

Faculty Handbook

2.3.1.4 Distinguished Professor

This position is intended for individuals whose accomplishments significantly exceed those of Professors, and include a sustained record of nationally and internationally recognized preeminence in their field(s) of expertise.

Note: The term “scholarly research” may be taken to include alternative demonstrations of individual achievement in disciplines and sub-disciplines in which different standards prevail, such as the production of a body of original, creative, and professionally recognized work by Faculty with fields of expertise in architecture, theater, creative writing, and the arts.

2.4.1.4 Appointment at the Rank of Distinguished Professor

Appointment at the rank of Distinguished Professor requires the approval of the Distinguished Professors Review Subcommittee of the University P&T Committee (see Section 4.4.4).

4.4.4 Promotion to Distinguished Professor

Nominations for promotion to the rank of Distinguished Professor may be made directly to the Provost by any member of the Faculty or by a Department P&T Committee. The Provost transmits such nominations to the Distinguished Professors Review Subcommittee of the University P&T Committee. The Distinguished Professors Review Subcommittee is comprised of 7 faculty members who are not a member of the University P&T Committee. There must be at least one representative from each of the five Colleges or Schools. There shall be two representatives from each of the two Colleges or Schools with the largest numbers of tenured and tenure-track faculty. No representative shall hold an administrative title at or above the level of Associate Dean. All members must have tenure at the rank of Distinguished Professor when possible. If not possible, a faculty member at the rank of Professor with tenure may serve on the Distinguished Professors Review Subcommittee. Four members of the Distinguished Professors Review Subcommittee are chosen by the Provost from a slate nominated by Faculty Senate. The other three members are appointed by the Provost. The Provost will strive for a maximum range of disciplines and Departments to be represented on this Subcommittee. The membership is for a one year term and consecutive membership is not allowed.

The Distinguished Professors Review Subcommittee processes and reviews all such nominations along with the external and internal reference letters, including the Department Chair’s and the Dean’s, and will make a recommendation on promotion to the Provost, who confers with the President. The President then makes recommendations for promotion to the Board of Trustees.

Approved Amendment (10/31/19): Reference letters must be solicited for nominees for promotion to DP that are recommended by a 2/3 majority of the senior members of the P&T committee of their department.