

Commission on Faculty Affairs
Resolution to Amend the Faculty Handbook Description of Administrative
Support for University Distinguished Professors
CFA 2024-25B

Resolution Proposal Form Sent to University Council Cabinet	September 4, 2024
First Reading by Commission on Faculty Affairs	September 20, 2024
Approval by Commission on Faculty Affairs	October 4, 2024
First Reading by Faculty Senate	September 27, 2024
Approval by Faculty Senate	October 25, 2024
Staff Senate Comment	October 9, 2024
Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate Comment	October 3, 2024
Graduate and Professional Student Senate Comment	September 20, 2024
Undergraduate Student Senate Comment	October 1, 2024
First Reading, University Council	November 4, 2024
Approved, University Council	December 2, 2024
Approved, President	December 2, 2024
Approved, Board of Visitors	Date
Effective Date	Upon Approval

WHEREAS, [the title of University Distinguished Professor is awarded to the most outstanding faculty at the university; and

WHEREAS, the University Distinguished Professors report directly to the President of the university; and

WHEREAS, administrative support for, and report of, the activities of University Distinguished Professors may, in limited instances, be made more efficient by allowing the President to delegate so tasks to the Executive Vice President and Provost and the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Handbook, section 3.2.3, be amended as shown below with changes noted in red.

3.2.3 University Distinguished Professor

General conditions and definitions: The University Distinguished Professorship (UDP) is a pre-eminent faculty rank bestowed by the university's Board of Visitors upon members of the university faculty whose scholarly attainments have attracted national and/or international recognition. There is no quota by college or department.

Nomination and selection: Each academic year the president and provost determine if there will be one or more appointments to the rank of University Distinguished Professor and, if appropriate, issue a call to the academic deans for nominations. The deans, in turn, invite nominations from academic departments or schools.

Screening procedures at departmental, school, and college levels involve personnel or executive committees in place. Nominations are accompanied by a full dossier of relevant materials including a current curriculum vitae, letters of nomination from both the department or school and college screening committees, and letters of support and other evidence attesting to the scholarly reputation of the nominee(s).

The provost appoints a University Distinguished Professor selection committee that includes one current Alumni Distinguished Professor, two current University Distinguished Professors, and one faculty member recommended by the Commission on Faculty Affairs. The committee reviews the nominations and makes a recommendation to the president. The president makes the final judgment at the university level and, if that judgment so determines, takes the recommendation to the Board of Visitors for approval.

Responsibilities: The rank of University Distinguished Professor is conferred by the university and is considered a university appointment (as distinct from a department, school, or college appointment). While the professor is nominated by department, school, and college colleagues, and continues to serve the discipline and department or school of origin, the perquisites and responsibilities of each University Distinguished Professor are fixed by the university.

The president annually adjusts the salary of University Distinguished Professors after consultation with the provost and dean of the relevant college.

The sole responsibility of the University Distinguished Professors is to continue their professional engagement and development at the same high level evident at the time of appointment. They are free to define the exact nature of their work after consultation with the dean of the college and the professor's head, chair, or school director. They are expected to engage fully with their colleagues in the governance of their departments.

At the same time, they are encouraged to teach, when invited, in other departments or schools of the university or in college or university courses (e.g., honors). They may also elect, in a given term, to devote all of their energies to research, scholarship, or Extension activities. In shaping their plans of work, the University Distinguished Professors take full cognizance of department or school, and college needs and expectations. Their principal responsibility is to serve the university by giving their talents and sharing of their competencies where, in their judgments, they are most effectively employed.

It is the university's responsibility to provide such support as seems necessary to sustain the high level of performance expected of University Distinguished Professors. On behalf of and at the direction of the President, the administrative aspects of the University Distinguished Professors' appointments are overseen by the Executive Vice President and Provost and managed by the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs.

Term: Incumbents carry the rank of University Distinguished Professor until resignation or retirement from the university, subject to the usual standard of continuous high performance. The rank is conferred only by the university Board of Visitors and is altered by that body alone, on the recommendation of the president.



Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate

<https://governance.vt.edu/ap-faculty-senate.php>

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October 3, 2024

To: Vice President of Policy and Governance

From: A/P Faculty Senate Polices and Issues Committee

The A/P Faculty Senate Polices and Issues Committee has reviewed and approves/endorsees the Commission on Faculty Affairs Resolution 2024-25B to Amend the Faculty Handbook Description of Administrative Support for University Distinguished Professors.

We have no further comment.



Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS)

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Comment on CFA 2024-25B:

The Graduate and Professional Student Senate waives its right to comment on CFA 2024-25B:
RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE FACULTY HANDBOOK DESCRIPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE
SUPPORT FOR UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS.

On behalf of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate,
Ronnie Mondal
President



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Staff Senate

<http://www.staffsenate.vt.edu/>

October 9, 2024

To: Vice President of Policy and Governance

The Staff Senate Committee on Policy and Issues has reviewed and approves CFA Resolution 2024-25B. Since in practice, administrative support is already being provided by the Executive Vice President and Provost and the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, it makes sense to codify and clarify this for the University community in the Faculty Handbook.

However, we do have two questions.

1. Since it sounds like this work is already being handled by the staff at the Provost's Office, will they receive job description updates to include this work, and will they have a chance for Human Resources to reevaluate pay based on the official changes?
2. Will new positions open up in the Provost's office to manage this work if the staff there feel like this is something that would be better left to a full time person(s) to manage?

We have no further comment.

**Thank you,
Amber Robinson, Chair Staff Senate Policies and
Issues Committee**