



POLICY & PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

NUMBER: 1.1331

DIVISION: Academic Affairs

TITLE: University Distinguished Professor Selection & Appointment

DATE: October 25, 2002

REVISED: January 31, 2011

Authorized by: A. Gordon Emslie, Provost and VPAA

I. Purpose and Scope

The University Distinguished Professorship program is designed to recognize faculty members who have served the University with distinction and have compiled an outstanding record of achievement in teaching, research, and service. By providing additional support for their work, the program seeks to enable recipients to pursue more professional opportunities and to increase the leadership role of these faculty at Western Kentucky University.

II. Policy

A. Eligibility

1. To be eligible for appointment as a University Distinguished Professor, a faculty member must have:
 - a. held the rank of professor for at least five (5) years;
 - b. normally completed 5 or more years of service to Western Kentucky University;
 - c. compiled a record of sustained achievement in teaching, research/creativity, and service.
 - d. Established a reputation for professional leadership within WKU and nationally.
2. Department heads, chairs, directors, and area coordinators are eligible for appointment. Individuals holding University Distinguished Professorships who are promoted into administrative positions of Dean or higher will retain the title of University Distinguished Professor but will not receive the annual stipend or the professional development funds.

B. Terms of Appointment

University Distinguished Professors will be appointed indefinitely. For the first five (5) years of their appointment, they will be eligible to receive the benefits described in II.D. UDPs appointed to five-year terms prior to the effective date of this policy will have their UDP status fully restored. Upon full retirement, former University Distinguished Professors will carry the title University Distinguished Professor, emeritus/emerita.

C. Responsibilities

Faculty named as University Distinguished Professors will be expected to:

- a. demonstrate sustained excellence in teaching, research/creativity, and service;
- b. provide leadership for innovative and/or interdisciplinary efforts in teaching/creativity, and service;
- c. conduct annually a faculty seminar and participate in colloquia as appropriate;
- d. serve on at least one major advisory committee in the University; and
- e. provide advice to the President and Provost as requested.

D. Benefits

Faculty members named University Distinguished Professors will receive for each year of the five (5) years of the appointment:

- a. A total annual award package of \$5,000, according to one of the following three options.

Option #	Salary Stipend Amount	Estimated Benefit Amount	Professional Development Funds	Total Package
1	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000
2	\$2,000	\$450	\$2,550	\$5,000
3	\$4,090	\$910	\$0	\$5,000

III. Procedure

A. Nomination

1. UDP's will be selected from the Academic Colleges and the University Libraries.
2. Faculty can be nominated for a University Distinguished Professorship by a faculty member, department head/chair, or dean, or they can self-nominate. Candidates must submit a letter indicating acceptance of the nomination with a curriculum vitae and three letters of support. Candidate materials will be:
 - a. reviewed by the tenured faculty in the department or discipline and recommendations forwarded to the department head and then the dean for review;
 - b. evaluated by outside peer review through submission of a report from an outside evaluator selected by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs in consultation with the Vice President for Research, the dean and department head, [as appropriate](#);
 - c. recommended by the University Distinguished Professorship Committee to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs;
 - d. recommended by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs for approval by the President and the Board of Regents. [The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs may consult with the Vice President for Research as appropriate.](#)

The timeline for consideration of application materials is provided in the Appendix.

3. Normally, no more than two University Distinguished Professors are appointed during a single year.
4. The University Distinguished Professorship Selection Committee consists of
 - a. the deans of the Academic Colleges and the University Libraries;
 - b. one University Distinguished Professor from each college and the libraries or a selected faculty representative if no University Distinguished Professor or former University Distinguished Professor is available from that college. The college deans serve on the committee by virtue of their office. University Distinguished Professors or faculty representatives are appointed by the Provost annually on a rotating basis.

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The Committee is chaired, *ex officio* , by an Assistant or Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, who shall be a non-voting member of the committee.

5. Nominees will be kept in the applicant pool for 3 years, unless a specific request is made to withdraw the application. Applicants in the pool will be given an opportunity to update their materials if they wish to do so.

IV. Related Policies

V. Reason for Revision

The revised timeline (Appendix) now applies to a general academic years and allows for identification of UDPs prior to the end of the academic year.

Section II.B has been amended to make the appointment permanent and restore UDP status to former UDPs.

Appendix - Selection Process Timetable

November 19 Call for Applications/Nominations

December 13 Nominations/letters of intent due to Academic Affairs

Acknowledgment letters to nominee/applicants with copy to department head

January 21 Formal application addressing selection criteria with appropriate supporting documentation, and providing three names and addresses for suggested external peer reviewers due in the office of the department head of the nominee/applicant

February 4 Application and supporting documentation submitted to college dean's office, if recommended by majority vote of tenured faculty in the department and if recommended by separate evaluation by the Department Head

February 15 Application, supporting documentation, peer reviewer names and addresses and department recommendations submitted to the University Distinguished Professorship Committee (Academic Affairs Office), if recommended by the College Dean

February 22 External peer review requests sent by Academic Affairs

March 15 Evaluation by external peer reviewer due to University Distinguished Professorship Committee (Academic Affairs).

May 6 Recommendations of the University Distinguished Professorship Committee due to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

May 16 Recommendation by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs to President.

May 31 Recommendation by the President to Board of Regents for consideration at June Board meeting.