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**To:** Senate Executive Committee

**From:** Trina Rich, Director of University & Academic Affairs Policy Administration

**Date:** January 14, 2022

**Re:** Update to Policy 6-300: The University Faculty—Categories and Ranks

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During the 2019-2020 academic year, the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs authorized an increase in the number of Distinguished Professors selected from one per year to up to six. This change is found on the distinguished professor nomination website at <https://academic-affairs.utah.edu/awards-nominations/distinguished-professor/>. To align Policy 6-300 with the current practice, the following language update is proposed.

#### III.B.3.d Special honored ranks for Tenure-line faculty members

- i. Distinguished Professor. The rank of Distinguished Professor is reserved for selected individuals whose achievements exemplify the highest goals of scholarship as demonstrated by recognition accorded to them from peers with national and international stature, and whose record includes evidence of a high dedication to teaching as demonstrated by recognition accorded to them by students and/or colleagues. Distinguished Professors will be subject to the same standards and Procedures relative to appointment, retention, and tenure which are applicable to Professors. For academic assignments and budgetary support, Distinguished Professors will be accountable to the academic departments in which they are appointed. A person should not be recommended to the Distinguished Professorship until that person is a member of the faculty. Any exception to this policy must be considered by the Distinguished Professors present on campus before the recommendation is made. When a recommendation for appointment to the rank of Distinguished Professor reaches the cognizant vice president, the vice president shall (a) request letters of recommendation from at least six outstanding leaders in the candidate's discipline and (b) appoint, with the advice of the incumbent Distinguished Professors, a special advisory committee to assist the vice president in making a decision on the recommendation. At least one member of this committee shall be knowledgeable in the candidate's academic discipline. All members shall be recognized academicians without administrative assignments. Before completing its review, the committee shall consult with the concerned academic department and the college dean. ~~Up to six Distinguished Professors are selected each academic year. Except in unusual situations, only one Distinguished Professor in the University may be appointed in a single academic year.~~

The policy owners (Associate Vice President for Faculty and the Associate Vice President for Health Sciences) and the policy officers (Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Sr. Vice President for Health Sciences) support this update. The Institutional Policy Committee approved this update at their December 2021 meeting.