

UNIVERSITY RULE

12.99.99.M4 Distinguished Professor Rank and the Executive Committee of Distinguished Professors

Approved May 14, 1997

1. RANK OF DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

- 1.1 To be eligible for promotion to Distinguished Professor, the candidate will have made one and possibly more major contributions that have redirected the flow of research or scholarship in the relevant field. Thus, quality and impact are critical criteria for evaluation.
- 1.2 Candidates will normally be recognized, by peer statement, to be among the top 5% of active researchers in their area of research or scholarship on an international basis. At least four letters should be received from distinguished foreign academics strongly endorsing the appointment and six from peers in the United States.
- 1.3 Candidates may hold administrative assignments, but administrative competency will not be evaluated as a basis for qualification.

2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS

- 2.1 The Executive Committee of the Distinguished Professors is responsible for advising the Executive Vice President and Provost on proposed promotions to Distinguished Professor. It is also available to assist in making recommendations for appointment to chairs at the request of the Executive Vice President and Provost. Members of the Executive Committee are chosen annually by the Distinguished Professors from their own ranks, subject to the approval by the Executive Vice President and Provost.
- 2.2 Communication with the Executive Vice President and Provost
The Distinguished Professors not only bring honor and recognition to the University, but also comprise a body of individuals with expertise and a desire to be a resource for Texas A&M's progress. The Executive Vice President and Provost, through monthly meetings with the Executive Committee of the Distinguished Professors and annual meetings with the entire body of Distinguished Professors, will discuss and communicate opportunities for contributions to the advancement of the University.

3. PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA FOR REVIEW OF CANDIDATES FOR DESIGNATION AS DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

Guidelines for the preparation of material supporting the case for designation of faculty members as Distinguished Professors

- 3.1 In order to review expeditiously the qualifications of persons nominated for appointment to the rank of Distinguished Professor, the following documentation must accompany the nomination dossier:
- 3.1.1 A list of the Chair and other members of the search/promotion committee.
 - 3.1.2 A narrative summary of the candidate's scholarly career, specifying the subjects to which he or she has made seminal contributions, and stating his or her principal original contributions to those subjects. Literature should be cited to support the candidate's original contributions.
 - 3.1.3 A curriculum vitae (c.v.) that includes an up-to-date list of the candidate's publications. Recognized bibliographic standards of the candidate's field shall be used in listing the publications including title, journal name, number, and date, and beginning and concluding page numbers.
 - 3.1.4 Evidence of the candidate's national and international reputation, in the form of letters from persons in university departments of high repute in the candidate's field (notes made from telephone conversations may be substituted when expedient). Qualifications of those writing letters of endorsement should be furnished. In some cases, letters from persons in prestigious non-university research laboratories or institutes may be appropriate. Letters should comment on the candidate's publications or concepts that exemplify the candidate's influential contributions.
 - 3.1.5 Additional material in support of the nomination may include:
 - (1) a list of major invited addresses (if not included in c.v.).
 - (2) a list of research grants (if not included in c.v.).
 - (3) a list of graduate students supervised, with present position of each given where known.
 - (4) letters from successful former students.
 - 3.1.6 Nominations are submitted through the normal path for faculty promotions to the Associate Provost and Dean of Faculties who will forward the nomination package to the Executive Vice President and Provost, who will forward the nomination package to the Executive Committee of Distinguished Professors for review and recommendations. Nominations may be initiated at any time during the academic year. Normally the Executive Vice President and Provost will make at most five Distinguished Professor appointments in any year.

OFFICE OF RESPONSIBILITY: [Associate Provost and Dean of Faculties](#)