

1. GENERAL

- 1.01 The designations and titles discussed in this academic policy statement are not to be construed as entitlements since their conferral is within the sole discretion of the Board or the University. The designation shall not be considered as the next step of promotion in the faculty rank structure beginning with instructor and ending with professor.
- 1.02 Upon the recommendation of the President, the Board of Regents may bestow the title of Distinguished Professor or Regents' Professor upon a very select number of tenured faculty members.
- 1.03 Appointment to a University Distinguished Professorship is a special honor conferred upon active faculty in recognition of an extended period of service *that may be* marked by unusual and exemplary contributions to the University community. These contributions may take the form of teaching, research, service, a combination of these components, or other widely heralded measures of success. The award would recognize University accomplishments.
- 1.04 The designation "Regents' Professor" is the most prestigious recognition the University can extend to a member of the faculty. The Regents' Professor appointment differs substantially from the University's academic career structure. It is awarded to those members of the faculty whose professional accomplishments are held in high esteem beyond the boundaries of the campus, the local community, and the State. As stated in the Texas State University System's *Rules and Regulations*, the component university wishing to bestow the title of Regents' Professor shall establish other criteria and/or benefits that must be approved by the Board of Regents [Texas State University System's *Rules and Regulations*, Chapter V, Section 4.9].

2. CRITERIA

- 2.01 **UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR.** To be considered for University Distinguished Professor, the faculty member must have compiled an exemplary record of performance in teaching, research, and service, with special significance in at least one of these. Examples of qualifying accomplishments include multiple teaching awards, exemplary stewardship of an academic program, an outstanding research record, exceptional service to students, the University, or the community, or other endeavor that stands as an

exceptional contribution. The title of University Distinguished Professor shall be retained for the remainder of the holder's tenure at Sam Houston State University. Upon retirement from the University, the holder shall be designated University Distinguished Professor Emeritus.

- 2.02 REGENTS' PROFESSOR. Any person considered for a Regents' Professorship must excel in the traditional criteria by which faculty are evaluated. To be eligible to be considered for a Regents' Professorship, a faculty member must: a) be nationally recognized for scholarly and/or creative achievements; and b) exemplify outstanding performance in teaching and service to the extent that he/she serves as a role model to the faculty. Appointment to a Regents' Professorship shall be made only when clear indication exists that an individual so appointed will continue to provide exemplary academic and intellectual leadership and continue his or her professional activities in such a way as to maintain national and international recognition and a commensurate level of accomplishment. The title of Regents' Professor shall be retained for the remainder of the holder's tenure at Sam Houston State University. Upon retirement from the University, the holder shall be designated Regents' Professor Emeritus.

3. ELIGIBILITY

Any Sam Houston State University faculty member who holds the rank of associate professor or professor is eligible for a University Distinguished Professorship. Any faculty member who has held the rank of professor for five years is eligible for a Regents' Professorship.

4. DURATION

The Board of Regents prefers and intends that honorary titles be held in perpetuity. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in APS 860425, conferring any such title does not create a property right or entitlement in the holder. The Board reserves the right to revoke a title, if, in its sole judgment and discretion, the best interests of the Texas State University System or of a component warrant such action.

5. REVIEW TIMETABLE AND PROCEDURES

- 5.01 Any member of the full-time faculty may nominate another faculty member for a University Distinguished or Regents' Professorship. Nominations are made to the appropriate chair or Director of the Newton Gresham Library.

- 5.02 In order to complete the necessary review process in time for consideration during the current academic year, nominations of current faculty must be submitted by the first Tuesday in September. On rare occasions, such as the consideration of the University Distinguished Professorship for new faculty, nominations may be made at other times during the year.
- 5.03 The chair/director, after consulting with the nominee, shall, by the first Monday in October, compile a dossier which should include but not be limited to:
- a. A comprehensive biographical and professional résumé.
 - b. A statement of reasons for presenting the nomination carefully referenced to the evaluative criteria.
 - c. Appropriate supporting data and documentation, letters of endorsement, and samples of professional work.
 - d. For those nominated to the rank of Regents' Professor, a list furnished by the chair/director of at least six professional peers of the nominee who would be qualified to serve as referees in assessing the national and/or international significance of the nominee's work.
 - e. For those nominated to the rank of University Distinguished Professor, a list furnished by the chair/director of at least three professional references who would be qualified to assess the nominee's contributions to the University.
- 5.04 All tenured faculty members of the nominee's academic discipline will serve as an initial screening committee. Their responsibility is to determine if the nominee has achieved the desired credentials.
- 5.05 The department/school chair will forward the recommendation of the committee, whether supporting or opposing, and adding comments as advisable, to the appropriate college dean, no later than the first Monday in November. The Director of the Newton Gresham Library will forward recommendations to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs by the same deadline.

- 5.06 If the recommendation of the faculty committee is negative and the dean/director concurs, no further consideration of the candidate's nomination is required. If the recommendation from the faculty committee is positive, the dean/director will forward the nomination to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs with a letter supporting or opposing the nomination.
- 5.07 The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs will forward all materials to the University/Regents' Professor Review Committee by the third Monday in November. In the event that the volume of materials is extensive, the Provost will determine a secure repository site for the duration of the review by all parties. The President makes all appointments to the University/Regents' Professor Review Committee from nominations submitted by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The committee reports to the Provost. Number of members, terms and qualifications or membership is determined at the discretion of the President.
- 5.08 For those nominated to Regents' Professor, the University/Regents' Professor Review Committee must consult with at least four distinguished off-campus referees from the nominee's discipline in forming its written recommendation to the Provost. These referees must include at most two of the referees whose names were submitted in the dossier. The Committee shall be responsible for the selection of the remaining referees in consultation with the candidate's chair/director. These remaining referees should have no prior professional affiliation with the candidate. Examples of "prior professional affiliation" include former professors, former students, co-authors, fellow officers of professional organizations, and the like. The final determination of prior professional affiliation will be made in each case by the University/Regents' Professor Review Committee.
- 5.09 For those nominated to University Distinguished Professor, the University/Regents' Professor Review Committee must consult with the professional references submitted in the dossier, and may consult with outside referees at the committee's discretion. Outside referees chosen by the committee should be well acquainted with the University and its mission.
- a. The referees will be asked to complete their reviews within six weeks of their receipt of the candidate's dossier. To ensure timely consideration of all materials, referees' recommendations must be returned by the first Monday in February.

- b. By the first Monday in March, the University/Regents' Professor Review Committee will forward its recommendation to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- 5.10 The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs will evaluate and forward all nomination and review materials for Professor Emeritus status, Distinguished Professor and Regents' Professor, along with a written recommendation, to the President. The President selects the recipient(s) for Professor Emeritus status and Distinguished Professor awards and forwards his/her recommendation(s) for Regents Professor to the Chancellor for his consideration. Upon his recommendation, the Board of Regents may confer the title of Regents' Professor.

APPROVED: /signed/
Dana L. Gibson, President

DATED: 11/9/11

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

This academic policy statement (APS) has been approved by the reviewer(s) listed below and represents SHSU's Division of Academic Affairs' policy from the date of this document until superseded.

Original:	April 25, 1986	Review Cycle:	April 1, ENY*
Reviewer(s):	Council of Academic Deans Academic Policy Council	Review Date:	April 1, 2014

Approved:	<u> /signed/ </u>	Date:	<u> 11/9/11 </u>
	Jaimie L. Hebert Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs		

***ENY = Even Numbered Year**