

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER INTERNAL POLICIES**

12.99.99.Z1.03 Selection of Faculty to Distinguished Professor

Approved August 14, 2002

Revised May 7, 2003

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1. DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR STATUS

- 1.1. Within the Texas A&M University System, the most significant award given for recognition of outstanding research and scholarship is the title of Distinguished Professor.
- 1.2. To be eligible for selection as Distinguished Professor in the Health Science Center, a candidate should be regarded as one of the top researchers and/or scholars within his/her field of study. The individual should have attained the rank of Professor in the HSC and made one or more major contributions that have redirected the flow of research or scholarship in the relevant field. Thus, quality and impact of research contributions are the most critical criteria for evaluation.
- 1.3. Candidates will normally be recognized, by peer statement, to be among the top active researchers in their area of research or scholarship on an international basis, and to have made contributions that have significantly advanced or changed the field.
- 1.4. Candidates may hold administrative assignments, but administrative competency will not be evaluated as a basis for qualification.

2. NOMINATION OF DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

- 2.1. Any member of the HSC faculty may suggest nominees for the award of Distinguished Professor. Nominations must be made to the Dean/Director of the candidate's college/institute. The Dean/Director is encouraged to communicate with the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies to receive preliminary guidance on the nominee and the nomination process. In the case that the nominee is a Dean/Director, the nomination will be made to the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies. In the case that the nominee is the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, the nomination will be made by the appropriate Dean/Director to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- 2.2. The Dean/Director or designee is responsible for preparing the dossier of supporting documentation and nominating the candidate. The nomination with supporting documentation will be forwarded to the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, who will convene a review panel comprised of current Distinguished Professors to consider the nomination. The Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies will provide a recommendation to the Health Science Center President for action on the nomination.

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 are as follows:

In order to expeditiously review the qualifications of persons nominated for appointment as Distinguished Professor, the following documentation must be included in the nomination dossier:

- 3.1. 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.
- 3.2. A curriculum vita that includes an up-to-date list of the candidate's publications and research/scholarly activities.
- 3.3. 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). Letters should be received from both distinguished foreign academics and peers in the United States strongly endorsing the appointment. Qualifications of those writing letters of endorsement should be furnished. Letters should comment on the candidate's publications or concepts that exemplify the candidate's influential contributions.
- 3.4. Additional material in support of the nomination may include:
 - 3.4.1 a list of major addresses (if not included in curriculum vita);
 - 3.4.2 a list of research grants (if not included in curriculum vita);
 - 3.4.3 a list of graduate students and postdoctoral trainees supervised, with present position of each where known;
 - 3.4.4 letters from successful former students and postdoctoral trainees.

4. ADVANCEMENT OF THE HSC

Distinguished Professors not only bring honor and recognition to the Health Science Center, but also comprise a body of individuals with expertise and a desire to be a resource for the Health Science Center's progress. The HSC President and the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies will meet with the HSC Distinguished Professors at least semi-annually to discuss opportunities for the advancement of research and scholarly activity within the Health Science Center.

5. REMUNERATION

The nominating college will award Distinguished Professors a one-time \$5,000 award in the form of a bursary in an HSC account on their behalf to facilitate academic and research endeavors. The award will be received upon appointment as Distinguished Professor.

OFFICE OF RESPONSIBILITY

Health Science Center President