provost's office with the first two (2) distinguished professors drawn serving three (3) years, the second two (2) distinguished professors drawn serving two (2) years, and the last two (2) distinguished professors drawn serving one (1) year. Thereafter two (2) distinguished professors will be selected by lot each year to replace the two (2) who are ending their three (3) year terms. Should a member of the committee be unable to fulfill their full term the Provost's office shall select a replacement by lot to serve for the unexpired term.

Section 7. The nominee shall provide his/her file to this committee, which shall include:

- A. Current vita;
- B. Narrative statement of qualifications;
- C. Supporting documentation which may include letters of support solicited by the nominee;
- D. A proposed list of external reviewers, with at least six (6) entries;
- E. Department/school or college criteria for Distinguished Professor;
- F. Letters of recommendation from the department/school, department chair/school director, dean, and college committee shall include a summary of how the candidate meets the criteria for the title of distinguished professor;
- G. External Letters of Recommendation:
 - 1. The chair of the departmental/school committee shall request at least six (6) external letters of recommendation from a list of external nationally recognized individuals in their discipline, including at least two (2) from the nominee's list. The department chair/school director and the dean may add other references if they so wish.
 - a. The list shall include the credentials of the potential reviewers and his/her relationship to the candidate. The list will include all names provided by the nominee as well as any that the department/school tenured faculty, chair/director, and dean provide.
 - b. Letters of request shall include:
 - (i) Department/school criteria for the title of distinguished professor;
 - (ii) Request that the reviewer address the context of the candidate's work as it relates to the discipline;
 - (iii) Candidate's vita and narrative statement;
 - (iv) Due date.

Section 8. Procedures of the University distinguished professor recommendation committee shall be determined by the committee and shall include the following:

- A. The committee shall elect its own chair;
- B. The committee shall consider each candidate individually;
- C. Following discussion and deliberation of the individual candidate, the committee shall vote;
- D. If a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority of the review committee votes favorably, it shall forward the recommendation to the Provost. Otherwise, the file is returned to the nominee with a statement indicating the rationale for the rejection;
- E. The committee shall forward its positive recommendations to the Provost by April 1st.

Section 9. Procedures of the University distinguished professor recommendation committee may include, but are not limited to the following:

- A. The committee may interview the chair of the departmental/school committee;
- B. The committee may interview the department chair/school director;
- C. The committee may interview the college committee chair;
- D. The committee may interview the dean;
- E. The committee may interview the candidate;
- F. The Provost shall forward each recommendation, with his/her recommendation, to the President. If the President approves, the recommendation is forwarded to the Board for consideration at the next Board meeting. Once approved by the Board, the title becomes effective at the beginning of the following fall semester;
- G. The successful candidate(s) shall be recognized by the University community at an appropriate public event.

Section 10. A minimum compensatory award specified in Article 16 shall be added to the successful nominee's base salary.