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University of Alberta Distinguished Professor Application and Selection Procedure

Office of Administrative Responsibility:	Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Approver:	Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Scope:	Compliance with University procedure extends to all members of the University community.

Overview

The title of University of Alberta Distinguished Professor is one of the highest honours this University can bestow on a member of its academic staff. The University awards the title only to those individuals who have achieved significant distinction and scholarship in each of the areas of teaching, research and/or creative endeavours, and service to the University and the community at large. Their scholarly work must have merited broad recognition; their teaching and student supervision ability must be widely recognized by colleagues and students; and, they must be regarded as exceptional citizens.

The incumbent will have teaching duties throughout the period of the appointment. The Department Chair or Dean is responsible for assigning such duties and for costs associated with reduced responsibilities.

Purpose

The title of University of Alberta Distinguished Professor recognizes those exceptional faculty members who are globally recognized leaders and whose teaching, scholarly work and citizenship have made them leaders in their disciplines.

PROCEDURE

1. ELIGIBILITY

This is an award open to any continuing member of the professoriate at the University of Alberta (Categories A1; A2.1).

Acknowledging that this language is ever-evolving and that the listing of categories of self-identification that follows does not constitute commitment, expressions of interest/applications from members of the following equity-denied groups is explicitly encouraged, including but not limited to: Indigenous peoples, Black people, and people of colour and non-white people, disabled people and people with disabilities, 2SLGBTQIA+ people, gender diverse people, women, and all those who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas and the University.

2. SELECTION PROCESSES

The award is adjudicated by a committee chaired by the Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives). The committee includes members who represent the diversity of the University communities in terms of rank, discipline, and demographics.

The University of Alberta Distinguished Professors are determined by a process using the guidelines described in this procedure and as outlined on the Office of the Provost & Vice-President (Academic) website.

Given historical candidate pools (largely lacking in diversity) for these awards, the Office of the Provost & Vice-President (Academic) will review diversity of the candidate pool. Based on the adjudication committee's review of the candidate pool, the Office of the Provost & Vice-President (Academic) may choose not to make an award in that year or to seek additional applications from excellent candidates from equity-denied groups.

3. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

The following criteria will be used when selecting eligible applicants:

- Evidence for recognized contributions in their fields
- Evidence of a career commitment to excellence in: teaching, research and/or creative activities, and service to the University and the community at large
- Evidence of an outstanding reputation in student supervision, mentorship and educational leadership
- Merits of the proposed project, including articulation of how their project aligns with the University's strategic plan(s).

4. TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

Commencement of appointments will be determined individually for a three-year term, and upon completion of the term, the title "University of Alberta Distinguished Professor" can be used in perpetuity.

Generally, University of Alberta Distinguished Professors appointed to senior administrative positions during the term of their appointment will retain the title of University of Alberta Distinguished Professor but must suspend obligations and forego funding provided to the position during the term of their administration.

5. VALUE

Funds in the amount of \$20,000/annum during the first and any second term for up to five years total, will be available for approved research and creative scholarly activities. The funds may be used for a variety of purposes and in a combination of ways. (e.g., hiring a graduate teaching or research assistant to increase diversity in their group, developing a new teaching technology to expand the diversity of learners, travel to conferences, partial payment of a postdoctoral fellow). No portion of the award may be taken as salary for the recipient. Funds are to be discontinued if a University of Alberta Distinguished Professor vacates the position for any reason other than approved sabbatical leave.

Funds are held by the University of Alberta and spent as outlined in the approved application and in accordance with University of Alberta policies and procedures.

As is customary in each Department or Faculty, the Department Chair and/or Dean will assign teaching responsibilities. No compensation will be due to a department should a University of Alberta Distinguished Professor position be vacated and allocated elsewhere.

DEFINITIONS

There are no definitions for this Procedure. [[▲Top](#)]

FORMS

There are no forms for this Procedure. [[▲Top](#)]

RELATED LINKS

Should a link fail, please contact uappol@ualberta.ca. [[▲Top](#)]

[Recruitment Policy \(Appendix A\) Definition and Categories of Academic Staff Administrators and Colleagues \(UAPPOL\)](#)

[University of Alberta and AASUA 2020 - 2024 Collective Agreement](#) (University of Alberta)