

508. Establishment of Academic Chairs, Professorships, and Endowed Lectureships and the Designation of Holders of Academic Chairs and Professorships

I. Policy Statements

- A. In order to maintain uniformity and the highest degree of prestige and selectivity, the establishment of new Academic Chairs, Professorships, and Endowed Lectureships must be submitted for review and approval to the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees.
- B. The institutions of The University of Alabama System are required to submit for review and approval any nomination of a holder of a Professorship or Academic Chair to the Chancellor. Upon the approval of the Chancellor, the nomination will be submitted to the Board of Trustees for final approval.
- C. System and institution procedures for appointment to endowed chairs and endowed professorships require the approval of the Board of Trustees.

II. Guidelines for Obtaining Approval of an Academic Chair, Endowed Professorship, or Endowed Lectureship

- A. After the required level of the funding for the academic chair, endowed professorship, or endowed lectureship has been received by the institution, the President sends a request for the establishment to the Chancellor.
- B. The Chancellor will make a decision as to the disposition of the request and may choose to forward it to the Board or ask for additional information.
- C. If the Chancellor recommends approval of establishing the academic chair, endowed professorship, or endowed lectureship, the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Planning Committee will be provided a copy of the information. The Committee will then make a recommendation to the full Board.
- D. Academic chairs, endowed professorships, and endowed lectureships are officially recognized only after being approved by the Board.

III. Guidelines for Designating a Holder of an Academic Chair or Endowed Professorship

- A. Within a University, selection procedures may differ among schools, colleges, division, or departments, as necessary to conform to the practices and customs of particular academic disciplines or professions.
- B. The University of Alabama System guidelines are intended as a framework within which the institutions may develop individual processes and procedures to suit their special needs.

- C. Where the funding for an endowed chair is tied to an administrative appointment, the search process for the administrative appointment must include consideration of the endowed chair or endowed professorship.
- D. The process for filling an endowed chair or endowed professorship shall include a comprehensive search to identify and recruit candidates who can make the greatest contributions to the institutions.
- E. In reviewing the credentials of endowed chair candidates, outside peers shall be consulted. Peer reviewers may include, but not be limited to, those suggested by the candidates.
- F. The selection process shall include provisions for direct input from faculty members of the academic department(s) in which the chair resides.
- G. When an institution has completed a search and wishes to nominate a person for appointment by the Board, a recommendation will be forwarded by the President to the Chancellor along with an outline of the steps followed in the search process, a list of search committee members, a copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae, and written evaluations by outside peers.
- H. The Chancellor will make a decision as to the disposition of the recommendation and may then choose to forward it to the Board, ask for additional information, or request that the institution renew the search process.
- I. If the Chancellor recommends appointment of the nominee, the Academic Affairs and Planning Committee of the Board will be provided with a copy of the candidate's curriculum vitae and a supporting letter from the institution administration, which shall include a short summary of the reasons for nominating this individual. The Committee will also be given an opportunity to ask questions of institution and System administrators concerning the suitability of the nominee for the endowed chair or endowed professorship position. The Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Planning Committee will then make a recommendation to the Board.
- J. Appointments to endowed chairs and endowed professorships may be finalized only after approval by the Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama.

IV. Guidelines for Short-Term Appointments to Endowed Chairs

A. Definition

Chairs that have been authorized by the Board of Trustees to allow appointments of less than one (1) academic year (12 months) may be

established in order to accommodate the schedules of distinguished artists and scholars.

B. Guidelines

1. A short-term appointment to an endowed chair may be made with prior approval by the Chancellor.
2. The President of the campus on which the short-term appointment is located should forward to the Chancellor a request for approval of the candidate. The request must include the following information: the name of the individual; the term of the appointment; a summary of the terms of the contract; and where and what the individual's permanent position is.
3. The Chancellor shall notify the President when approval is given for an appointment.
4. An annual report will be presented to the Board of Trustees on the short-term appointments to endowed chairs for that academic year.

V. Guidelines for Appointments to Professorships

The Board recognizes the following classifications of university professorships:

A. University of Alabama Trustee Professor

1. A System-wide appointment limited in number, recognizing preeminent distinction and service to the System, and exclusively under the control of the Board.
2. In making such appointments, the Board will consult with the Chancellor, Presidents, and appropriate faculty groups on all campuses.

B. Distinguished Professor

1. A campus-wide prestigious appointment, recognizing international accomplishments, to be limited in number, and to be recommended to the Board by the appropriate President and the Chancellor in order to confer richly deserved prestige and honor on those selected to receive this designation.
2. The following criteria will be used in determining the selection of a "Distinguished Professor":

- a) Accomplishments bringing great credit to the University.
 - b) Noteworthy academic service to the University as a teacher and/or research scientist and/or clinician.
 - c) International recognition for scholarly contribution to the individual's chosen profession.
 - d) Outstanding performance of service associated with the individual's professional position.
 - e) Numerous achievements and extensive peer recognition in the individual's chosen profession or academic discipline.
 - f) Unstinting dedication to standards of excellence in all endeavors.
 - g) Exemplary character and integrity reflecting great honor upon the University.
3. Variations in this title may be used by a campus to denote specific functions such as "Distinguished Research Professor" or "Distinguished Service Professor."

C. University Professor

1. A campus-wide appointment, primarily prestigious in a specific discipline, to be recommended to the Board by the appropriate President and the Chancellor, to bestow upon an individual an academic rank that transcends departmental and disciplinary lines, allowing each designated individual the greatest latitude in teaching, writing, and scholarly research, and that gives such an individual with broad expertise a university-wide platform.
2. The following criteria will be used in the selection of an individual to be designated "University Professor":
 - a. Scholarly achievement and intellectual maturity.
 - b. Dedication to the highest standards of professional excellence.
 - c. Numerous achievements and extensive peer recognition in the individual's chosen professional field.
 - d. Academic competence to enable him/her to undertake cross-departmental, cross-disciplinary activities in research and teaching, and university and community service.

Variations in this title may be used by a campus to denote specific functions such as "University Research Professor" or "University Service Professor."

(Adopted July 16, 1980 as Rule 370; amended and renumbered December 5, 1997; amended November 14, 2008.)