

To: Academic Deans

Date: September 29, 2020

Subject: Nominations for University Distinguished Professor appointments

This is an invitation to nominate faculty members for appointment as University Distinguished Professor (UDP), to be recommended for approval at the Board of Visitors meeting in March 2021 and effective April 10, 2021. We will be seeking to recognize two faculty members with appointment to the UDP rank this academic year, a highly prestigious university honor. This opportunity to highlight the achievements of very special faculty members does not come often, and I encourage you to think carefully about your nomination(s).

While there is no limit on the number of nominations per college for these appointments, 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 nominee(s). Review and approval of the final nomination(s) by the college honorifics committee and dean are expected and required. Deans should submit the **names** of candidates coming forward as nominees for UDP to me (amyhogan@vt.edu) by **November 20, 2020**.

Nomination dossiers are due December 23, 2020. Please note that past selection committees have recommended specific guidelines for the dossier format for each rank, which are attached with this letter. The dossier should not exceed 30 pages, excluding the curriculum vitae. Only an electronic copy of the nomination dossier need be submitted. Please submit the entire document as a single .pdf file in an email attachment to me (amyhogan@vt.edu).

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

The University Distinguished Professorship (UDP) is a pre-eminent faculty rank bestowed by the university board of visitors upon members of the university faculty whose scholarly attainments have attracted national and/or international recognition.

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

Those who already hold a named professorship or chaired position at Virginia Tech are eligible for a concurrent appointment as UDP, if selected. The financial benefits to selected UDPs include a salary supplement, which varies depending on current salary, and a modest state-funded operating account. University Distinguished Professors receive a lifetime appointment to the rank.

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

Thank you,



Amy M. Hogan
Assistant Provost for Leadership Initiatives

Attachments: Dossier Guidelines
Cover Page Template

cc: Timothy Sands, President
Cyril Clarke, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost
Current UDPs
G. Don Taylor, Executive Vice Provost
Jack Finney, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs