

Distinguished University Professorships

Effective Date: June 27, 2024

Supersedes: June 28, 2022; May 6, 2004

Objective: To honour and celebrate outstanding scholarly careers at Western by conferring on a select group of the best scholars the title of “Distinguished University Professor”.

Program: Award includes:

- Honorary title of “Distinguished University Professor” while employed at Western. This will change to “Distinguished University Professor Emeritus” at retirement from Western.
- A one-time award of \$20,000 to be used for scholarly activities at any time.
- A citation presented at an appropriate occasion.
- The Distinguished University Professor will be asked to use the title in official documents, including papers, business cards and university correspondence. The award will recognize sustained excellence in scholarship over a substantial career at Western, as well as contributions to service to the community.

Scholarship is broadly defined to include research and teaching but cannot exclude either. Thus, this is not a recognition solely of research excellence, which is the purpose of the Western Research Excellence Awards and the Hellmuth Prize, nor is it a recognition solely of teaching excellence, which is the purpose of the Edward G. Pleva Award for Excellence in Teaching. The Distinguished University Professorship recognizes sustained excellence as a complete scholar and fulfills the commitment in the 2001 University Strategic Plan “Making Choices” to develop a program of recognition for faculty.

Process:

- There will be an annual nomination and selection cycle.
- A Distinguished University Professor Selection Committee will be created. This committee will consist of the following members:
 - The Provost or designate,
 - The Vice-President (Research) or designate,
 - One senior scholar from another research-intensive university or institution, appointed by the Provost,
 - Four senior scholars at Western, elected by Senate.
- The Selection Committee will be chaired by the Provost or designate. Members will be appointed for two-year terms (once renewable) commencing July 1.
- The Selection Committee will make recommendations to the President based on the criteria:
 - Outstanding and sustained record of scholarship that has had international impact in the field and that identifies the individual as a leader, and
 - A sustained record of excellence in teaching of undergraduates and/or supervision of graduate students and training of highly qualified personnel, and
 - A demonstrated history of service to the University and the research community in general through serving on committees, participating in governance and contributing to peer review at the local, provincial, national

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- Decisions will be made without consideration of the relative