



## **Policy for Determination of Distinguished Professor**

*(Approved by the President on June 30, 1997)*

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### **I. PURPOSE**

The title "Distinguished Professor" is bestowed to provide special recognition to a research professor or tenured professor who is renowned internationally for his/her achievements in science or biotechnology. The title is reserved for outstanding senior faculty who are recognized throughout the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute for their pioneering seminal research or important unique application. In recognizing significant achievement in science or biotechnology, UMBI reaffirms its commitment to its mission and to promoting pride in its faculty. Peer review and recognition are the cornerstones of scientific integrity. Distinguished Professors set the standard of achievement for UMBI faculty and document UMBI's leadership in science and biotechnology. The title "Distinguished Professor" is an honor bestowed by the entire UMBI community, reflecting the esteem the recipient has earned and is independent of the compensation process.

### **II. PROCEDURE**

This title is bestowed upon a research professor or tenured Professor [\[1\]](#) and is for the duration of the recipient's appointment at UMBI. The recommendation for designation "Distinguished Professor" shall be initiated by a Center Director in consultation with the tenurable and research professors of the Center. Upon receipt of the recommendation from the Center Director, the Vice President for Academic Affairs will solicit participation of the Center Directors, the Chair of the UMBI Senate, and a member of the UMBI Board of Visitors in evaluating the recommendation. The Vice President for Academic Affairs will collate the dossier and add his/her recommendation to the President. The President will make the decision to confer the title "Distinguished Professor" and shall notify the candidate and the nominator.

#### **A. Criteria**

1. The nominee shall hold a primary appointment at the rank of Professor within UMBI.
2. The nominee shall have been a member of the faculty of the University System of Maryland for a minimum of five years.
3. The nominee shall be renowned internationally for his/her achievements in science or biotechnology. The nominee's creative work must be pioneering seminal research or have important and unique significance or application.
4. The nominee or the nominee's scholarship will have contributed substantially to the public good, either directly or indirectly, through economic development.

#### **B. Dossier**

The Center Director will initiate assembly of the dossier documenting the qualifications of the nominee. The dossier shall include:

1. A detailed curriculum vitae.

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2. Five letters from senior distinguished colleagues outside of the University System of Maryland addressing one or more of the criteria.
3. A report or individual letters from the Professors of the Center.
4. A transmittal letter from the Center Director to the Vice President for Academic Affairs addressing all four criteria outlined above.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs will make the dossier available to the other Center Directors, the Senate Chair, and the designated member of the Board of Visitors. The Vice President for Academic Affairs may add the following documentation to the dossier:

1. A report or individual letters from the other Center Directors, the Senate Chair, and the designated member of the Board of Visitors. The Chair of the Board of Visitors may serve or may name a designee to participate in the deliberation.
2. The Vice President for Academic Affairs will add his/her recommendation and transmit the full dossier to the President.

### C. Bestowing the Recognition

1. Final decision to bestow the title "Distinguished Professor" rests with the UMBI President.
2. The President shall notify the candidate and the nominator of the decision to confer the title "Distinguished Professor."
3. The formal announcement and recognition shall occur at a UMBI event.

#### **REVIEWED AND RECOMMENDED:**

S. Gaylen Bradley, Ph.D. Vice President Academic Affairs

**APPROVED:** Rita R. Colwell, Ph.D., D.Sc. President Footnotes

[1] Professor in this document is restricted to full Professors.