

Draft Policy Distinguished Professor (9/28/11)

I. **Policy Statement**

The title of “Distinguished Professor” is the most prestigious honor bestowed on faculty members by Arkansas State University. A distinguished professor at Arkansas State University is one who has demonstrated outstanding accomplishment in a discipline and a reputation of excellence that is recognized internationally. However, an exemplary scholarly record in itself is not adequate to merit this recognition; a pre-eminent ability to teach must always be a key component of qualifying for this distinction. Conferring the title of distinguished professor requires a rigorous academic review and appointment by the Board of Trustees.

II. **Criteria**

Candidates recommended for a distinguished professorship must demonstrate accomplishments in accordance with the following criteria:

1. A record of distinguished performance in research or creative work;
2. A record of distinguished performance in both teaching and supervision of individual learning; and
3. A record of distinguished service to the profession and to ASU-Jonesboro.

III. **Explanation of Criteria**

1. A record of distinguished performance in research or creative work. The professor's work has received national and international recognition and the professor has had a major impact by changing or greatly influencing the direction of his/her field. A significant amount of that work must have been done during the professor's tenure at ASU-Jonesboro.

Ways to demonstrate merit may include but are not limited to:

- a. Memberships, awards, prizes, and fellowships that indicate that the nominee is considered a leading member of the discipline by her/his peers. Examples of honors at the national level are book awards, a Pulitzer Prize, or fellowships like a Guggenheim or MacArthur. For example, in the natural sciences and engineering, a typical indicator of merit might include membership in the National Academy of Science or the National Academy of Engineering. Awards and prizes within a particular subfield may also be presented.

- b. Publication in journals or presses rated at the top of that field and citations to those articles; for artists, exhibitions or performances in prestigious venues and reviews of those performances/exhibitions.

- c. If applicable to the field, extramural funding or grants.
- 2. A record of distinguished performance in both teaching and supervision of individual learning. The latter may include undergraduate research and independent study, graduate research, theses, dissertations, clinical education and mentoring. Former students demonstrate the impact of this professor's teaching/supervision through their own accomplishments.

Ways to demonstrate merit:

- a. Awards or prizes for teaching achievements, or outstanding student evaluations.
 - b. Some or all of the following: development of new courses; development of new clinical techniques; curriculum revision; interdisciplinary teaching; or larger projects to improve pedagogy; innovative syllabi; websites; or other instructional materials, teaching-related grants.
 - c. A description of the professional accomplishments of former undergraduate and/or graduate or professional students supervised by the nominee, including their current occupation and position.
- 3. A record of outstanding service to the profession and to ASU.

Ways to demonstrate merit:

Evidence of excellent performance in the faculty member's department/unit or college and national stature in his or her discipline or field.

- a. Documentation of the impact of the nominee's leadership at all levels (Department, College, and University) on the ASU campus.
 - b. Evidence of service to discipline, particularly leadership roles.
- 4. Before being nominated, candidates must have held a tenure-track faculty position for at least 5 full academic years at ASU-Jonesboro.
 - 5. Candidates for Distinguished Professor must currently hold the rank of Full Professor.

IV. Procedures and Guidelines

A. Nominations

Candidates for the title of Distinguished Professor must be nominated by their peers (faculty at ASU or from other institutions).

- B. The letter of nomination should make clear to people in other disciplines the standards and measures of excellence used within this field. What constitutes a distinguished record or what specific accomplishments indicate that the nominee is at the top of her/his field should be clearly described. This is especially important in professional and performance-based fields.

If the nominee's record includes grants with multiple investigators or publications with multiple authors, the letter should explain his/her individual role. The letter may also clarify the forms or media through which scholars normally publish or present in this field, including the role of articles vs. books. The nomination letter should explain the status of such honors within the field.

- C. Required: letters from outstanding scholars or professionals in that field, normally senior people working at excellent institutions in this country and/or abroad. The letters should describe the nominee's standing in her/his area of specialization and in the broader field. Selection of external evaluators shall be undertaken by the home department of the candidate in consultation with the candidate. Nominees shall be given the opportunity to suggest possible evaluators and may also indicate specific scholars to exclude from consideration because their evaluations might be prejudiced against the candidate.

The nomination letter should explain if the nominee has not been able to train graduate students due to the nature of the field or program at ASU campus.

- D. Required: letters from former undergraduate, professional or graduate students, describing the impact of the nominee's teaching/supervision/mentoring upon their own careers. One-paragraph biographies may be submitted if necessary, but not full curriculum vitae. A maximum of 6 letters may be submitted.

A maximum of 6 letters will usually be sufficient, but in the case of a nominee who has contributed to multiple fields, as many as 8 letters may be submitted.

The nomination file should include one-paragraph biographies of the authors of these letters but not full curriculum vitae.

- E. Nominations will be submitted to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Office. Nominations will then be reviewed by the University PRT Committee.
- F. Following review by the University PRT Committee and an interview with Distinguished Professor Candidates, recommendations will be submitted to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost. If all recommendations support the nomination to receive the title of Distinguished Professor, recommendation and supporting documentation will be submitted to the Chancellor for further review. Final approval for an award is required not only from the Chancellor, but also by the Board of Regents.

- G. Call for nominations will be issued on September 15. Deadline for submission of nomination packets to the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost is July 1 of the following year.

This Administrative Policy Statement will be reviewed periodically.

Suggested Compensation:

A \$25k discretionary research/scholarly activity fund/yr.

A salary increase 25-50%.

This document is binding for all faculty of ASU. Existing Distinguished Faculty are required to go through the application process as described above to be considered for the continuance of this title.

Original Wording

Once the Distinguished Professor policy is finalized and approved, all existing ASU Distinguished Professors must follow application procedures described above in order to comply with this policy.