

Nominations for University and Distinguished Professorships

Board of Trustees and campus policies are explicit on the subject of the importance of faculty participation in the evaluation of candidates for faculty positions. While the university has not explicitly identified the appointment process for university professorships and distinguished professorships as being equivalent to that for promotion within the traditional ranks of associate professor and professor, technically the change falls into the category of initial appointment to a new position. The advice and counsel of the faculty are explicitly required for appointment decisions (as well as for promotion decisions). Board Policy 405.1 states that *Recommendations for appointments to the faculty will be made by the departmental chairperson after consultation with the departmental faculty concerned, and subject to the approval of the dean, chief academic officer and chief executive officer of the campus . . .* The Campus Faculty statement on university and distinguished professorships is as follows: *A favorable recommendation of the chairperson and a majority of the faculty of the appropriate academic department or equivalent unit is a prerequisite for appointment to a university professorship.*

Consequently, departmental faculty review is required for appointments to university and distinguished professorships, consistent with the clear intent of the appointment structure and consistent with the processes of the campus promotion structure, to which these appointments are parallel. As university positions including university and distinguished professorships are limited, it follows that the dean must have not only the review and recommendation of the department chairperson and faculty but also that of a representative faculty group or body within the school or college before forwarding a recommendation. College or school personnel documents should spell out how this committee is constituted if it is different from the college or school committee that reviews promotion and tenure recommendations. The campus document makes this specific as follows: *The faculty and chairperson of each department or equivalent unit shall establish, with concurrence of the dean and vice chancellor for academic affairs, substantive criteria and procedures for the appointment of distinguished professors . . . [and university professors].* These substantive criteria and procedures should be included in departmental and college or school personnel documents. *The Faculty Review Checklist* should be used as the basis to organize materials presented in support of nominations, as it is used for annual and promotion review processes and insures more nearly equitable consideration by providing candidates an opportunity to present comparable dossiers.

Nominations for the position of university professor or distinguished professor should proceed each year in a process comparable to that for promotion and tenure and according to the same review schedule. For more information, see Academic Policy 1405.10.