

## Commission on Faculty Affairs

### RESOLUTION TO REVISE FACULTY HANDBOOK LANGUAGE ON NOMINATIONS TO UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR AND ALUMNI DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

2023-2024F

Draft Notice Sent to University Council Cabinet	February 19, 2024
First Reading by Commission on Faculty Affairs	March 22, 2024
Approval by Commission on Faculty Affairs	April 5, 2024
First Reading by Faculty Senate	March 29, 2024
Approval by Faculty Senate	April 12, 2024
Staff Senate Waived Right to Comment	April 12, 2024
Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate Comment	March 6, 2024
Graduate and Professional Student Senate Waived Right to Comment	April 12, 2024
Undergraduate Student Senate Waived Right to Comment	April 12, 2024
First Reading, University Council	April 22, 2024
Approved, University Council	Date
Approved, President	Date
Approved, Board of Visitors	Date
Effective Date	Upon Approval

**WHEREAS**, University Distinguished Professor and Alumni Distinguished Professor are among Virginia Tech's most prestigious honored faculty appointments; and

**WHEREAS**, the university continues to attract, retain, and advance faculty members with distinguished academic careers who serve as exemplars in their discipline, in the university and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, the president, executive vice president and provost, and college deans have opportunities to identify faculty members with distinctive national and international honors and recognition; and

**WHEREAS**, the university's Faculty Handbook outlines the processes by which eligible faculty members are nominated and selected for these honored appointments.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Faculty Handbook be revised to include nominations for the honored appointment of Alumni Distinguished Professor to read as follows (revisions in red):

#### 3.2.2 Alumni Distinguished Professor

**Nomination and selection:** ~~Each academic year~~ The provost, in consultation with the president and the Alumni Association, determines ~~the process for if there will be one or more~~ appointments to ~~the~~ Alumni Distinguished Professor ~~rank~~ and, ~~if so~~, issues a call to the academic deans for nominations. The deans, in turn, invite nominations from

academic departments or schools. In addition, in special circumstances and in consultation with the appropriate dean, the president or the provost may nominate an eligible faculty member for consideration by the Alumni Distinguished Professor selection committee.

**AND, BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED** that that the Faculty Handbook be revised to include nominations for the honored appointment of University Distinguished Professor to read as follows (revisions in red):

### **3.2.3 University Distinguished Professor**

**Nomination and selection:** ~~Each academic year t~~ The president and provost determine ~~if there will be one or more~~ the process for 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. In addition, in special circumstances and in consultation with the appropriate dean, the president or the provost may nominate an eligible faculty member for consideration by the University Distinguished Professor selection committee.



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

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**March 6, 2024**

**To:** Vice President of Policy and Governance

**From:** A/P Faculty Senate Policies and Issues Committee

The A/P Faculty Senate Policies and Issues Committee has reviewed and approves/endorsees the Commission on Faculty Affairs Resolution 2023-24F to Revise Faculty Handbook Language on Nominations to University Distinguished Professor and Alumni Distinguished Professor.

We received one editorial comment:

After “And be it further resolved” there are two “that”s; one should be removed.

We have no further comment.



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540/231-7078 ; [hamber08@vt.edu](mailto:hamber08@vt.edu)

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# Staff Senate

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

**March 29, 2024**

**To: Vice President of Policy and Governance**

The Staff Senate Committee on Policy and Issues has reviewed and approves CFA Resolution 2023-24F. We have one clarification and one comment to provide for this resolution.

First, by striking the words “each academic year” from both sections of the Faculty Handbook, does this mean that this process will not happen every year?

Second, we would like to express concern about the president or provost being able to nominate faculty for these honors. We can imagine that the faculty that the president or provost would nominate would be those who have received considerable popular and/or critical attention from the at-large culture and the media. While that does not mean that these faculty members are not worthy of these honors, does it provide an obstacle or diminish opportunities for nominations from departments of faculty with less well-known work? Are we adding a popularity component to this process? However, if Faculty Senate and the Commission on Research do not share these concerns then perhaps this will not be an issue.

We have no further comment.

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