DATE:

TO:     W. Michael Sherman  
       Senior Vice President, Provost and Chief Operating Officer

FROM:   Chand Midha  
       Executive Dean

SUBJECT: Distinguished Professor Guidelines and Criteria

The attached guidelines have been approved by the faculty of the Department of Modern Languages on July 28, 2014.

I have approved all attached guidelines and criteria.

If you concur, we ask that you also approve the guidelines and criteria.

Faculty Representative

Executive Dean, Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences

Senior Vice President, Provost and Chief Operating Officer
Department of Modern Languages
The University of Akron
Distinguished Professor: Standards and Expectations

The Department of Modern Languages will follow the Distinguished Professor procedures that are detailed in the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Akron-AAUP and The University of Akron. Candidates must demonstrate that they have achieved a national and/or international profile as a pedagogue, scholar, and contributor to the service of their field and will have shown evidence of continuing contributions of the highest order to the Department of Modern Languages, to the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences, and to The University of Akron. Support materials must be submitted in the areas of teaching, scholarly activity, and service to substantiate the achievement of a national and/or international profile at levels significantly beyond that achieved by persons holding the rank of Professor.

A. A candidate is eligible for nomination by the department after serving at the rank of professor at the University of Akron for five years. The candidate must have a doctoral degree appropriate to the Department of Modern Languages.

B. Teaching: The candidate shall have excelled in teaching while at The University of Akron. Excellence in teaching is not limited to classroom instruction, but extends to a record of accomplishment advising, mentoring, and pedagogical and curricular development. Such a profile shall be demonstrated through a combination of accomplishments from the following:
   1. superior scores on student evaluations of teaching throughout the candidate’s career;
   2. superior peer evaluations of teaching throughout the candidate’s career;
   3. receipt of awards for teaching excellence within and outside the university;
   4. sustained and exemplary curricular innovation as demonstrated through new course development, implementation of national standards and assessment practices, etc.;
   5. prominent participation in the mission of national pedagogical organizations;
   6. a record of successful direction of honors project and/or masters’ essays;
   7. superior performance of current and former students in their professional endeavors.

C. Scholarship: The title of distinguished professor requires that the candidate will have established a national and/or international profile as a scholar in the field. Such a profile shall be demonstrated through a combination of accomplishments from the following:
1. major contributions at professional conferences and meetings of learned societies at the national or international level;
2. a consistent output of peer reviewed scholarly publications as well as the number and quality of these publications;
3. impact of the research as evidenced by outside reviewers’ comments, citation index information, etc. at the national or international level;
4. receipt of national or international research prizes, awards and/or grants;
5. invited national or international scholarly lecturers and/or presentations.

D. Service / Professional conduct: The title of distinguished professor requires that the candidate will have established an exemplary and recognized record of service to the Department, the College and the University consistent with or exceeding the level of service expected of a full professor in the department. Service must also include participation in international and/or national organizations, and service to the community at large. Such a profile shall be demonstrated through a combination of accomplishments from the following:
1. the editorship (or associate editorship) of journal(s) in candidate’s field;
2. participation on editorial boards;
3. a record of service to the discipline through ad hoc reviews of scholarship
4. a sustained and substantive interaction with the community in areas related to the Department’s and University’s mission;
5. recognition of national reputation by a candidate’s area, as evidenced by programmatic reviews (e.g. AATSP or ACTFL program reviews), holding office in professional organizations and involvement in matters pertaining to national governance.