



Office of the Senior Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost
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January 24, 2011

To: Deans, Department Chairs, Program Directors, and Faculty

From: Virinder K. Moudgil 
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Re: Nominations for Distinguished Professorships

In 1988, the Oakland University Board of Trustees established the rank of “distinguished professor” to be conferred on eminent faculty members for the duration of their service at Oakland. According to the criteria for Distinguished Professor status, the individual must be “preeminent” in at least one of the three categories: scholarship, teaching, and public or professional service. Please refer to the information below regarding criteria.

This distinction has been conferred on a small and highly select group of eminent individuals. Recent honorees have included Judith K. Brown, Ronald C. Finucane, Michael D. Sevilla, Robert T. Eberwein, Michael Chopp, Paul Tambouljian, Jane D. Eberwein, Ronald L. Cramer, Sheldon L. Appleton, Gopalan Srinivasan. A complete list can be found on the Provost’s webpage: www.oakland.edu/?id=7186&sid=175.

I now invite members of the academic community to make nominations for distinguished professorships consisting of a cover letter, *curriculum vitae*, and supporting letters or documentation. Faculty are requested to forward nominations to their respective deans, who will provide additional statements and materials to reach me no later than **February 18, 2011**.

In order to assist me in making recommendations for distinguished professorships, I am currently in the process of appointing a Distinguished Professor Advisory Committee. The committee will apply standards in making its recommendations; if any distinguished professors are to be appointed in 2011, they will be recognized at the annual Founder’s Day luncheon.

I appreciate your thoughtful consideration in the process of formally recognizing Oakland University’s distinguished professors.

The appointment of individuals to distinguished professorships will be based on the application of one or more of the following criteria:

Preeminence in Scholarship: Distinction as a scholar, a researcher, an artist, a performer or in some other role that advances learning. Evidence will include: publications, performances or exhibitions; evaluations by leaders in the field; awards conferred by or office in professional organizations; lectureships or visiting professorships; participation in professional symposia and meetings; memberships in honorary academic and professional organizations.

Preeminence in Teaching: Outstanding performance in the classroom; exceptional contributions to the advancement of teaching through such activities as the writing of texts and monographs; the development of courses, laboratories, short courses or other formats of instruction; and the development of innovative approaches to the teaching/learning process; continual concern for the intellectual growth of students by setting high standards, promoting academic excellence, and maintaining thorough and systems of evaluation. Evidence of accomplishment shall include: published materials; evaluations by recognized leaders in the field; teaching excellence awards; widespread adoption of published instructional materials by other institutions; office in academic and professional organizations dedicated to the advancement of teaching.

Preeminence in Public or Professional Service: Prominence in public or professional service supportive of university programs and missions; accomplishments which have had a substantial and positive effect on external perceptions of the university. Evidence will include evaluations by recognized civic, corporate, academic or other leaders in the field(s) in which service is performed; elective or appointive offices held; contributions to the organizational work of academic professional associations and societies at all levels and to activities which extend the university's scholarly and instructional capabilities into external agencies and communities; honors and awards received for meritorious service.