




TO: Academic Deans

CC: Cyril Clarke, Executive Vice President and Provost
Current UDPs and ADPs

FROM: Ron Fricker, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 

DATE: October 7, 2024

SUBJECT: Call for Nominations for Alumni Distinguished Professor and University Distinguished Professor

- Purpose.** This is an invitation to nominate faculty members for appointment to the Alumni Distinguished Professor (ADP) and University Distinguished Professor (UDP) ranks. The Provost may recognize one faculty member with appointment to the ADP rank, and the President may recognize one faculty member with appointment to the UDP rank this year. Selectees will be recommended for approval at the Board of Visitors meeting in March 2025.
- Background.** The Faculty Handbook describes Alumni Distinguished Professorships and the University Distinguished Professorships as follows:

The Alumni Distinguished Professorship (ADP) is a preeminent faculty appointment, reserved by the Board of Visitors for recognition of faculty members who demonstrate extraordinary accomplishments and academic citizenship through substantive scholarly contributions across all three of Virginia Tech's mission areas of teaching, research, creative activity, and engagement.

The University Distinguished Professorship (UDP) is a preeminent 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 or school.

Those who already hold a named professorship or chaired position at Virginia Tech are eligible for a concurrent appointment as ADP or UDP, if selected. The financial benefits to selected ADPs and UDPs include a salary supplement, which varies depending on current salary, and a modest state-funded operating account. New ADP appointments are for a ten-year period and may be renewed. New UDP appointments carry the rank of University Distinguished Professor until resignation or retirement from the university.

Section 3.2.2 of the Faculty Handbook provides further detail on the selection processes, privileges, and responsibilities of ADPs, and Section 3.2.3 of the Faculty Handbook provides further detail on the selection process, privileges, and responsibilities of UDPs.

- Discussion.** This opportunity to recognize the achievements of distinguished faculty members does not come often and so I encourage you to think carefully about your nomination(s). While there is no

limit on the number of nominations per college, my recommendation is that each college try to nominate just one faculty member for this exceptional honor and certainly no more than two. Also please note that, although there is no requirement regarding length of service at Virginia Tech, evaluation committees typically recognize faculty who have demonstrated a sustained and long-term commitment to the university.

Note that the development of a competitive dossier is a time-consuming process. I thus suggest that departmental and college honorifics or executive committees make their initial selection by reviewing candidate vitas and only develop full dossiers for the final nominee(s). Review and approval of the final nomination(s) by the college honorifics committee and dean are expected and required.

Dossier formatting guidelines are attached to this memo. The dossier should not exceed 30 pages, excluding section X. Only an electronic copy of the nomination dossier needs to be submitted. This call for nominations, the dossier guidelines, and the cover page template may all be found on the provost's website [here](#).

4. **Submission Deadlines.** Please submit the names of candidates coming forward as nominees for ADP and UDP to Allison Craft (crafta@vt.edu) by **November 11, 2024**. Final dossiers are due **December 20, 2024**. Please submit the entire document as a single .pdf file in an email attachment to Allison Craft (crafta@vt.edu).

Attachments: ADP & UDP Dossier Guidelines
 ADP & UDP Cover Page Template