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# APS 1017 - Procedures for Implementing Regent Actions on Distinguished Professorships

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## Policy Profile

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| **Policy Title:** | Procedures for Implementing Regent Actions on Distinguished Professorships |
| **APS Number:** | 1017 |
| **Effective:** | July 1, 2015 |
| **Approved by:** | President Bruce D. Benson |
| **Responsible University Officer:** | Vice President for Academic Affairs |
| **Responsible Office:** | Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs |
| **Policy Contact:** | Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, 303-860-5623 |
| **Supersedes:** | Procedures for Implementing Regent Actions on Distinguished Professorships dated January 17, 2013 |
| **Last Reviewed/Updated:** | July 1, 2015 |
| **Applies to:** | All campuses |

## Policy Snapshot

**Brief Description/Reason for Policy:** This policy establishes criteria and procedures for nominating and selecting distinguished professors at the University of Colorado.

## I. Policy Statement

A. 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 University of Colorado 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 who have active appointments.

B. Candidates recommended for a distinguished professorship must demonstrate accomplishments in accordance with the following university-wide criteria:

1. A record of distinguished performance in research or creative work;
2. In aggregate, a record of excellence in the promotion of learning and student attainment of knowledge and skills; and
3. A record of outstanding service to the profession and to CU and/or affiliate institutions.

C. 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.

D. Explanation of Criteria

1. A record of distinguished performance in research or creative work. The professor's work has received national and (where appropriate) international recognition and the professor has had a major impact by changing, or greatly influencing the direction of his/her field. A significant amount of work has been done since the professor came to the respective CU campus.

   The nomination letter should make clear to people in other disciplines the standards and measures of excellence used within this field. What constitutes a distinguished record, what indicates that the nominee is at the top of her/his field? This letter is especially important in professional, library, and performance-based fields.

   If the nominee's record includes grants with multiple investigators or publications with multiple authors, the letter should explain his/her individual role. The letter may also clarify the forms or media through which scholars normally publish or present in this field, including the role of articles vs. books.

   Ways to demonstrate merit may include:

   a. Memberships, awards, prizes, and fellowships that indicate that the nominee is considered a leading member of the discipline by her/his peers. The nomination letter should explain the status of such honors within the field. Examples of honors at the national level are book awards, a Pulitzer Prize, or fellowships like a Guggenheim or MacArthur. In the natural sciences and engineering, a typical indicator of merit might include membership in the National Academy of Science or the National Academy of Engineering. Awards and prizes within a particular

subfield may also be presented.

b. Publication in journals or presses rated at the top of that field and citations to those articles; for artists, exhibitions or performances in prestigious venues. When possible, a nomination should include a candidate?s ?h-index?[1] or another statistic that can assess their scholarly impact in terms of citations.
c. Selected reviews of major publications or performances as appropriate.
d. If applicable to the field, extramural funding or grants.
e. Required: letters from outstanding scholars or professionals in that field, normally senior people working at excellent institutions in this country and/or abroad. The letters should describe the nominee's standing in her/his area of specialization and in the broader field. Selection of external evaluators shall be undertaken by the department in consultation with the candidate. Candidates shall be given the opportunity to suggest possible evaluators and may also indicate specific scholars to exclude from consideration because their evaluations might be prejudiced against the candidate.

   A maximum of 6 letters will usually be sufficient, but in the case of a nominee who has contributed to multiple fields, as many as 8 letters may be submitted.

   The nomination file should include one-paragraph biographies of the authors of these letters but not full curricula vitae.

2. An aggregate record of excellence in the promotion of learning and student attainment of knowledge and skills. The latter may include direction of undergraduate research and independent study, graduate research, theses, dissertations, clinical education and mentoring.

   Ways to demonstrate merit may include:

   a. Awards or prizes for teaching achievements, or outstanding student evaluations (such as FCQs).
   b. Some or all of the following: development of new courses; development of new clinical techniques; curriculum revision; interdisciplinary teaching; or larger projects to improve pedagogy; innovative syllabi; websites; or other instructional materials, as summarized in the nomination file; education-related grants.
   c. A description of the professional accomplishments of former undergraduate and/or graduate or professional students supervised by the nominee, including their current occupation and position. The nomination letter should explain if the nominee has not been able to train graduate students due to the nature of the field or program at a CU campus.
   d. Required: letters from former undergraduate, professional or graduate students, describing the impact of the nominee's teaching/supervision/mentoring upon their own careers. A maximum of 6 letters may be submitted. One-paragraph biographies of those writing the letters may be submitted if necessary but not full curricula vitae.
   e. Required: Faculty Course Questionnaire (FCQ) summary pages and/or summary pages from a similar, campus-approved teaching evaluation system for all courses

taught in the previous five years. In addition, nominators may provide other campus or school/college accepted measures of teaching quality (see the APS 1009 - Multiple Means of Teaching Evaluation for example).

3. A record of outstanding service to the profession and to CU and/or affiliate institutions.

   Ways to demonstrate merit may include:

   a. Documentation of the impact of the nominee's leadership on the quality of the profession and the CU campus and/or affiliate institution's campus.
   b. Optional: up to 3 letters from colleagues in the profession or at the CU campus describing the nominee's contributions.

4. In Addition:

   The candidate must have served at least five years at the CU campus and/or affiliate institution making the nomination.

   Please note: Nomination files should contain the kinds of information and letters described above, including a complete curriculum vitae, but not additional materials, except under special circumstances.

## II. Procedures, Forms, Guidelines, and Other Resources

A. Procedures
   1. Each campus shall develop its own internal procedures for nominating distinguished professorships, consistent with Regent policy, which specifies that such nominations:

      a. Must be reviewed by the dean of the appropriate school or college, and
      b. Must be screened by a committee of senior faculty peers who shall advise the chancellor on the merits of each proposal.

      Following campus review and approval by the chancellor, recommendations and supporting documentation, consistent with this APS, shall be submitted to the President's Office.

   2. Timelines for Nominations and Review:

      a. Call for Nominations issued on September 15.
      b. Campuses shall determine internal deadlines for submission of full nomination of materials to campus deans AND for submission to provost/vice chancellor for academic affairs.
      c. Deadline for submission from chancellors to President's Office is July 1.

3. Upon receipt of a recommendation for a distinguished professorship, the president shall appoint a committee to review the recommendation in light of the established university-wide criteria. The committee shall include:

    a. Four to six faculty members currently holding the title of distinguished professor, with no more than two representing a single campus, and
    b. In the nomination packet, the chancellor shall identify one or two specialists, i.e. persons from the faculty member's discipline who are knowledgeable about his/her work who shall be available to answer questions from the Selection Committee about the candidate and his/her field. The specialist in the candidate?s academic discipline may be either from within or outside the university.
    c. In order to assist the committee, the campus shall designate one or two person(s) to present the recommendation to the committee. Neither the specialist(s) nor the presenter(s) shall be a voting member(s) of the committee and shall be present only as long as the committee requires.

4. The committee shall subsequently submit its recommendation on the distinguished professorship to the president for his/her review and action. Recommendations approved by the president shall be transmitted to the Board of Regents for action, accompanied by appropriate documentation. If the president does not approve a campus recommendation, he/she shall transmit his/her reasons to the campus chancellor.

## III. History

On December 15, 1977, the Board of Regents established the designation "Distinguished Professor" at the University of Colorado at Boulder. On October 17, 1980, the Board extended the title to all campuses of the university. On June 1, 2005, revisions were made to refine the criteria and guidelines for university-wide review of recommendations for distinguished professorships submitted by the campuses. On March 1, 2006, revisions were made to this policy statement to correct the order of the criteria and guidelines and to define the review committee membership in order to achieve broader university-wide representation.

Initial policy effective November 16, 1981

Revised:

- June 1, 2005
- March 1, 2006
- November 1, 2008
- February 1, 2012
- January 17, 2013
- July 1, 2015

## IV. Key Words

Distinguished, professorships, faculty, excellence, teaching, research, creative work, award

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1. The ?h-index? measures both the productivity and impact of the published work of a scientist or scholar, based on the set of the scientist?s/scholar?s most cited papers and the number of citations that they have received in other publications.

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