



Distinguished University Professor Program

Program Overview

The Distinguished University Professor program recognizes and celebrates those individuals holding full-time academic appointments at Queen's with the rank of professor, who are deemed exceptional by virtue of the pre-eminence of their contributions to research in a particular field of knowledge to the point where their accomplishments are internationally recognized. The designation as a Distinguished University Professor is the highest research-related honour the university can bestow on an individual holding an academic appointment. As a reflection of the highly prestigious nature of the program, the number of awards shall normally be limited to approximately one per cent of those holding academic appointments at Queen's, and shall never exceed two per cent. There shall be no stipend associated with the designation as a Distinguished University Professor, which shall be retained until the conclusion of the incumbent's academic appointment at Queen's. An individual thus designated who, upon retirement, is accorded the title of Professor Emeritus/Emerita shall automatically become a Distinguished University Professor Emeritus/Emerita.

Advisory Committee

A Distinguished University Professor Advisory Committee shall be established each year by the Principal, and shall consist of:

- The Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic), as Chair
- The Vice-Principal (Research)
- The Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning)
- The Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies
- One Dean
- Two senior members of other universities
- Three senior faculty members from Queen's
- One undergraduate student
- One graduate student

Each year, at the time of the committee's establishment, the Principal shall advise Senate of the committee's composition.

Honorific Name Selection Working Group

A small working group from Senate will work to develop the initial short list of honorific name options. Each year, the Committee, in consultation with a successful nominee, will select an honorific name from this list. Once a nominee is confirmed, this selection will form part of their title and they will be known as, "*Honorific Name* Distinguished University Professor". The list of honorific name options will be approved by Senate and the Board of Trustees. The same honorific name can be held by multiple Distinguished University Professors simultaneously. Honorific names may be added to, or removed from, the list from time to time and the list should undergo a formal review by the Committee every three to five years.

The list of honorific names shall be maintained available for review by the community and should contain a short summary of the accomplishments of the notable individual and why their name has been selected for inclusion in the list.

Honorific names appearing on the list shall normally be those of persons who may be deceased or who otherwise are at such a stage in their life and career such that their legacy is well-established.

Nomination Process and Requirements

The nomination process shall be an open one with an invitation for nominations from the university community as well as from Deans, Directors, and Department Heads. A candidate may not apply on their own behalf. A letter of nomination must:

- make the case for why the nominee is an appropriate candidate for the designation of Distinguished University Professor, which is to say, has achieved pre-eminence of their contributions to research in a particular field of knowledge to the point where their accomplishments are internationally recognized
- be supported by at least six signatures of faculty members from at least two departments within the university
- be accompanied by:
 - the nominee's current *curriculum vitae*
 - a short, nontechnical description of the nominee's research contributions (not to exceed two pages in length)
 - a short description of the nominee's contributions to the academic development of students (not to exceed a page in length)
 - letters of reference from at least three, but no more than four, scholars of international standing in the nominee's field from outside the university (with all the normal expectations with respect to the scholars being at arm's length from the nominee)
 - an explanation of the reasons why the scholars providing letters of reference were selected, including clear evidence, for each scholar, of his or

her own international standing in the nominee's field (this explanation not to exceed one page for each scholar)

The scholars providing letters of reference shall be asked to comment on both the specific nature, and the importance, of the candidate's most influential contributions, and to address their responses directly to the Provost as Chair of the Advisory Committee.

A call for nominations shall be issued each fall. Only those holding full-time academic appointments at Queen's University may be nominated. Selection shall begin during the winter term.

Selection Process

The Advisory Committee shall meet once each year to consider all nominations submitted, except those deemed by the Provost to be incomplete, and shall make a recommendation to the Principal in respect of which nominees, if any, should be designated as Distinguished University Professor. Appointment to, and maintenance of, the title of Distinguished University Professor or Distinguished University Professor Emeritus/Emerita shall be determined by the Principal in their sole discretion.

Unsuccessful nominations may be held active for up to two years. The Advisory Committee shall decide which, if any, nominations shall be carried forward. If, after two years, the nomination is still unsuccessful, the nominee may not be nominated again until at least two further years have elapsed. Whenever a nomination is carried forward, the nominators shall be expected to provide the Advisory Committee, when next it reviews the nomination, with an updated copy of the nominee's *curriculum vitae*. The nominators may elect to request updated letters of reference. They may also elect to request letters of reference from scholars not previously selected, in which case the nominators shall indicate, in advance, which letter(s) of reference no longer form part of the nomination process.

The Principal shall each year advise Senate and the Board of Trustees of the names of those designated as Distinguished University Professor, and shall also provide both governance bodies with a written statement outlining the accomplishments of each successful nominee.

The successful nominee will then have the opportunity to select from the list of approved names a preferred honorific name to form part of their official title, which shall be styled as "*Honorific Name Distinguished University Professor*".

Any newly designated Distinguished University Professor shall receive special recognition at Convocation.

Distinguished University Professor Program Working Group Terms of Reference

The Distinguished University Professor Program is intended to recognize and celebrate those individuals holding full-time academic appointments at Queen's with the rank of professor, who are deemed exceptional by virtue of the pre-eminence of their contributions to research on an international scale. The designation is the highest research-related honour the university can bestow on an individual holding an academic appointment.

The Distinguished University Professor Program Working Group shall be established by the Senate with the following mandate:

1. To develop an initial list of honorific names (minimum of six and maximum of eight) from which the Committee may select, after consultation with a successful nominee, to form part of their title, which shall be styled as "*Honorific Name* Distinguished University Professor". The following criteria should be taken into account when developing the proposed list of names:
 - a. All proposed names should be of individuals with a meaningful connection to the university, such as a former senior administrator, faculty member, or student, or a member of government or the general Queen's community, who made an exceptionally significant contribution to the university or Canada-at-large at a point in Queen's or the country's history.
 - b. The recommended names should be inclusive and take into account the desire to celebrate the broad diversity represented among those whose accomplishments have been most impactful to Queen's, including ensuring the inclusion of the names of women, indigenous persons and persons of colour.
 - c. Honorific names appearing on the list shall normally be those of persons who may be deceased or who otherwise are at such a stage in their life and career such that their legacy is well-established.
 - d. The list of honorific names will contain a short summary of the accomplishments of the notable individual and why their name has been selected for inclusion in the list.

The Working Group shall consult broadly in undertaking its work and shall constitute a reference group of individuals who are well-placed to assist in the identification of notable peoples in Queen's or Canada's history for consideration, and particularly women, indigenous persons and persons of colour.

2. To bring the list of honorific names to the Senate for approval by its March 27, 2018 meeting, after which the list will be approved by the Board of Trustees at its May 11, 2018 meeting.

Composition

Five senators, recommended for election to Senate by the Senate Governance and Nominating Committee, as follows:

- Three faculty senators
- One student senator
- One staff senator