



Policy Chapter: Chapter 6 Faculty Affairs

Policy Number and Title: 06.015 Eminent Professorships

I. Policy Statement

The University of North Texas recognizes three eminent professorships. The University Distinguished Teaching Professorship award recognizes tenured faculty who perform outstanding teaching, teach at the introductory levels of their disciplines, promote the continuous development of teaching excellence, and promote improved teaching among their colleagues in the UNT community. The University Distinguished Research Professorship award recognizes tenured faculty at the rank of professor who have achieved an exceptionally outstanding record of creative activities or research productivity and who demonstrate a record of continued extraordinary productivity. The purpose of the Regents' Professorship award is to provide recognition and salary support for individuals at the rank of professor who have performed outstanding teaching, research, and service to the profession and to the University of North Texas, and who have achieved a high level of national and international recognition.

II. Application of Policy

Full time tenured faculty at the rank of associate professor or professor

III. Policy Responsibilities

A. Awards

1. The "University Distinguished Teaching Professor" award consists of that designation and a one-time supplement of five thousand dollars (\$5000) added to the recipient's base salary. Up to five awards may be made per year with the restriction that no more than 5 percent of the total faculty at the rank of associate professor and professor can hold the designation "University Distinguished Teaching Professor" at any one time. In the event that the supplement is increased, the difference would be added to the base salary for individuals currently holding the title University Distinguished Teaching Professor.
2. The "University Distinguished Research Professor" award consists of that designation and a one-time supplement of five thousand dollars (\$5000) added to the recipient's base salary. Up to five awards may be made per year provided that no more than five percent of faculty at the rank of professor may hold the designation "University Distinguished Research Professor" at any one time. In the event that the supplement is increased, the difference would be added to the base salary for individuals currently holding the title University Distinguished Research Professor.

The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs may approve an exception to the five percent/five award limit upon recommendation by a dean in order to recruit a highly accomplished professor who has achieved an exceptionally outstanding record of creative activities or research productivity at another university or organization and who demonstrates a record of continued extraordinary productivity.

3. The "Regents' Professor" award consists of that designation and a one-time supplement of seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7500) added to the recipient's base salary. Up to five awards may be made per year, with the restriction that no more than 10 percent of those at the rank of professor can hold the designation "Regents' Professor" at any one time.* In the event that the supplement is increased, the difference would be added to the base salary for individuals currently holding the title of Regents' Professor.

(*During transition from the former provision that allowed up to 25 percent of faculty at the rank of professor to hold the Regents' Professorship, designations relinquished by retirement, resignation, or through review shall be replaced at a ratio of one new designation for every three relinquished, until the 10 percent ceiling is reached.)

B. Eligibility

1. To be eligible for the "University Distinguished Teaching Professor" award, an individual must:
 - a. be a full-time, tenured associate professor or professor;
 - b. have a distinguished record of teaching;
 - c. demonstrate the potential for continued excellence in teaching performance; and
 - d. demonstrate a commitment to the further development and promotion of excellent teaching performance.
2. To be eligible for the "University Distinguished Research Professor" award, an individual must:
 - a. be a full-time, tenured professor;
 - b. have a record of exceptionally distinguished research or creative activity; and
 - c. demonstrate evidence of the potential for continued extraordinary productivity.
3. To be eligible for the "Regents' Professor" award, an individual must:
 - a. be a full-time tenured professor;
 - b. have an outstanding record of teaching, research, and service to UNT and to the profession, and have achieved a high level of national and international recognition; and
 - c. demonstrate evidence of the potential for continued distinguished performance.

C. Selection

1. Nominations for the designation of University Distinguished Teaching Professor shall be made by the department chair and submitted to the school or college dean. A candidate's nomination should be based upon a record of excellence consisting of a teaching portfolio covering teaching performance over the five-year period prior to

nomination, and upon evidence therein of sustained excellent performance since promotion to the rank of associate professor.

School or college nominations shall be forwarded by the dean to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs for consideration. Final nominations for the awards shall be submitted to the President by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, acting in light of the recommendation of the University Distinguished Teaching Professor Selection and Review Committee.

2. Nominations for the designation of University Distinguished Research Professor shall be made by the department chair and submitted to the school or college dean. A candidate's nomination must be based upon a record of sustained excellence over the course of the candidate's career. The University Distinguished Research Professor Selection and Review Committee will develop and distribute selection criteria and application procedures.

School or college nominations shall be forwarded by the dean to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs for consideration, and final nominations for the awards shall be submitted to the President by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, acting in light of the recommendation of the University Distinguished Research Professor Selection and Review Committee (except as noted above for the purpose of recruitment).

3. Nominations for the designation of Regents' Professor shall be made by the department chair and submitted to the school or college dean. A candidate's nomination should be based upon evidence of outstanding performance over the candidate's entire academic career, particularly upon evidence of sustained outstanding performance since promotion to the rank of professor.

The nominations shall be reviewed by the Regents' Professor Selection and Review Committee. Regents' Professor nominees receiving support by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs shall be recommended to the President for consideration by the Board of Regents. Only the Board of Regents may award the designation of Regents' Professor.

D. Requirements and Exceptions for University Distinguished Teaching Professors

1. All University Distinguished Teaching Professors shall teach at least two courses or the equivalent in direct contact with students including individual instruction each semester. At least one course per year must be offered at the introductory level of the discipline, consistent with the needs of the faculty member's department. All University Distinguished Teaching Professors shall encourage excellent teaching performance among the faculty and/or graduate students of their unit, of the university, and/or the profession by mentoring, teaching, and/or sharing good teaching practices.
2. A University Distinguished Teaching Professor on full-time leave is exempt from the workload requirements for the duration of the leave. If partial faculty responsibilities

continue, the workload requirement shall apply proportionally to the terms of the leave.

3. A newly selected University Distinguished Teaching Professor may defer compliance with the workload requirements for the first year of the appointment due to existing scheduling commitments.

E. Restrictions

Faculty who hold one of these designations shall not be eligible to hold either of the other two designations simultaneously. A faculty member may only receive one salary supplement for holding the designation of University Distinguished Teaching Professor, University Distinguished Research Professor, or Regents Professor; as such, the salary supplement is not intended to be additive upon a change in designation. If a faculty member relinquishes one of these designations in order to receive one of the other two designations, the faculty member will receive the salary supplement for only one of the designations, whichever is the higher amount.

F. Retirement and Emerita or Emeritus (Emeritx) Status

An individual who retires from faculty status while holding one of these designations shall be eligible to receive the designation with Emeritx status. The salary supplement held during regular service prior to retirement shall be included as part of the base salary for the purpose of determining the salary of a faculty member holding one of these designations who goes on modified service. Individuals who hold these designations with Emeritx status shall not be counted against the University's maximum percentage of professors who may hold each of these designations.

G. Review of Performance

1. The designation of University Distinguished Teaching Professor shall be reviewed by the University Distinguished Teaching Professor Selection and Review Committee in the fifth year after designation has been awarded and every fifth year thereafter as long as the designation is held. The committee will review continued eligibility for the designation, based on the faculty member's ongoing teaching performance evaluations and on the faculty member's continuing efforts to maintain and improve the faculty member's own teaching excellence and promote quality teaching among graduate students, colleagues, and broader professional communities. The committee shall recommend whether the designation of University Distinguished Teaching Professor should continue. In the event the determination is made that a person should not continue to be a University Distinguished Teaching Professor, the salary supplement that accompanied the initial designation shall be retained by the faculty member. Specific procedures for the conduct of these reviews shall be adopted and published by the University Distinguished Teaching Professor Selection and Review Committee.
2. The designation of University Distinguished Research Professor shall be reviewed by the University Distinguished Research Professor Selection and Review Committee in

the fifth year after the designation has been awarded and every fifth year thereafter as long as the designation is held. Criteria and procedures for review are developed and distributed by the committee. Continued eligibility for the designation shall be based on ongoing productivity and excellence. The committee shall recommend whether the designation should continue. In the event the determination is made that a person should not continue to be a University Distinguished Research Professor, the salary supplement that accompanied the initial designation shall be retained by the faculty member. Specific procedures for the conduct of these reviews shall be adopted and published by the University Distinguished Research Professor Selection and Review Committee.

3. Faculty who hold the designation of Regents' Professor shall be reviewed by the Regents Professor Selection and Review Committee pursuant to Regents Rule (06.300) and criteria established by this policy. The reviews will occur in the seventh year after the designation has been awarded and every seven years thereafter as long as the designation is held. Continued eligibility for the designation shall be based on ongoing productivity and excellence. The committee shall recommend to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs whether the designation should continue. In the event the determination is made by both the Regents' Professor Selection and Review Committee and the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs that a person should not continue to be a Regents' Professor, the salary supplement that accompanied the initial designation shall be retained by the faculty member.

H. Composition of Selection and Review Committees

1. The University Distinguished Teaching Professor Selection and Review Committee shall consist of six tenured faculty members serving staggered three-year terms, three student members (one graduate, two undergraduates) serving one-year terms, and a representative from the Center for Learning Enhancement, Assessment, and Redesign (CLEAR). Three faculty committee members shall be selected by the Faculty Senate and three by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The graduate student shall be selected by the Dean of the Graduate School. The undergraduate students shall be selected by the Office of the Provost, in consultation with the academic deans. At least one-half of the committee's faculty members shall be University Distinguished Teaching Professors, and membership should include both full and associate professors. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, or designee, shall serve as chair of the University Distinguished Teaching Professor Selection and Review Committee. The University Distinguished Teaching Professor Selection and Review Committee may adopt and publish additional procedures and application standards for review of candidates for the award consistent with this policy.
2. The University Distinguished Research Professor Selection and Review Committee shall consist of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development or designee, the Provost and the Vice President for Academic Affairs, or designee, and six tenured full professors, serving staggered three-year terms. Three faculty

committee members shall be selected by the Faculty Senate and three by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. At least one-half of the committee’s faculty members shall be University Distinguished Research Professors. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, or designee, shall serve as chair of the University Distinguished Research Professor Selection and Review Committee. The University Distinguished Research Professor Selection and Review Committee may adopt and publish additional procedures and application standards for review of candidates for the award consistent with this policy.

3. The Regents’ Professor Selection and Review Committee, consisting of six tenured faculty members will serve staggered three years terms. Three committee members shall be selected by the Faculty Senate and three by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. At least one-half of the committee members shall be Regents’ Professors. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs or designee shall serve as chair of the Regents’ Professor Selection and Review Committee. The Regents’ Professor Selection and Review Committee may adopt and publish additional procedures and application standards for the nomination of candidates and the review of Regents’ Professors for the award consistent with this policy.

IV. References and Cross-References

[UNT System Board of Regents Rule, 06.300, Faculty Appointments](#)

V. Revision History

Policy Contact:	Policy Director, Office of the Provost and VP for Academic Affairs
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