

To: Gonzaga Faculty
From: Sacha Kopp, Provost
Date: May 9, 2024
Subj: Distinguished Professor rank



The new *Faculty Handbook* goes into effect August 16, 2024. It includes a new rank available to tenured professors, that of Distinguished Professor. Eligibility criteria for this rank are found in Section 304.10. Per Section 304.10, “the University Rank and Tenure Committee will establish-campus-wide criteria for which all faculty at the rank of Professor may be nominated; the Faculty Senate and subsequently the Provost must approve these criteria.

At its April 22nd meeting, the Rank and Tenure Committee developed the following text to serve as criteria for the Distinguished Professor rank:

The Faculty Handbook states in Section 302.01 that the University will recognize the rank of Distinguished Professor amongst the ranked faculty, and as noted in Section 304.10 individuals become eligible for nomination in their eighth year holding the rank of Professor. As noted in Section 304.10, this title “represents the University’s highest honor among ranked faculty.” This title will be awarded by the University President. A nomination will consist of the nominee’s curriculum vitae and five (5) supporting letters: one from the department chair (if applicable, and if the chair and the department concur with the nomination), one from the dean (if the dean concurs with the nomination), as well as other letters which shall come from ranked faculty. At least two letters of support must come from ranked faculty members outside the nominee’s academic unit. The nomination may originate with a chair, dean or a ranked faculty member, and that nomination letter shall be among the five included in the submission to the Office of the Provost. Self-nominations are not permitted. The nomination and supporting letters must speak to the nominee’s “exceptional service to the profession of teaching or exceptional service to the University,” as noted in Section 304.10. Following the nomination being received by the Office of the Provost, it will be evaluated by the University Committee on Rank and Tenure and a recommendation by that committee will be made to the University President. The University President will award this title to a maximum of 1% of the ranked faculty of Gonzaga University each year (thus, if there are 451 ranked faculty, up to 5 individuals may be designated as Distinguished Professor each year). To be considered, nominations complete with all supporting letters must be sent by the relevant dean of the nominee’s area to the Office of the Provost by January 1.

This proposal was sent to the Faculty Senate on April 26th. On May 9th, I was informed the Faculty Senate voted on and passed a resolution in which Senators were posed the following question:

I approve the Distinguished Professor Criteria as submitted by the University Committee on Promotion and Tenure (UCPT) for a three-year period after which it will be reviewed and amended accordingly. If the UCRT wish to submit changes to the Senate prior to 2027, they may do so.

Accordingly, these criteria become operative, along with the language of Section 304.10, with the new academic year. Nominations will be accepted by the Office of the Provost through January 1, 2025, to be reviewed by the Committee on Rank and Tenure in Spring semester of 2025. Those whose nominations which are accepted by the University President will be named Distinguished Professor in Fall 2025. Nominations will be received January 1 each subsequent year.