Memorandum to Presidents

Date:       June 25, 1974
From:       Office of the Vice Chancellor
            for Academic Programs
Subject:    Criteria and Procedures for Nomination
to the Rank of Distinguished Professor

Last year the Board of Trustees removed the distinc-
tion between the title of University Professor at University
Colleges and that of Distinguished Professor at University
Centers and asked that a uniform set of criteria and proce-
dures be developed and distributed.

The attached document proposes a uniform procedure
to be followed in nominating State University faculty mem-
ers for the rank of Distinguished Professor.

Bruce
Bruce Dearing

Attachment

cc: Chancellor Boyer

This memorandum addressed to:

Presidents, State-operated Campuses

Copies for information only sent to:

Presidents, Community Colleges
Deans, Statutory Colleges
Chancellor Kibbee
Dean McGrath
Vice Provost Risley
President Miles
The Distinguished Professor is a tenured rank open to all senior campuses of the State University and may be conferred upon persons in any of the disciplines or fields of study. It is expected that a person appointed to the rank will be accorded such support as is appropriate to his or her academic endeavor consistent with the resources of the appointing campus, including a salary above the mean salary for full professors. Appointment is made by the Board of Trustees.

- CRITERIA -

These criteria necessarily are stated in the most general terms and are meant to supplement rather than supplant criteria developed by the appropriate local nominating body. There are, of course, other criteria which cannot be generalized to cover all cases; the procedure description which follows attempts to make sufficient allowance for them.

1. The individual person must have achieved prominence and a distinguished reputation within his or her chosen field through significant contributions to the research literature, or through artistic performance or achievement in the case of the fine arts.

2. The person's work must be of such a character that his or her presence will tend to elevate the standards of scholarship of colleagues both within his or her academic field and beyond.

3. The person's work must be of such quality that students and scholars on other campuses of the University could and would wish to benefit by lectures and seminars, or other appropriate presentations he or she might bring to them.

- PROCEDURES -

The local screening process is not stipulated. These procedures apply only after the President of the campus determines to support the nomination.

1. A nomination is submitted to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Programs by a President with his endorsement of a scholar or artist for the rank of Distinguished Professor. The nomination is supported by an extended curriculum vitae, including a comprehensive list of the nominee's publications, performances, or exhibitions. Reprints of articles and copies of books, or other suitable examples of the person's work upon which the scholarly or artistic contribution is to be judged are provided by the nominee.
2. The Central Staff provides the executive officer of the appropriate learned society with a bibliography of the person's works, and asks him to suggest the names of two or three scholars best able to assess the nominee's contributions to the field. One of the recommended scholars is employed as a consultant to the University, provided with a complete bibliography, including materials provided by the nominee, and asked for a written confidential assessment of the nominee's contribution to the research literature in the field. In the case of artists, similar appropriate means will be employed to secure a qualified judge.

3. A panel of three persons who hold the rank of Distinguished Professor are asked to review the nominee's curriculum vitae, bibliography, samples of his or her writings or artistic work, other documentation provided with the nomination, and the written confidential evaluation of the consultant. The panel makes a recommendation to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Programs concerning the appointment.

4. If a negative appraisal or recommendation is received at any point in the procedure, the proposing President will be consulted on how he wishes to proceed.

5. If the recommendation is positive, the nomination is referred to the Chancellor for his review. If satisfied that the appointment is in the interest of the University, he proposes the appointment to the Board of Trustees for action.