

School of Engineering Guidelines for Promotion to Distinguished Professor

Adapted from document originally submitted as

Guidelines for Promotion to Professor II in the School of Engineering

Submitted in June 2011 by ad-hoc committee consisting of Danforth, Jaluria (Chair), Knight, Lu, and Riman

The rank of Distinguished Professor is the highest academic rank in the University. It is believed that some School of Engineering Faculty and Department Chairs would benefit from a better understanding of the criteria for promotion to Distinguished Professor. The following guidelines are given to assist faculty and their Department Chairs in planning for and in achieving promotion to Distinguished Professor. The Appendix to this document contains the following items from the University rules and regulations on promotions: Instructions for promotion to Distinguished Professor, the Criteria for Promotion to Distinguished Professor, and Section IV.B of Appendix D which describes the areas of consideration for promotion to Distinguished Professor.

The most important area of consideration for promotion to Distinguished Professor is *scholarship*. For SoE faculty, this is typically determined by archival publications, most often in the form of high impact refereed journal articles. Other factors that are often considered include textbooks, edited books, monographs, competitive research grants and patents. *Promotion to the rank of Distinguished Professor requires substantial achievement beyond what is expected of full professors during the course of their careers.*

Distinguished achievement in scholarship is reflected in a *national* as well as *international* reputation. Such recognition might include the following "markers", though this is not an exhaustive list.

- Keynote and plenary talks at prestigious conferences, within as well as outside the United States
- Editor-in-chief of prestigious scholarly journals
- Large number of citations (such as in the ISI Web of Science or other databases), and a high "h" factor
- National and international distinguished awards, particularly from professional societies
- Rank of Fellow in professional societies
- Publication of landmark papers
- Pioneering work, reflected in advanced monographs, archival papers and presentations, patents, or treatises, that open up new fields and significantly advance the area
- Principal Investigator on major competitive research grants, such as NSEC, ERC, and MRSEC
- Patents of particular significance and impact

One of the most critical measures of achievement of an international reputation is having a significant number of very strong letters from referees outside the USA. *All these "markers" point to the fact that the candidate has not just continued to be an excellent full Professor, in that he/she has continued to publish archival papers, attract research funding, guide students and contribute professionally. They indicate that he/she has risen to a more distinguished level and deserves to occupy a position reserved for a subset of truly outstanding professors.*

A few points of clarification are needed. The items listed above are designed to be illustrative, and are not all-inclusive. Promotion to Distinguished Professor requires much more than meeting or demonstrating scholarship and recognition in one area, say in the numbers of refereed journal publications. Faculty who are promoted to Distinguished Professor will often have achieved all or most of the following simultaneously: a large number of refereed journal publications, a high number of citations, a high h factor, national and international awards, journal editorship, large number of keynote and plenary talks, Fellow of their professional society and exceptionally strong referee letters from distinguished scholars inside and outside the US. Typically, only about 10% of the promotions each year within the university are to the Distinguished Professor level. Professors who are promoted to Distinguished Professor have generally served 6-10 years as full professor.

Appendix

Instructions

This form is ordinarily completed by the candidate who wishes to be considered for promotion to Distinguished Professor. The evaluation may be initiated by a prospective candidate's dean, the appropriate chancellor, the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, or a personnel committee. All groups involved in the process must indicate their advisory judgments on the appropriate forms. Entries should be listed in reverse chronological order, that is, the most recent, first.

Criteria for Promotion to Distinguished Professor

The most significant area of consideration for promotion to Distinguished Professor is scholarship. Only those faculties who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in that area by earning significant recognition inside and outside the University are eligible for promotion to Distinguished Professor. Typically, such recognition is reflected in national and international reputation in one's discipline. (See Section IV.B. of Appendix D for the full criteria statement.)

Section V.C. of Appendix D

The designation of Distinguished Professor (or equivalent rank) is reserved for those faculty in the University (usually already in the rank of professor) who have achieved scholarly eminence in their discipline and fields of inquiry. The standard for promotion to Distinguished Professor is significantly higher than that applied in promotion to Professor.

Promotion to Distinguished Professor (or equivalent rank): The most significant area of consideration in determining promotion to Distinguished Professor for general teaching/research faculty is scholarship; for faculty with appointments in the creative and performing arts is scholarship and/or artistic accomplishment; for library faculty is scholarship and/or librarianship; for county agents is extension practice; and for extension specialists is extension scholarship. Only those faculties who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in those areas by earning significant recognition inside and outside the University are eligible for promotion to Distinguished Professor. Typically, such recognition is reflected in national and international reputation in one's discipline. Teaching and service also apply to the general evaluation of a candidate for promotion to Distinguished Professor. A candidate for promotion to Distinguished Professor should be an exemplary member of the University faculty who consistently has demonstrated a high standard of achievement in all professorial roles.

SoE Distinguished Professor Advisory Committee: Y. Jaluria (Chair), S. Danforth, D. Knight, Yicheng Lu, R. Riman