



MEMORANDUM

Date: January 22, 2007

To: Academic Deans

From: 
Mark G. McNamee
University Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Subject: Nominations for ADP and UDP

This is an invitation to make nominations for one appointment as Alumni Distinguished Professor (ADP) and one appointment as University Distinguished Professor (UDP) to be approved at the Board of Visitors meeting in June and effective July 1 or August 10. This is an opportunity to highlight the achievements of very special faculty members for receipt of prestigious university honors and I urge you to think carefully about faculty members who should be considered.

While there is no limit on the number of nominations per college for either appointment, the development of a competitive dossier is a time-consuming process that should be reserved for a relatively small number of exceptional candidates. We recommend that departmental and college honorifics or executive committees make their initial selection by reviewing candidate vitas, then developing full dossiers only for the final nominees. Review and approval of the final nomination(s) by the college honorifics committee and dean are expected and required.

Nomination dossiers for either ADP or UDP are **due Monday, March 19th** to the Provost's Office, 330 Burruss Hall. Please note that past selection committees have recommended specific guidelines for the dossier format, which are attached to this letter. The dossier should not exceed 30 pages, excluding the curriculum vitae. Only one clean copy (no cover, tabs, staples, or clips please) need be submitted.

Alumni Distinguished Professor

The *Faculty Handbook* provides the following statement on Alumni Distinguished Professors:

The Alumni Distinguished Professorship recognizes extraordinary academic citizenship and distinguished service within the Virginia Tech

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university community. In recognition of that importance of alumni to the university, the Alumni Distinguished Professorship is a preeminent faculty appointment, reserved by the Board of Visitors for recognition of faculty who, over time, have made outstanding contributions to the instructional program of the university, and, in so doing, have touched the lives of generations of Virginia Tech alumni.

Section 2.4.2 of the *Faculty Handbook* outlines the selection process, privileges and responsibilities of the Alumni Distinguished Professors.

Competitive nominees for ADP have won a major university teaching award, or are members of the Academy of Teaching Excellence; they may have also been recognized by their professional associations for excellence in teaching. The dossier should highlight the candidate's role in providing service to the university and involvement in cross or multi-disciplinary initiatives. Past committees have found that the most persuasive cases to be individuals who have made contributions beyond their immediate discipline and department and thereby have had a significant impact on the life of the university.

The selected faculty member will receive an \$8,000 salary supplement from endowment earnings and from the state eminent scholar match program. In addition, the university provides an annual operating allocation from state funds of \$2,000. Please note that a faculty member may NOT hold an ADP appointment concurrently with another named professorship. If there is a strong candidate who already holds an endowed professorship, please contact Pat Hyer (hyerp@vt.edu) to discuss options for proceeding with this nomination. New ADP appointments are for a ten-year period.

University Distinguished Professor

The *Faculty Handbook* spells out in detail the selection process, privileges and responsibilities of UDPs in section 2.4.3.

The University Distinguished Professorship is a pre-eminent faculty rank bestowed by the Board of Visitors upon members of the faculty whose scholarly attainments have attracted national and/or international recognition. The selected UDPs will be expected to contribute to the instructional mission of the department, including teaching and advising of undergraduates. Competitive UDP nominees almost always present several major national or international awards and evidence of influence on the field of national or international scope.

Those who already hold a named professorship or chaired position at Virginia Tech are eligible for a concurrent appointment as UDP if selected. (This is because the UDP appointment has historically been funded by state and not endowment funding.) However, the selection committee may wish to give some consideration to the importance of a broad distribution of honorifics across the faculty.

The financial benefits to selected UDPs include a salary supplement (amount varies depending on current salary) and a modest state-funded operating account.

This call for nominations, the dossier guidelines, and the cover page template may all be found on the provost's web site at www.provost.vt.edu.

attachments: Dossier Guidelines
Cover Page Template

cc: Tom Tillar, Vice President for Alumni Relations
Charles Steger, President
Current UDPs and ADPs