Presidential Professorship

1. Goals, Criteria and Required Evidence

   a. Goals of the Policy on Presidential Professors
      The title of Presidential Professors is conferred on an individual by the President of City College in recognition of exceptional scholarly achievements. This appointment is expected to contribute to the College’s commitment to retain an excellent faculty representing a rich diversity of gender and ethnicity.

   b. Criteria for Presidential Faculty Appointments
      Presidential Professors should comprise a small number of exceptional individuals and will be limited to no more than ten at all times. The primary purpose of the award is to recognize and retain outstanding faculty. Presidential Professorships are reserved for faculty having a record of exceptional performance by national and international standards of excellence in their professions. There must be substantial evidence of this exceptional performance, including significant quantities of high quality work in areas of importance in their disciplines. In addition to superb scholarship, Presidential Professors are expected to participate in appropriate teaching and service roles in their respective schools/divisions.

      A faculty member applying for the CUNY appointment to Distinguished Professor may also apply for the appointment to Presidential Professor. However, to nominate someone as Presidential Professor, the person must be concurrently approved for Distinguished Professor at all levels inside the College. The appointment to Presidential Professor will be for a five-year term and is eligible for re-appointment for one five-year term only. A faculty member may not hold the title of Presidential Professor for more than ten years. The title of Presidential Professor will not be conferred on any faculty member who holds the CUNY title of Distinguished Professor.

      Nominations from schools and divisions are expected to recognize past performance and provide evidence that the quality of performance will continue. The School/Division must review the performance of a Presidential Professor at the end of the five-year term following initial appointment and make a recommendation to the President that the Presidential Professorship be continued or, if there has been a failure to perform at the scholarly level expected of persons at that rank, to make a recommendation that the Presidential Professorship appointment be discontinued.

   c. Required Evidence for Awards
      There must be evidence that the candidate is regarded nationally and where appropriate, internationally, as a leading scholar in his/her academic field. There also must be evidence that the candidate will continue to perform as a faculty member at levels appropriate for Presidential Professors.
A faculty member seeking a Presidential Professorship must hold the rank of professor and be recommended by his/her department, the School/Division Executive Committee as well as the Dean for the school/division.

The School/Division should seek at least ten (10) external letters of evaluation from ten full professors or people of comparable standing outside the academy who are widely recognized authorities in the nominee’s field and can provide objective analyses of the nominee’s qualifications. As part of the nomination materials sent to the President, the school/division should provide the evaluation Selection Committee with each reviewer’s vita. The review letters should include a comparison of the nominee to a specific list of other distinguished scholars in the field and provide a clearly articulated rationale of the assessment. Reviews should acknowledge any prior contact with the nominee; they should not be co-authors with the candidate, and they cannot be from any CUNY College.

2. Procedures

a. Overview
The procedures which guide the appointment to Presidential Professor are designed to enable City College to gauge the appropriateness of nominees for this award. However, to nominate someone as Presidential Professor, the person must be concurrently approved for Distinguished Professor at all levels inside the College. Nominations for the appointment to Presidential Professor are presented to the President. Prior to the presentation to the President, the candidate must have (1) school/division endorsement based on the approved policy and or practices for the College which must incorporate the goals, criteria and evidence described in Section 1 of these guidelines; (2) submission of the materials to the Provost; (3) review and endorsement of the materials by the College’s Review Committee; (4) review and endorsement by the Faculty Committee on Personnel Matters and (5) recommendation to the President.

b. College Process
The Dean for the relevant School/Division will forward to the Provost (1) a current C.V. checked for accuracy and completeness; (2) a letter of recommendation from the Dean; (3) at least ten (10) external evaluations accompanied by vitas of the evaluators; (4) documentation of the processes used up to the point of submission of the case from the School/Division, including an account of the process by which external evaluators’ letters were solicited; (5) representative samples of the candidates scholarly and/or creative work, as appropriate, and any additional evidence of exception performance by national and international standards of excellence.

The evaluators should be among the most highly respected persons in the fields and they
must be objective without reason for bias, for example as mentioned above; evaluators should not ordinarily be co-authors with the candidate or be from any CUNY college.

c. College Process
The Provost and/or designee will review the materials and will submit the materials to the Review Committee. The Provost and/or designee will also submit the materials to the Faculty Committee on Personnel Matters.

The Committees will independently meet and evaluate the candidate’s portfolio. Each Committee will make a recommendation to the President.

Because every effort will be made to avoid conflicts of interest in the composition and conduct of each Committee, members of either Committee should disclose any ties to the nominee under discussion at the beginning of deliberations. The President may ask members to recuse themselves if there is a reasonable concern that a member’s ties with a nominee would compromise the Committee’s decision.

d. The College President will accept the recommendations of the Committees and make a final decision. Because a Presidential Professor cannot also hold the CUNY title of Distinguished Professor, the President will hold the recommendation for appointment until a decision has been rendered by CUNY regarding the appointment to Distinguished Professor.