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Parent Policy: [Awards for Faculty Excellence Policy](#)

Vargo Teaching Chair 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 this University procedure extends to all members of the University community.

Overview

This Teaching Chair is named after Dr. Jim Vargo, a University of Alberta alumnus ('68 BA, '70 MEd, '72 PhD) and former professor in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine at the University of Alberta. A much-loved and respected scholar, he taught for 23 years at the University of Alberta before retiring in 1998. Dr. Vargo passed away in January 2003.

The Vargo Teaching Chairs are awarded to innovative, excellent teachers, who have shown leadership and mentorship of colleagues. During their tenure, the Vargo Teaching Chairs will be provided with funding to carry out a teaching-related project.

The incumbent will have teaching duties throughout the period of the term.

Purpose

Vargo Teaching Chairs at the University of Alberta have been created to foster excellence in teaching at the University. This program is committed to supporting individuals who have a history of educational leadership, teaching innovation, and who are committed to enhancing the learning experience of students at all levels.

PROCEDURE

1. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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 PROCESS

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 Vargo Teaching Chairs 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.

Normally, selections will be made annually until six Vargo Teaching Chairs have been appointed. Thereafter, selections will be made as vacancies arise.

3. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

The following criteria will be used when selecting eligible applicants:

- a. Evidence of a career commitment to teaching excellence.
- b. Evidence of a broad range of teaching at undergraduate and graduate levels in various settings.
- c. Demonstration of creativity in teaching that enhances learning and engages students.
- d. Evidence of educational leadership.
- e. Excellence in mentoring of students and colleagues.
- f. Innovation in the project or planned activities.
- g. Impact of the project or planned activities on student learning and alignment with the institutional strategic plan(s).

Vargo Chairs may apply to renew for a further two-year term. Applications should provide a retrospective of the first three-year term and a prospective of what will be accomplished in the second two-year term. If the prospective is the same project, the nominee must provide a rationale as to why the project justifies funding for an additional two years.

4. TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

The Vargo Teaching Chair is tenable at the University of Alberta. The term is for three years; however, Chairs may re-apply for a second two-year term. Vargo Teaching Chairs whose mandate is interrupted, for example by appointment to senior administrative positions, sabbatical, or University of Alberta Chairs or Professorships, during the term of their appointment will retain the title of Vargo Teaching Chair but must suspend obligations and forego funding provided to a Vargo Teaching Chair during the term of administration.

There will be no limitation on Departmental or Faculty privileges and rights, nor any unusual limitations on access to University or other research funds.

Vargo Teaching Chairs will be expected to develop creative endeavours in teaching, which are specifically explained in a proposal for a program of activity. Chairs will be expected, during the tenure of the appointment, to contribute to other groups on campus dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in teaching such as the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment, the Centre for Teaching and Learning and new professor orientations. To fulfill these expectations, the Vargo Chairs must have the time to devote to teaching and the promotion of learning. Therefore, candidates normally will hold only minor administrative positions.

Vargo Chairs must provide a cumulative report near the end of the third year indicating whether a renewal application will be forthcoming.

5. VALUE

Funds in the amount of \$20,000/annum will be available for approved teaching initiatives. 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, developing a new teaching technology, travel to conferences, or partial payment of a postdoctoral fellow). No portion may be taken as salary for the applicant. 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. The Provost and Vice-President (Academic) may request the return of unspent funds following completion of the Chair's term.

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)