



The University of Akron  
Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences

Date: November 28, 2022

TO: Provost Wiencek

FROM: Dean McKinney

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SUBJECT: Unit Distinguished Professor Criteria

The attached guidelines were approved by the faculty in the Department of Philosophy on November 22, 2022.

I approve these guidelines and criteria.

If you concur, we ask that you also approve the guidelines and criteria.

Department Chair

Date

Dean Buchtel College of Arts & Sciences

11/28/2022

Date

Exec VP & Chief Admin Officer

11/28/2022

Date

Department of Philosophy  
The University of Akron  
Distinguished Professor: Standards and Expectations  
Approved by philosophy faculty on November 22, 2022

The Department of Philosophy will follow the Distinguished Professor procedures that are detailed in the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Akron-AAUP and The University of Akron. Candidates must demonstrate that they have achieved a national and/or international profile as a pedagogue, scholar, and contributor to the service of the discipline of philosophy and will have shown evidence of continuing contributions of the highest order to the Department of Philosophy, to the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences, and to The University of Akron. Support materials must be submitted in the areas of teaching, scholarly activity, and service to substantiate the achievement of a national and/or international profile at levels significantly beyond that achieved by candidates who have earned a doctoral degree from an accredited university and hold the rank of professor.

- A. As per the CBA, a candidate may apply after serving at the rank of Professor of Philosophy at The University of Akron for five years.
- B. *Teaching*: The candidate shall have excelled at teaching while at The University of Akron. Excellence in teaching is not limited to classroom instruction, but extends to a record of accomplishment in advising, mentoring, and pedagogical and curricular development. Evidence of such can be demonstrated through a record of achievements, such as the following:
  - a. superior scores on student evaluations of teaching throughout the candidate's career;
  - b. superior peer evaluations of teaching throughout the candidate's career;
  - c. receipt of teaching awards or other distinctions within and outside the University;
  - d. sustained and exemplary curricular innovation as demonstrated through new course development, teaching certifications, implementation of national standards and assessments practices, etc.;
  - e. participation in the mission of national pedagogical organizations (e.g., QM, PLATO, AAPT, etc.);
  - f. a record of successful direction of honors projects, MA theses, and/or dissertations;
  - g. superior performance of current and former students in their professional endeavors, e.g., student publications, student acceptance to graduate programs, internships, etc.
- C. *Scholarship*: The title of distinguished professor requires that the candidate have established a national and/or international profile as a scholar in the field. Evidence

of such can be demonstrated through a record of achievements, such as the following:

- a. A consistent output of quality peer reviewed scholarly publications;
  - b. Major contributions at professional conferences and meetings of learned societies at the national and/or international level (e.g., presenting papers, organizing events, chairing sessions, etc.);
  - c. Impact of the research as evidenced by external reviewers' comments, citation index information, etc., at the national or international level;
  - d. Receipt of national or international research prizes, grants, or other distinctions;
  - e. Invited national and/or international scholarly lectures and/or presentations.
- D. *Service / Professional Conduct*: The title of distinguished professor requires that the candidate will have established an exemplary and recognized record of service to the Department of Philosophy, to the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences, and to The University of Akron, exceeding the level of service expected of a full professor. Service must also include participation in national and/or international organizations, and service to the community at large. Evidence of such can be demonstrated through a record of achievements, such as the following:
- a. The editorship (or associate editorship) of journal(s) in the candidate's field;
  - b. Participation on editorial boards;
  - c. A record of service to the discipline through *ad hoc* reviews of scholarship;
  - d. A sustained and substantive interaction with the community in areas related to the missions of the Department of Philosophy, or to the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences, or The University of Akron;
  - e. Leadership in nationally or internationally recognized professional organizations;
  - f. Recognition of national reputation by a candidate's area, as evidenced by involvement in grant, promotion, and/or programmatic reviews, holding offices in professional organizations, and involvement in matters pertaining to national governance.