

UNIVERSITY AND DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIPS

The University of Arkansas acknowledges outstanding faculty through conferring the ranks of "University Professor" and "Distinguished Professor." These ranks are granted pursuant to Board Policy 405.1, governing Promotions and Tenure, and require Board approval. Promotion to the rank University Professor or Distinguished Professor is reserved for only a few and the very best faculty in recognition of sustained excellence in the performance of their duties. Faculty members holding these ranks are expected to conduct themselves in a manner commensurate with the status and importance of these positions in order to continue to hold these ranks.

Faculty who hold named or endowed professorships that contain the word "university" or "distinguished" in their title but whose appointments into such positions did not require Board approval as required pursuant to Board Policy 405.1 do not hold the rank of University Professor or Distinguished Professor as contemplated in this policy. Appointments for such professorships are subject to the policies and procedures for conferring the award established by a particular campus.¹

Each campus shall be responsible for establishing policies and procedures for promotions to the rank of University and Distinguished Professorships, consistent with the principles set forth below:

University Professor

The rank of University Professor is conferred only upon active faculty in recognition of an extended period of exemplary service in a spirit of collegiality at the faculty member's campus and a combination of service in their profession and to the public through their professional activities.

Appointments to this rank shall be made only when the faculty member has demonstrated an extended period of documented exemplary service to the campus and has gained wide recognition at the national or international level for sustained excellence in service, teaching, research or creative activity germane to the faculty member's respective discipline and academic role while serving as a member of the faculty of the campus.

The rank of University Professor is limited to active tenured faculty who hold the rank of Professor, or incoming faculty who will be awarded tenure and who hold credentials of similar merit from another university or other venues.

¹ Action taken by the Board to approve a salary over line item maximum (LIM) from an endowment or private fund that is associated with the named or endowed professorship does not constitute Board action pursuant to 405.1 for purposes of conferring the rank of University or Distinguished Professor.

Distinguished Professor

The rank of Distinguished Professor is to be reserved for those individuals who are recognized nationally and internationally as intellectual leaders in their academic disciplines for extraordinary accomplishments in teaching, published works, research, creative accomplishments in the performing arts or other endeavors, and who have gained such recognition for distinction at this or another university prior to appointment as distinguished professors.

Appointments to this rank shall be made only when clear indication exists that individuals so appointed will provide exemplary academic and intellectual leadership and continue their professional activities in such a way as to maintain national and international recognition and a commensurate level of accomplishment.

The rank of Distinguished Professor is limited to active tenured faculty who hold the rank of Professor or University Professor, or incoming faculty who will be awarded tenure and who hold credentials of similar merit from another university or other venues.

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