

February 9, 2011 DRAFT
MSU Regents Professor -- Proposed Policy

Regents Statement

The designation of Regents Professor is the most prestigious position that may be attained in recognition of scholarly accomplishments by faculty at Montana State University. The position is reserved for exceptional scholars who have achieved national and/or international recognition, who have achieved distinction in their respective fields, and who have made unique and sustained contributions to the quality of the University in the areas of research and creative activity, teaching, outreach/service as appropriate to their academic appointments.

Regents Professors Criteria and Qualifications

Eligibility

- Nominees must have already attained the rank of Professor at Montana State University, Bozeman.
- Nominees must have served, normally, in a tenure line position at MSU for at least 10 years. (?)

Qualifications

- Nominees must have earned national/international recognition.
- Nominees must have achieved and sustained distinction in their field.
- Nominees must have made unique contributions to the quality of the University in the areas of research and creative activity, teaching and/or outreach/service appropriate to their academic appointment.

Distinguished Activities

- Regents Professors, individually or collectively, should contribute back to students, faculty, the administration, and the community. The Regents Professor is encouraged to engage in one activity, each year. Activities might include the following types of contributions:
 - For students: teach a special-topics seminar (1-3 credits), or an Honors seminar; serve on a panel of Regents Professors; conduct a workshop with selected students; present a lecture or organize and participate in a creativity and innovation seminar each year.
 - For faculty: serve as a formal mentor for teaching or research; sponsor a panel; serve as a member of a faculty discussion group; present a TLC session.
 - For administration: serve as an ambassador or representative at various functions or events as requested
 - For the Community: a seminar or public lecture, field excursion.

Compensation

- The Regents Professor shall receive a stipend to supplement his/her yearly salary. The amount of the stipend will be the same for all Regents Professors. The current stipend shall be \$15,000/year. The award shall be reviewed periodically and adjusted upward to account for inflation.

Duration of Professorship

- The Regents Professor title shall be held for life unless the position is relinquished.
- The stipend continues until retirement unless the position is relinquished.

Regents Professors Selection Process

Call for Nominations

- The Provost shall issue a call for nominations by February 15 each year in which one or more Regents Professor positions is available.
- Once approved by the Board of Regents, new Regents Professors shall begin their terms on July 1 of the calendar year in which they have been approved.
- The number of Regents Professors shall be limited to no more than 3% of all tenurable professors occupying positions at Montana State University at any one time. (This would result in an approximate maximum of 15 Active Regents Professors at any point in time.)
- The Regents Professor title may be attached to an Emeritus position. The stipend shall not extend beyond the time of retirement.
- A Regents Professor may resign his/her position prior to retirement. This relinquishes the title as well as the stipend. The candidate may not re-claim the Regents Professor title at retirement or any later time.
- The stipend continues until retirement or termination.

Nominations

- Deans, department heads, and all tenured professors may nominate candidates.
- No self-nominations are allowed.
- In addition to the letter of nomination, each nominee will require two additional letters of support. These letters may be internal or external but may not be solicited from people who have a personal relationship with the nominee.
- Each nominated candidate must provide a current Curriculum Vita to be included with the letters of nomination and support.
- The person nominating a candidate will ensure that all materials are submitted to the Office of the Provost no later than April 1. The Office of the Provost will forward materials to the Selection Committee.
- Those nominees not chosen in any selection cycle will remain in the pool of candidates for 3 cycles. While their materials (recommendations, vita, etc.) may be updated, they need not be updated in order to remain in the pool.

Selection Committee

- Each of the 8 Colleges plus Extension may elect one representative to the Selection Committee. The representative must be a tenured faculty member at the rank of associate professor or higher. The committee shall include up to three additional members who are current Regents Professors to be appointed by the Provost.
- The Selection Committee shall meet and review all nominees and select one or more candidates (depending upon the number of positions available). The selection process shall be completed prior to the end of that academic year. No more than two (2) candidates will be selected in any one year.

- After its deliberations, the committee shall send its findings to the President through the Provost. Final approval of these candidates will be made by the President. The President, in turn, will make a recommendation on behalf of Montana State University to the Board of Regents.
- Over time, the President will take an active role in ensuring that progress is being made toward the representation of women and minorities.