UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR NOMINATION AND REVIEW GUIDELINES
2020-2021

I. Process & Timelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 2020</td>
<td>The Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost requests Deans begin nomination proceedings within their college</td>
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<td>October 2020</td>
<td>Membership of the Awards Committee will be composed by six University Distinguished Professors serving staggered two-year terms. The members of the Awards Committee must be from six different colleges/schools, and any member must not be reappointed for two years after their term is finished. The Provost and the Executive Committee of Distinguished Professors will each select three members for the awards committee, all subject to approval by the Provost.</td>
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<td>November 18, 2020</td>
<td>Deans submit their nominations to the selection committee through the Dean of Faculties. Deans must seek the advice and include a written evaluation from a body representing all UDPs of the nominee’s college/school. A minimum of three UDP’s must participate in the candidate evaluation. Colleges with few or no UDPs may seek advice and endorsement from UDPs from other colleges. For assistance, please contact Dr. B. Don Russell, Chair of the Executive Committee of Distinguished Professors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of January 2021</td>
<td>The Awards Committee makes its recommendation to the Provost through the Dean of Faculties.</td>
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<td>February 2021</td>
<td>The Provost announces her final decision</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2021</td>
<td>University Distinguished Professor Honor installation ceremony and new University Distinguished Professor Honor becomes effective</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2021</td>
<td>Funding disbursement for bursary made.</td>
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II. Entitlements

A. Award winners will be named University Distinguished Professors but will also keep their current titles and ranks; i.e., Professor of ‘Academic Department.’

B. The title is bestowed forever.

III. Eligibility Criteria

A. The number of nominations may vary in a given year, but the number of awards given will not normally exceed five to seven awards.

B. To be eligible for the title of University Distinguished Professor, the candidate will have made one or more original or transformational contributions that are widely recognized to have significantly advanced or redirected scholarship in the relevant field. Transformational implies that the work was a substantial intellectual leap forward, rather than an incremental extension of existing knowledge.

C. The impact of the candidate’s contribution should have resulted in the candidate being recognized as a pre-eminent world authority in his or her field.
D. These types of accomplishments are likely to be exemplified by major national and international awards. When citing awards, indicate the level of the award and the stature of the granting organization or entity. For example “This is the highest technical award granted by the ACME Professional Society”. It is recognized that individuals with unique career paths, or fields with few or no awards, may provide other indicators of intellectual leadership within their field and the Texas A&M University System.

E. Candidates will be recognized by peer statements to be among the most pre-eminent active individuals worldwide in their area of research or scholarship. A minimum of ten letters of evaluation from leaders in the field is required. Letters should be written by distinguished researchers from academia, national labs, research institutes, or industry. Inclusion of non-US recommendations are highly encouraged. The letters should confirm that candidates meet the meritorious standards set forth above and must strongly endorse the University Distinguished Professor designation.

F. Candidates must be active faculty members at Texas A&M University for a minimum of one year before nomination and consideration for the title of University Distinguished Professor.

G. Candidates may hold administrative assignments, but administrative competency will not be evaluated as a basis for qualification.

H. The following, in themselves, are insufficient to qualify for the University Distinguished Professor designation:
   a. A substantial and sustained record of high-quality research productivity;
   b. Testing, applying and/or implementing original work done by others.
   I. While DP nominees are typically excellent teachers and mentors, these criteria will not be considered and should not be included in the nomination.

IV. Organization & Submission Guidelines for Departments & Colleges

   A. Submit electronic copy (PDF format on required template) to awardsprograms@tamu.edu by the deadline shown in the File Submission Timeline.

V. Dossier Organization and Preparation

   A. Fill out a Dossier Cover Sheet for Nomination for Distinguished Professor. The Dossier Cover Sheet can be found on the Dean of Faculties website http://dof.tamu.edu/Awards-and-Honors/University-Distinguished-Professor

   B. The pdf should include all of the material, including a Dossier Cover Sheet for Nomination for Distinguished Professor for each candidate, and all the items listed in the Dossier Cover Sheet. Please do not scan incomplete files.

   C. Supporting materials, such as copies of articles should not be included in the electronic copy.

DOSSIER ITEMS

Item 1. Nominator's Statement on Quality and Impact of the Candidate as a Scholar

Distinguished professor nominations are the sole prerogative of the deans of colleges. Each nomination must include a letter of affirmation and support from the nominee's dean. If the dean is the nominator, the dean's affirmation and the nomination statement may be combined in one document.

The Dean's affirmation statement must be included in the dossier if the dean is not the nominator.
The nomination should convey in a concise way that the nominee:

A. Is considered **pre-eminent** in his or her own field (at a minimum, the candidate must be among the top 2% of active researchers in his or her area of research or scholarship on an international basis).

B. Has made at least one highly documented transformational contribution (i.e. the work caused a substantial intellectual leap forward in the discipline rather than an incremental extension of existing knowledge).

C. Has had a **major impact** in his/her field (i.e. his/her work is central in any narrative of the field, and he/she is widely recognized to have redirected scholarship in the field).

**Item 2. The Candidate’s Complete Curriculum Vita**

A. Refereed publications (or other types of creative works) should be listed separately from those that were not refereed, and the lists captioned accordingly.

B. Complete documentation should be provided for each citation, including a date of publication and inclusive page numbers.

C. Items that have been accepted but not yet published should be so labeled. Items that have been submitted, but not yet accepted, should not be shown unless they appear in a separately captioned list.

D. It is strongly encouraged that if any coauthors are the candidate’s graduate students (past or present), they are delineated in such a manner that this relationship is discernible.

E. Amounts of funded research, where relevant as evidence of research performance, should be specified along with the role of the candidate in the project (e.g., principal investigator, co-principal investigator, etc.)

F. List any major invited presentations and major awards won. For awards, include a brief description of the selectivity and process for winning such an award.

**Item 3. Outside Reviewers’ Letters**

*Please carefully review the posted EXTERNAL LETTER SOLICITATION REQUEST.* Nominating units should ensure that all elements noted in the sample letter are being requested and gathered for the nomination file.

A. The nominee may provide a list of individuals who might be solicited for recommendations.

B. There should be a minimum of **seven (7)** outside reviews in the dossier. Letters should be written by distinguished researchers from academia, national labs, research institutes, or industry. The credentials and qualifications of the outside reviewers should be discussed briefly in the Nominator’s Statement on Quality and Impact of the Candidate as a Scholar.

C. Outside reviews should be distinguished researchers both within and outside the United States.

D. Academic reviewers should be individuals at universities of high repute, similarly ranked and distinguished scholars in the field of the candidate (or a closely related field). The preference is for letters from scholars who would be qualified to hold the same rank and distinction as the candidate if they were at Texas A&M.

E. The external letters should specifically address the criteria set forth in section III above.

F. Each letter must specifically identify and discuss one or more original or transformational contributions of the nominee and the impact of those contributions.

G. Copies of written requests made for outside reviews must be included in this section of the dossier. The letter should also include the following statement:

> Your letter will be kept confidential; however, under Texas law your letter may be relinquished through an open records request.

**Item 4. College-Level Faculty Review (University Distinguished Professors)**
Deans must seek the advice and a written evaluation from a body representing all UDPs of the nominee’s college. At least three UDP faculty should evaluate a nominee. Those colleges with an insufficient number of active UDP faculty should solicit UDPs from other colleges to assist in evaluating nominees. The DP Executive Committee can assist with these evaluations. Contact Dr. B. Don Russel, Chair of the ECDP, for assistance, if needed. (bdrussell@tamu.edu)

VI. Submission of Biographical Materials

Please submit the following items by the dates on the File Submission Timeline.

A. Biographical Paragraph. A 250-word paragraph in Word format on each of the candidates being considered for recommendation for University Distinguished Professor. The paragraph should include the following information, in this order:
   1. Name
   2. Terminal degree, year, and institution
   3. Year they joined the Texas A&M faculty
   4. Area(s) of specialty
   5. Description of his/her contribution to the scholarship in the candidate’s field (“bragging points”)
   6. Any notable honors or awards received

B. Digital Photograph. For best results, the photograph should be a head or upper-body shot in which the head is 1” high. Digital photos should be of high quality with a minimum of 300 dpi.

Please email the biography and photo to Sandra Harnden at awardsprograms@tamu.edu