

**Distinguished Professor Candidate Selection Guidelines**  
**College of Liberal Arts**  
(5-15-2017)

These guidelines are intended to clarify and supplement the University of Mississippi *Guidelines for Distinguished Professor Appointments* (Policy no. 10000901). To be considered for this distinction, faculty members must hold the rank of Professor for at least six years and have a demonstrated record of excellence in scholarship and/or creative activity, teaching, and service in their discipline.

1. The primary basis for selection is a record of exceptional national or international distinction for outstanding research; performance in the arts; or other creative, scholarly accomplishments.
2. Evidence of this distinction might include, but is not limited to, some combination of these indicators:
  - a. The publication of highly cited or recognized books, refereed journal articles, and reviews.
  - b. Special distinction for works of art or performances at the national or international level.
  - c. Outstanding success in other scholarly activities customary to the candidate's field of expertise.
  - d. The receipt of respected national or international awards and prizes from professional organizations and foundations.
  - e. The attainment of Fellow status in national or international professional organizations.
  - f. The successful direction of significant numbers of postgraduate scholars who have themselves ultimately achieved professional recognition.
  - g. Exceptional success in attaining external grant or foundation support for research and creative activities.
  - h. The establishment of nationally recognized centers of excellence for research, scholarship, and the fine and performing arts.
3. The receipt of major University-level awards for research and teaching is a positive factor for selection, e.g., UM Faculty Achievement Award, ORSP Award for Distinguished Research and Creative Achievement, SEC Award for Faculty Achievement, Elsie Hood Award, etc.

4. Section IV, Paragraph B, of the UM guidelines describes the requirement for external letters of recommendation. The nominator or nominee's supervisor should obtain a minimum of four supporting letters from external evaluators within the candidate's field(s). Evaluators with an institutional affiliation (broadly defined) should hold the rank of full professor or equivalent. All evaluators should have achieved distinction in their field, e.g., faculty members who hold named chairs or who have been designated as distinguished professors, Nobel prize winners, Pulitzer prize winners, poet laureates, winners of the National Medal of Arts, National Medal of Science, or National Humanities Medal, etc. The procedure for selecting the external evaluators shall rest with the nominator or nominee's supervisor as appropriate.
  
5. The process for reviewing and approving the nominee at the department and College levels shall be consistent with the UM guidelines.

Approved:



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Lee M. Cohen, Dean

May 30, 2017

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Date



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Noel E. Wilkin, Interim Provost

6/9/17  
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Date