

Date: 2-1-2012

From: Aimee Parkison, Associate Professor of English, FESC Chair

To: Michael Green, Faculty President

Draft Motion for Faculty Council

Background:

As collaboration becomes central to our work at UNC Charlotte and as we become increasingly interdisciplinary in our work, it is important to recognize the outstanding contributions of those members of the faculty whose work crosses disciplinary lines to transform areas of the academic community.

The Provost drafted recommendations regarding a proposed new faculty honor for interdisciplinary contributions last year as a starting point for discussion.

At the request of the Provost, the Faculty Employment Status Committee (FESC) has researched and provided recommendations for the proposal regarding the University Professor Honor draft. The original draft and a revised draft appear below this motion in the "Additional Information" section.

Motion:

After researching and discussing the University Professor Honor draft and comparing it to similar awards at other universities, the FESC voted unanimously in favor of the proposal and would like to make a motion to accept the proposal for the University Professor Honor draft with the following recommendations –

- 1.) The initial description should be clarified to highlight a more specific area of achievement and expectation for the person holding the title, for example: "the title is given to a full professor who is not only a scholar of national distinction but also who has a demonstrated record of significant engagement within the university community."
- 2.) There should be no more than one University Professor distinction awarded per year, but each University Professor should hold the title for life.
- 3.) The University Professor shall receive a one-time stipend the year designated as a University Professor.

Rationale: The above revisions would make the award draft description fit more clearly with qualifications for similar honors at research institutions that celebrate outstanding faculty achievements as outlined in the University Professor Honor draft.

Additional Information:

January 4, 2011 Draft: University Professor

January 25, 2012 Draft: University Professor with FESC revisions highlighted in yellow

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The title of University Professor is a campus-wide recognition of outstanding contributions primarily in a specific discipline, but exhibiting an interdisciplinary character enabling contributions in more than one department or college. A candidate for appointment as University Professor is to be recommended to the Board of Trustees by the Chancellor. The purpose is to bestow on an individual an academic rank which transcends disciplinary lines and to allow each designated individual the greatest latitude in teaching, scholarship, and community engagement. The following criteria will be used to select a University Professor:

1. Scholarly achievement as evidenced by extensive peer recognition in the individual's chosen professional field.
2. Dedication to the highest standards of professional excellence.
3. Academic competence to enable him/her to undertake cross-departmental, cross-disciplinary activities in research and teaching, and service to the UNC Charlotte community.
4. Exemplary character and integrity.
5. Evidence of commitment to the UNC Charlotte community

Procedures for Appointing Individuals to the Rank of University Professor:

1. Any member of the UNC Charlotte faculty may nominate to the Provost a current member of the UNC Charlotte faculty holding the rank of tenured full Professor for appointment.
2. The Provost shall seek the advice of a committee of five members, appointed by the Provost, consisting of four senior faculty members not holding administrative appointments, representing the breadth of academic programs, and an individual currently holding the rank of University Professor, if available, who will serve as chair. Affirmative approval of at least three committee members is required for the Provost to recommend the candidate to the Chancellor.
3. If the Provost's decision is favorable, the Provost shall then recommend the appointment to the Chancellor.
4. If the Chancellor's decision is favorable, the Chancellor shall then recommend the appointment to the Board of Trustees.

Notes:

1. An individual appointed as a University Professor need not hold a joint appointment in two or more departments.
2. The selection procedure should be conducted in a confidential manner so that there is no sense of rejection should a nominee not be awarded the designation.
3. The designation of University Professor does not carry any financial compensation, but where appropriate and possible, a University Professor should be provided special financial support for his or her research and professional activities.
4. Individuals holding this rank should be allowed the greatest latitude in apportioning their time between teaching, scholarship, and community engagement.
5. Individuals with the title of University Professor remain subject to post-tenure faculty performance review in their primary appointment department.

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