DISTINGUISHED SFU PROFESSOR PROGRAM GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION

The Distinguished SFU Professor Program, a joint initiative of the Vice-President, Academic and the Vice-President, Research and International, was approved by the SFU Board of Governors in January 2019.

The purpose of the Distinguished SFU Professor program is to recognize and celebrate Simon Fraser University members of distinction who have achieved exceptional performance and distinguished accomplishment in their scholarly or creative work and/or innovation such that their accomplishments are nationally and internationally recognized. The professorships, which are limited in number, can be awarded for exceptional performance at any rank.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Distinguished University Professor Program will take into consideration many factors. A strong nominee will demonstrate:

- A national and international reputation;
- A record of distinguished, exemplary accomplishments in their scholarly or creative work and/or innovation relative to their rank and stage of their career;
- Significant and lasting contributions to SFU and/or to Canadian society with a demonstrated history of service that has had an impact on the community;
- Pre-eminence in their field while also aligning with the University’s strategic objective and/or emerging priorities;
- Have a demonstrated commitment to collegial leadership and to engagement; and
- Be in good standing with the University.

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

Simon Fraser University is an institution whose strength is based on our shared commitments to diversity, equity and inclusion. Diversity is an underlying principle of our Strategic Vision, which pledges SFU to “foster a culture of inclusion and mutual respect, celebrating the diversity reflected among its students, faculty staff and our community.”

The appointment of Distinguished University Professorship falls within the authority of the VPA and VPRI who will seek recommendations of the Advisory Committee. However, the VPA and VPRI may select alternative nominees under demonstrated exceptional circumstances.

Each year, the Distinguished University Professor Advisory Committee will invite nominations for the designation, review the nominations and make recommendations to the VPA and VPRI who will determine successful nominees.

The advisory committee invites nominations for all who meet the eligibility guidelines and welcomes women, Indigenous/Aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities, racialized/visible minorities and LGBTQ+ persons.

Only Deans and members of SFU’s VP Leadership team may submit a nomination for an individual. See the Terms of Reference for more information about the membership and role of the Advisory Committee.
NOMINATION PROCESS

Call for nominations will normally be made January 30th of each year. All nominations will normally be submitted to the VPRI and VPA by May 15th of each year. Professorships will normally begin on July 1 of each year.

A nomination package must be submitted. Each package requires a Distinguished Professor Nomination Form and letter to be completed by the nominating Dean or VP. The nomination package must also include:

- The nominee’s current curriculum vitae
- A short, nontechnical description of the nominee’s research contributions (not to exceed two (2) pages in length)
- A brief biographical sketch of the nominee (1 – 2 paragraphs in Word format)
- A brief description of any career interruptions to be considered when assessing the nominee’s performance and accomplishments (if applicable)

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Submit nominations to the Distinguished University Professor Advisory Committee, care of the VPRI, by May 15. It is preferred that nominations be received electronically by email at avpr@sfu.ca with the subject line: Distinguished SFU Professor Nominations.