



Campus Administrative Policy

Policy Title: Distinguished Professorships
Policy Number: 1010 Functional Area: Academic and Faculty Affairs

Effective: July 1, 2020
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Supersedes: Distinguished Professorships (July 1, 2013, July 1, 2019)

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Applies to: CU Anschutz
CU Denver

A. Introduction

The designation “Distinguished Professor” is bestowed upon a select group of faculty members to recognize their outstanding contributions to their academic disciplines. Consistent with Regent policy and CU System Administrative Policy Statement (APS) 1017, this policy sets forth procedures for nominating candidates at University of Colorado Denver and University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus for consideration for designation as distinguished professors.

B. Policy Statement

The title Distinguished Professor is the highest honor that the University of Colorado bestows on its own faculty members. This title is extended to recognize the outstanding contributions of tenured faculty members to their academic disciplines. In addition to the honor and recognition,

an annual stipend is provided by the home campus for distinguished professors with active appointments.

The very nature of the title "distinguished" implies that there shall be a limited number

of faculty holding this title. It is intended to signify a select group of faculty members who are leaders in their respective fields as attested to by national or international recognition and/or their significant public service achievements.

C. Eligibility

As stated in [Regent Policy 5.C.2](#), candidates recommended for a distinguished professorship must demonstrate accomplishments based on the following criteria:

1. Distinguished performance in scholarly/creative work;
2. Excellence in the promotion of learning and student attainment of knowledge and skills; and
3. Outstanding leadership and service to the profession and to CU and/or affiliate institutions.

A candidate must have served at least five years at the CU campus and/or affiliate institution making the nomination. This requirement may be waived with the approval of two-thirds of the campus review committee members and unanimous approval by the members of the president's advisory committee.

D. Nomination Materials

The nominator must prepare a dossier demonstrating evidence of excellence in promoting learning and student attainment; evidence concerning the faculty member's distinguished accomplishments in scholarly or creative work; and evidence of outstanding leadership and service to the profession and to the University and/or affiliate institutions. A detailed description of the requirements for the dossier and guidelines for developing the dossier may be found in the [APS 1017, "Procedures for Implementing Regent Actions on Distinguished Professorships"](#), section II.B "Nomination Materials."

E. Nomination Process

1. The chancellor will solicit annually nominations for Distinguished Professorships early in the fall term.
2. The nominator(s) prepares a dossier as specified above in D and submits it to the dean by March 1.
3. The dean reviews the dossier and prepares a letter of transmittal to the chancellor and sends the dossier, letter of transmittal and supporting documentation to the chancellor or chancellor's designee by April 1.
4. The chancellor will refer nomination(s) to the chair of the Chancellor's Review Committee, who will convene the committee.
5. The primary nominator and/or the dean of the school/college or library shall present the nomination to the Chancellor's Review Committee.
6. The Chancellor's Review Committee shall review the nomination(s) and make a recommendation to the chancellor by June 1.
7. The chancellor will review the Committee's recommendation(s) in consultation with the provost. If the chancellor supports the nomination of a faculty member for a Distinguished Professorship, the chancellor will forward the faculty member's dossier, supporting documentation, and a letter of recommendation to the President's Office by July 1.
8. The Chancellor's Review Committee for each campus shall be senior faculty peers who have been recognized for their research and scholarly contributions, e.g. Distinguished Professors or recipients of major research/creative activity awards.

Notes

1. Dates of official enactment and amendments

February 7, 2006: Approved and enacted by the Chancellor.

April 1, 2012: Amended

July 1, 2013: Revised

May 9, 2018: Corrected

December 21, 2018: Revised

July 1, 2020: Revised

2. History:

April 1, 2012: Amended to match system policy (APS 1017) changes and describe campus processes it has been practiced, not as originally described.

July 1, 2013: Revised with minor edits/clarification arising from system policy changes.

May 9, 2018: Edited for format to reflect a 2018 Campus-wide effort to recast and revitalize

various Campus policy sites into a standardized and more coherent set of chaptered policy statements organized around the several operational divisions of the university.

December 21, 2018: Revised to match system policy changes.

July 1, 2020: Revised to reflect changes to Regent Law and Policy; gender neutral language.

March 5, 2024: Section E.8 revised to reflect a decision approved by both chancellors to form separate review committees for the Denver and Anschutz campuses.

3. Initial Policy Effective Date: February 7, 2006

4. Cross References/Appendix:

- Board of Regents Policy 5.C
- APS 1017 Procedures for Implementing Regent Actions on Distinguished Professorships