

Change in language in FH Section 6.3 Distinguished, University, and Morrill Professorships, and 6.3.1.1, 6.3.2.1, and 6.3.3.1 Eligibility for University, Distinguished, and Morrill Professors

Rationale:

Section 6.3 of the Faculty Handbook defines the recognition of faculty as Distinguished, University, and Morrill Professorships including the eligibility criteria. As the Handbook notes, “[r]ecipients of these professorships represent the very best of our faculty.” For each of this recognition, the Handbook defines eligibility, in part, by stating that “Nominees should hold the rank of professor...” While it does not explicitly state that only tenured faculty are eligible for this title, it is implied from that language. This language also predates the changes in the Faculty Handbook reforming the titles for term faculty and does not incorporate the principle that we are one faculty. Before those changes were made, the majority of term faculty did not have a path to the title of Professor.

The proposed change clarifies that both tenured and term faculty at the rank of “professor” are eligible for these titles. Rather than specify the full list of possible term titles (adjunct, teaching, practice, clinical, and research), the proposal would make it so that any faculty member who reaches the highest level of advancement available to their category would be eligible to be nominated for the titles of Distinguished, Morrill, and University Professorships.

Nothing in this proposal changes the criteria for the titles. All faculty are held to the same standard. In each case, the faculty member is required to demonstrate excellence in one area of faculty responsibilities and “outstanding performance” in a second area. While the more focused nature of term appointments might make this more unlikely for term faculty than tenured faculty, it would not be impossible for a term faculty member to meet these criteria and be recognized as the very best of our faculty.

6.3 Distinguished, University, and Morrill Professorships

The Distinguished Professorship, University Professorship, and Morrill Professorship represent the highest academic recognitions at Iowa State and are bestowed on faculty who have demonstrated exemplary performance in their faculty activities. Recipients of these professorships represent the very best of our faculty.

These three recognitions exist to reflect the fact that faculty have multiple responsibilities and that there are different ways for a faculty member to demonstrate excellence. The 100 differences between the three professorships are based on the nature and focus of the faculty member's accomplishments and are summarized below:

- **Distinguished Professorship** is bestowed on faculty members who have outstanding accomplishments in their research/creative activities that have had a significant impact on their fields of expertise.
- **University Professorship** is bestowed on faculty members who have made outstanding contributions to Iowa State that have significantly changed and improved the university.
- **Morrill Professorship** is bestowed on faculty members who have demonstrated outstanding and sustained success in teaching and learning in undergraduate, graduate, and/or extension/outreach programs.

The recognition precedes the recipient's existing title. Each professorship is described in detail in the sections that follow.

Approved by Faculty Senate 3/06/01

Approved by Faculty Senate 3/27/07

Approved by Faculty Senate 11/8/11; approved by president and provost 11/17/11

6.3.1.1 Eligibility

Nominees should hold the rank of professor **(tenured or term)** and should have served for at least five years on the Iowa State faculty.

6.3.2.1 Eligibility

Nominees should hold the rank of professor **(tenured or term)** and should have served for at least ten years on the Iowa State faculty prior to the beginning of the academic year in which they are nominated.

6.3.3.1 Eligibility

Nominees must hold the rank of professor **(tenured or term)** and have served for at least five years on the Iowa State faculty.