Policy Chapter:	**Chapter 6 Faculty Affairs**
Policy Number and Title:	**06.015 Eminent Professorships**

I. Policy Statement

The University of North Texas (UNT) formally recognizes distinguished and highly respected scholars for their excellence in scholarship, teaching, and service, and for their contributions to their respective fields of expertise.

II. Application of Policy

Full-time faculty at the rank of associate professor, professor, associate clinical professor, clinical professor, senior lecturer, or principal lecturer.

III. Definitions

A. Stop-the-Clock Period

"Stop-the-Clock Period," in this policy, means a one-year extension of an Eminent Professorship review period for qualifying circumstances.

IV. Policy Responsibilities

A. Overview

The University of North Texas recognizes three eminent professorships. The University Distinguished Teaching Professorship award recognizes 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.

B. Awards

1. University Distinguished Teaching Professor

   a. Description

      The award consists of the designation "University Distinguished Teaching Professor" and a one-time salary increase of five thousand dollars ($5000) added to the recipient's base salary. In the event the award amount is increased, the difference will be added to the base salary of faculty currently holding the designation. Up to five awards may be made per year with the restriction that no more than four (4) percent of the total faculty at the rank of associate and full

professor, clinical associate professor and clinical professor, and senior lecturer and principal lecturer can hold the designation at any one time.

b. Eligibility

To be eligible for the award, an individual must:

i. be a full-time, tenured associate professor or professor; clinical associate professor or clinical full professor; or senior lecturer or principal lecturer;

ii. have a minimum of six years of full-time teaching experience at UNT;

iii. have a distinguished record of teaching;

iv. demonstrate the potential for continued excellence in teaching performance; and

v. demonstrate a commitment to the further development and promotion of excellent teaching performance.

c. Selection Criteria

Nominations for the designation of University Distinguished Teaching Professor must 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.

School or college nominations must be forwarded by the dean to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs for consideration. The Provost will review the nominations along with any supporting information provided by the University Distinguished Teaching Professor Selection and Review Committee. The Provost will make a decision on whether or not to advance the nomination to the President. The President has final authority to award the designation.

d. Requirements and Exceptions

i. All University Distinguished Teaching Professors must 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.

ii. 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 must apply proportionally to the terms of the leave.

iii. 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. Review of Performance

The designation of University Distinguished Teaching Professor must 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. In qualifying circumstances, a University Distinguished Teaching Professor may request that the review period be extended by the Provost. This period will be excluded from the review period, and the review period will be extended accordingly. A University Distinguished Teaching Professor appointed to a full-time Administrative Appointment (UNT Policy 06.002 Academic Appointments and Titles) is exempt from UDTP teaching requirements for the duration of the full-time Administrative Appointment. A University Distinguished Teaching Professor appointed to a full-time Administrative Appointment may request a reset of the five-year review period from the Provost. 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 must recommend whether the designation of University Distinguished Teaching Professor should continue. The Provost has final authority to continue or remove the designation. The faculty member shall retain the salary increase that accompanied the initial designation if the designation is not continued. Specific procedures for the conduct of these reviews will be adopted and published by the University Distinguished Teaching Professor Selection and Review Committee.

f. Selection and Review Committees

The University Distinguished Teaching Professor Selection and Review Committee must 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 Learning Ecosystem for Empowering Futures (LEEF). Three faculty committee members must be selected by the Faculty Senate and three by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The graduate student and undergraduate students must be selected by the Office of the Provost, in consultation with the academic deans. At least one-half of the committee's faculty members must be University Distinguished Teaching Professors, and membership should include both faculty at multiple ranks. The Provost or designee will serve as chair of the Committee. The committee may adopt and publish additional procedures and application standards for review of candidates for the award consistent with this policy.

2. University Distinguished Research Professor

   a. Description

      The award consists of the designation “University Distinguished Research Professor" and a one-time salary increase of five thousand dollars ($5000) added to the recipient’s base salary. In the event the award amount is increased, the difference will be added to the base salary of faculty currently holding the designation. Up to five (5) awards may be made per year provided that no more than five (5) percent of faculty at the rank of full professor may hold the designation at any one time.

      The Provost may approve an exception to the award and percentage limits 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.

   b. Eligibility

      To be eligible for the award, an individual must:

      i. be a full-time, tenured professor;

      ii. have a record of exceptionally distinguished research or creative activity; and

      iii. demonstrate evidence of the potential for continued extraordinary productivity.

   c. Selection Criteria

      Nominations for the designation of University Distinguished Research Professor must 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 publish selection criteria and application procedures.

      School or college nominations must be forwarded by the dean to the Provost for consideration, and final nominations for the awards must be submitted to the President by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

      The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs will review the nominations provided by the deans, along with any supporting information provided by the University Distinguished Research Professor Selection and Review Committee. The Provost shall decide whether to advance the nomination to the President. The President has final approval authority to designate a University Distinguished Research Professor.

d. Review of Performance

The designation of University Distinguished Research Professor must 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. In qualifying circumstances, a University Distinguished Research Professor may request that the review period be extended by the Provost. This period will be excluded from the review period, and the review period will be extended accordingly. A University Distinguished Research Professor appointed to a full-time Administrative Appointment (UNT Policy 06.002 Academic Appointments and Titles) is exempt from the workload requirements for the duration of the full-time Administrative Appointment. A University Distinguished Research Professor appointed to a full-time Administrative Appointment may request a reset of the five-year review period from the Provost. Criteria and procedures for review are developed and distributed by the committee. Continued eligibility for the designation must be based on ongoing productivity and excellence. The committee will recommend to the Provost 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 will be retained by the faculty member. Specific procedures for the conduct of these reviews will be adopted and published by the University Distinguished Research Professor Selection and Review Committee.

e. Selection and Review Committees

The University Distinguished Research Professor Selection and Review Committee must consist of the Vice President for Research and Innovation 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 must 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 must be University Distinguished Research Professors. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, or designee, will 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. Regents Professor

a. Description

The award consists of the designation "Regents' Professor" and a one-time salary increase of seven thousand five hundred dollars ($7500) added to the recipient's base salary. In the event the award amount is increased, the difference will be added to the base salary of faculty currently holding the designation. Up to five (5)

awards may be made per year, with the restriction that no more than ten (10) percent of those at the rank of professor can hold the designation at any one time.

b. Eligibility

To be eligible for the award, an individual must:

i. be a full-time tenured professor;

ii. 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

iii. demonstrate evidence of the potential for continued distinguished performance.

c. Selection Criteria

Nominations for the designation of Regents' Professor must 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 must be reviewed by the Regents' Professor Selection and Review Committee. Regents' Professor nominees receiving support by the Provost will be forwarded to the President for consideration by the Board of Regents. Only the Board of Regents may award the designation of Regents' Professor.

d. Review of Performance

Faculty who hold the designation of Regents' Professor must be reviewed by the Regents' Professor Selection and Review Committee pursuant to Regents Rule 06.300 Faculty Appointments and criteria established by this policy. The review will occur in the seventh year after the designation has been awarded and every seven years thereafter, as long as the designation is held. In qualifying circumstances, a Regents Professor may request that the review period be extended by the Provost. This period will be excluded from the review period, and the review period will be extended accordingly. A Regents Professor appointed to a full-time Administrative Appointment (UNT Policy 06.002 Academic Appointments and Titles) is exempt from the workload requirements for the duration of the full-time Administrative Appointment. A Regents Professor appointed to a full-time Administrative Appointment may request a reset of the five-year review period from the Provost. Continued eligibility for the designation will be based on ongoing productivity and excellence. The committee will recommend to the Provost whether the designation should continue.

e. Selection and Review Committees

The Regents' Professor Selection and Review Committee, consisting of six tenured faculty members, will serve staggered three-year terms. Three committee members must 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 must be Regents' Professors. The Provost, or designee, serves as chair of the Committee. The Committee may adopt and publish additional procedures and application standards for the nomination of candidates and the review of Regents' Professors. Any additional procedures and standards adopted by the Committee must be consistent with this policy.

C. Restrictions

A faculty member may hold only a single designation awarded pursuant to this policy at any one time and is entitled to only one salary increase, even if awarded the other designation(s) during the individual's tenure at UNT. A faculty member who is awarded the Regents' Professor designation after holding the designation of University Distinguished Teaching Professor or University Distinguished Research Professor is entitled to receive the difference in the award amounts, if any.

D. Rescission

A designation awarded pursuant to this policy may be rescinded upon a determination that the faculty member has engaged in misconduct as defined by UNT Policy 06.025 Faculty Misconduct and Discipline upon approval by the Provost. An award automatically rescinds upon revocation of tenure.

E. Retirement and Emeritus Status

An individual who retires while holding one of these designations is eligible to receive the designation with emeritus status as defined by UNT Policy 06.013 Conferring of Emeritus Status. Individuals who hold these designations with emeritus status will not be counted against the University's maximum percentage of professors who may hold each of these designations.

V. References and Cross-References

Regents Rule 06.300 Faculty Appointments
UNT Policy 06.002 Academic Appointments and Titles
UNT Policy 06.013 Conferring of Emeritus Status
UNT Policy 06.025 Faculty Misconduct and Discipline

VI. Revision History

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