Vargo Teaching Chair Application and Selection Procedure

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. The Department Chair or Dean is responsible for assigning such duties and for costs associated with reduced responsibilities.

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 equal opportunity award and is merit based. Any full-time Associate Professor or Full Professor (Categories A1.1 and A1.6) at the University of Alberta may apply. We welcome applications from all qualified persons. We encourage women; First Nations, Métis and Inuit persons; members of visible minority groups; persons with disabilities; persons of any sexual orientation or gender identity and expression; and all those who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas and the University to apply.

2. SELECTION PROCESS
The Vargo Teaching Chairs are determined by a process of nomination and selection using the guidelines described in this procedure and the criteria listed on the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) website.

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 *For the Public Good*.

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.

For further details on the submission process, please see the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) website.

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]
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University of Alberta Faculty Agreement