



OFFICE OF THE PROVOST
AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deans, Chairs, and Faculty Holding the Rank of Professor
FROM: Michael McPherson, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
DATE: May 19, 2023
RE: Nominations for University Distinguished Research Professorship Award

I am pleased to announce the call for the 2024 University Distinguished Research Professorship Award. The award recognizes tenured faculty at the rank of professor who have achieved a truly exceptional record of creative activities or research productivity and who demonstrate a record of continued extraordinary productivity.

The recipient receives the designation of “University Distinguished Research Professor” and \$5,000 will be added to the base salary. As per UNT policy, 06.015, up to five awards may be made per year with the restriction that no more than 5 percent of those at the rank of professor can hold the designation “University Distinguished Research Professor” at any one time. Only the most qualified individuals receive this designation, and thus the award may not be granted.

To be eligible for this award, an individual must be a full-time tenured professor in rank; have a record of exceptionally distinguished research or creative activity; and demonstrate evidence of the potential for continued extraordinary productivity. A candidate’s nomination must be based upon a record of sustained excellence over the course of his/her career. Please refer to the attachment for specific nomination guidelines and requirements. Nominations will be reviewed by the University Distinguished Research Professor Selection and Review Committee. For a full review of the University Distinguished Research Professorship policy, please visit the following link: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-015> .

All nominations for awards to take effect on September 1, 2024, should be submitted using the Salute to Faculty Excellence Awards Nomination portal by 5:00 P.M. on October 9, 2023. Here is the link: <https://facultysuccess-unt.infoready4.com/>. If you have any questions, please contact Faculty Success at faculty.success@unt.edu.

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Guidelines and Requirements for Nominations of Faculty for University Distinguished Research Professorships

A candidate's nomination is based upon a record of sustained excellence over the course of his/her career. The nomination packet should be submitted **as one PDF document** in the following order with a Table of Contents:

- 1) Current vita
- 2) A nomination letter from the candidate's Chair, highlighting the nominee's qualifications for the position of University Distinguished Research Professor. The letters should describe in detail how the candidate meets the criteria of (a) having a record of exceptionally distinguished research or creative activity and (b) demonstrating evidence of the potential for continued extraordinary productivity.

The Selection Committee anticipates that successful candidates will have achieved a national or international reputation for excellence in her/his chosen field, and the Chair's letter should comment on the extent to which the nominee has gained such recognition. The Chair should direct the committee's attention to evidence in the nominee's CV and publication list that such recognition has, in fact, been achieved by describing the significance of awards and honors that the nominee has received.

Given that the selection committee comprises scholars from a wide variety of disciplines, it is incumbent on the Chair to provide any discipline-specific context the committee may need to judge the quality of the scholarship. Letters from Chairs should be no more than 1,000 words in length.

- 3) A letter from the department's Personnel Affairs Committee (or other unit-level committee, duly constituted for reviewing such nominations), endorsing the Chair's nomination. Letters from departmental PACS should be no more than 1,000 words in length.
- 4) Three letters from individuals, not at UNT, describing the candidate's qualifications for the position of University Distinguished Research Professor. No more than three letters will be reviewed. In order to achieve as much uniformity as possible across the University in these supporting letters, the committee suggests that, in soliciting such letters, the Chair use the following language:

The Department of _____ at the University of North Texas is nominating Professor _____ for the position of University Distinguished Research Professor. Professor _____ has indicated to me that you might be willing to write a letter, supporting her/his nomination.

If you are willing to write a letter supporting the nomination of Professor _____, please describe in some detail why s/he meets the criteria for being named a UNT Distinguished Research Professor. These criteria are (a) having a record of exceptionally distinguished research or creative activity and (b) demonstrating evidence of the potential for continued extraordinary productivity. Please also comment on (c) the extent to which Professor _____ has achieved a national or international reputation for excellence in her/his chosen field. Please describe (d) the evidence in the CV and publication list of Professor _____ of her/his stature in this field. Your letter should also (e) state what, if any, professional relationship you have or have had to the candidate. Please limit the length of your letter to no more than 1,000 words.

- 5) A description, written by the Chair, giving the qualifications of each of the three external letter writers and the evidence that each of the letter writers has herself/himself achieved a national or international reputation for excellence in her/his chosen field. Each description should be no more than one paragraph long. These descriptions might contain phrases such as, "holds the _____ Chair of _____ at _____ University," "edits a prestigious journal in the field of _____," "is a nationally acclaimed art/music critic," "has received the _____ National/International Prize for her/his work."
- 6) Dean's Letter

The Chair should forward the nomination packet to her/his Dean, who will add to the packet the Dean's own evaluation of the nominee. The Dean should submit the nomination by using the Salute to Faculty Excellence Awards Nomination portal by 5:00 P.M. on October 9, 2023. Here is the link: <https://facultysuccess-unt.infoready4.com/>. If you have any questions, please contact Faculty Success at faculty.success@unt.edu.

Note that Regents Professorship Policy 06.015 states, "Faculty who hold a Regents Professorship shall not be eligible to hold the title of University Distinguished Research Professor or University Distinguish Teaching Professor simultaneously."