

ARTICLE 22
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

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

- A. Each department or college without departments shall develop criteria for distinguished professor including that expressed below in this section. Departmental/college criteria shall be approved by both the dean and the Provost. In colleges without departments, the entire college faculty functions as the departmental faculty.
- B. The candidate shall excel in teaching at the University of Akron at a level significantly beyond the current expectations for the rank of professor.
- C. The candidate shall excel in scholarly activity (pedagogical or discipline specific) or artistic performance at the University of Akron at a level significantly beyond the current expectations for the rank of professor.
- D. The candidate shall have made sufficient contributions to the discipline to be nationally recognized.

Section 2. Process of Nominations. Nominations for distinguished professor shall be made by tenured or tenure track bargaining unit faculty at the University of Akron. The nomination shall be submitted to the department 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 faculty.
- B. Except for the nominee, all tenured members of the department shall be included.
- C. The department chair or school director shall participate as a member of the department.
- D. The departmental bargaining unit faculty shall review the nomination and put forward its recommendation – positive or negative. A simple majority of those voting is required for a positive recommendation.

Section 4. The dean shall convene the distinguished professor college review committee.

Section 5. The chair of the departmental committee shall forward the departmental recommendation to the college committee.

Section 6. Each college faculty shall elect its college review committee to consider such recommendations. Only bargaining unit faculty at the rank of professor or with the title of distinguished professor are eligible to serve. The committee shall choose its own chair. A simple majority of those voting is required for a positive recommendation. If a majority of the college review committee supports the recommendation, the dean shall forward the review committee's recommendations, with his/her recommendations, to the University distinguished professor recommendation committee convened by the Senior Vice President and Provost.

Section 7. The University distinguished professor recommendation committee shall consist of one member elected from each of the degree granting colleges and University Libraries. Those elected shall serve two-year terms. In even-numbered academic years, representatives shall be elected from the Summit College, the College of Engineering, the College of Business Administration, the College of Nursing, University Libraries, and Wayne College. In odd-numbered academic years, representatives shall be elected from the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Education, the College of Fine and Applied Arts, the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering, and the School of Law. Only bargaining unit faculty at the rank of professor or with the title of distinguished professor are eligible to serve on this committee.

Section 8. The candidate's file shall include:

- A. Current vita;
- B. Narrative statement of qualifications;
- C. Supporting documentation;
- D. The list of external reviewers.

Section 9. Materials in the candidate's file shall include:

- A. Departmental or college criteria for distinguished professor;
- B. Current departmental criteria for the rank of professor;
- C. Letters of recommendation from the department, dean, and college committee shall include a summary of how the candidate significantly exceeds the current criteria for the rank of professor and how the candidate meets the criteria for the rank of distinguished professor;
- D. External Letters of Recommendation.

1. The chair of the departmental committee requests the external letters of recommendation from a list of external nationally recognized individuals in their discipline.
 - a. The list shall include the credentials of the potential reviewer and his/her relationship to the candidate.
 - b. Letters of request will include:
 - (i) Departmental criteria for professor and distinguished professor;
 - (ii) University criteria for distinguished professor;
 - (iii) Request that the reviewer address the context of the candidate's work as it relates to the discipline;
 - (iv) Candidate's vita and narrative statement;
 - (v) Due date.

Section 10. Procedures of the University Distinguished Professor 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 majority of the review committee votes favorably, it shall forward the recommendation to the provost.
- E. The committee shall forward its recommendations to the senior vice president and provost by April 15.

Section 11. Procedures of the University Distinguished Professor Committee may include, but are not limited to the following:

- A. The committee may interview the chair of the departmental committee.
- B. The committee may interview the department chair.
- 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 Senior Vice President and Provost shall forward the recommendations, with his/her recommendation, to the President. If the President approves, the recommendation is forwarded to the Board of Trustees for consideration at the April board meeting.
- G. The successful candidate(s) shall be recognized by the University community at Fall Convocation.

Section 12. A minimum compensatory award of \$6,000, which shall be added to the base salary, shall accompany the award of the title of Distinguished Professor.