

## 12.99.99.R0.03 Faculty Awards System



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### Procedure Summary

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Texas A&M University-Commerce understands the importance of recognizing its faculty for their excellence in teaching, scholarship and creative activity, leadership, and service. The University appreciates all they do to contribute to our community. We could not be who we are without the faculty who inspire our students to fulfill Professor Mayo's motto: "Ceaseless Industry, Fearless Investigation, Unfettered Thought, and Unselfish Service to Others."

This procedure identifies and describes the purpose, awards, and eligibility for faculty recognition at A&M-Commerce.

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### Procedures and Responsibilities

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#### 1 REGENTS PROFESSOR AWARD

- 1.1 Purpose: Each year, the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System honors individuals at the rank of professor or equivalent whose distinguished performance in teaching, research, and service has been exemplary. The award is the highest honor bestowed by the A&M System on faculty members. The performance of those selected is considered meritorious and worthy of recognition of their achievements that had an impact on not only their institution or agency, but also the community, the state of Texas, and/or at the national and international levels.
- 1.2 Award: The Regents Professor Award is based on the accomplishments of the nominee up through the past fiscal year. The designation of Regents Professor is the highest System-wide honor and it also carries with it significant responsibilities. Regents Professors are expected to function as role models within the A&M System and to devote appropriate service to System-wide activities, both ceremonial and professional, when requested to do so by their chief executive officer and/or the chancellor. The recipient shall retain the title of *Regents Professor* for the duration of their service within the A&M System. Recipients receive a monetary stipend of \$15,000, payable as a non-based award. The stipend will be funded from each respective agency through the normal budgeting process.

The Regents Professor recipient is given a special commemorative medallion bearing the seal of the A&M System. The medallion is designed to be worn on occasions when academic regalia is required. The medallion, inscribed nameplate and certificate, signed by the Chancellor and Chairman of the Board of Regents, are presented to the Regents Professor recipients at the special recognition ceremony.

- 1.3 Eligibility: A nominee for the Regents Professor award shall be a full-time faculty member who has held the rank of professor or equivalent for a period of not less than five (5) consecutive years within an A&M System university or agency (i.e., agency to mean the engineering or agriculture components) and may include department heads provided the faculty responsibilities are not overshadowed by the administrative duties.
  - 1.3.1 Have a demonstrated record of distinguished teaching.
  - 1.3.2 Have a demonstrated record of distinguished accomplishments in research and other creative and scholarly activities.
  - 1.3.3 Have a demonstrated record of outstanding service at the local, state and/or national/ international levels.
  - 1.3.4 Have a demonstrated record of commitment to the university or agency.
  - 1.3.5 A record of notable indicators of the potential for continuation of distinguished performance in all three areas (i.e., teaching, research, and service).
- 1.4 Nomination Packet: The primary evaluation of the candidate's qualifications shall be the responsibility of the university/agency. The following documents shall be submitted as part of the university nomination packet for a candidate to be considered a nominee:
  - 1.4.1 Nominating Letter: A letter of nomination submitted to the selection/review committee from any of the following: deans, department heads, directors, program chairs, administrators, award committees, and individual or groups of faculty members.
  - 1.4.2 Summary presentation (third person, five page maximum, single space, 12 point font): The summary presentation should be a compilation of the nominee's most outstanding qualifications, major achievements, and contributions with clearly demonstrated superior performance in teaching, research, and service. This can be achieved through a personal statement by the nominee establishing the importance of his/her accomplishments in each of the three categories (teaching, research and service) or as part of a nomination package prepared by their unit. Since a curriculum vitae will be a part of this packet, the statement should attempt to go beyond what is in the vitae.
  - 1.4.3 Vitae (25 page maximum): A current and moderately detailed vitae highlighting the nominee's career and outstanding accomplishments. Please delete all personal references such as marital status and family references.

- 1.4.4 Optional Supporting Material (five page maximum): Samples of teaching, scholarship, research and service related materials which further endorse the nominee's candidacy.
- 1.4.5 A nominee must electronically submit an application packet addressing each of the above items, which encompass the criteria used to make the selection.
- 1.5 The Faculty Senate Awards Committee will review and evaluate all nominees' application packages and make a recommendation to the full Faculty Senate and the Provost's Office. The selected nominee will be announced at the Faculty Award Luncheon in April. In the event the Awards Committee determines that none of the nominees meet the high standards for this award, nominees will be called for the following year.

## 2 WILLIAM L. MAYO PROFESSORSHIP AWARD

- 2.1 Purpose: The purpose of the William L. Mayo Professorship Award is to provide recognition to an individual who epitomizes the goals of Professor Mayo's motto: "Ceaseless Industry, Fearless Investigation, Unfettered Thought, and Unselfish Service to Others." This award will be presented to a person currently at the rank of professor who has performed in an outstanding manner, primarily in teaching, but also in scholarship and service to the university community.
- 2.2 Award: A William L. Mayo Professor will be selected every third year, unless a meritorious faculty member is not identified. The recipient will be designated as "Mayo Professor" and shall retain the title of "Mayo Professor" for the duration of his/her service at the University, unless he/she is withdrawn by the President for cause. A cash stipend of \$ 2,500 will be awarded each of three years, for a total of \$7,500. A special medallion and a plaque, with the seal of the University and Professor Mayo's motto inscribed on it accompany the award. The William L. Mayo Professorship is the ultimate award granted from A&M-Commerce, and is intended to highlight an exemplary career in teaching, scholarship, and service. In the event that the Awards Committee determines that none of the nominees meet the high standards for this award, nominees will be called for the following year.
- 2.3 Eligibility: A nominee must electronically submit an application packet addressing each of the following items, which encompass the criteria used to make the selection.
  - 2.3.1 Be a tenured faculty member, with the rank of professor.
  - 2.3.2 Be a full-time faculty member not on administrative appointment.
  - 2.3.3 Have a distinguished record of teaching, combined with accomplishment in research or other creative or scholarly activity.
  - 2.3.4 Give evidence of the potential for continuation of distinguished service.
  - 2.3.5 Have demonstrated a sincere commitment to the University.
- 2.4 The Faculty Senate Awards Committee will review and evaluate all nominees' application packages and make a recommendation to the full Faculty Senate and the Provost's Office.

- 2.5 Evaluation Materials: Because the Mayo Professorship is the ultimate award from the University to highlight an exemplary career in teaching, scholarship, and service, the packet assembled for review should offer a distillation of the best of the nominee's career. Therefore, each selected nominee should submit a portfolio including, but not limited to the following suggested materials. Teaching materials may include: (i) letters from former students; (ii) a narrative covering courses developed, touching upon such areas as philosophy of teaching, course content, teaching methodology, and other appropriate material; (iii) student evaluations from graduate and undergraduate courses (if the nominee teaches at only one level, that fact should be noted); and (iv) letters of support from peers.
- 2.6 Scholarship: Nominees should include a selection of the best work in research or other creative or scholarly activity. While articles are not required, they may be submitted as representative selections. Books should be summarized, but not included.
- 2.7 Service: Nominees should give a summary of university, college, and department service activities, stressing activities of particular significance. Nominees are invited to submit any other materials in support of their nominations.
- 2.8 Special Recognition: The Mayo Professor shall be recognized at a formal university convocation to be held in the fall semester at a date chosen by the Faculty Senate, in consultation with the President of the University. The new Mayo Professor shall serve as the convocation speaker.
- 2.9 Special Assignment: Because Mayo Professors are identified as being the best instructors in the University, they should be accessible to members of the student body who wish to avail themselves of these professors' courses. Those chosen as Mayo Professors should be required, during the first three years of this designation, to teach at least one introductory or entry level course. A capstone course may be substituted. In cases where such instruction presents an undue hardship, service activities may be substituted.
- 2.10 Eligibility for Other Awards: During the first three year period, a William L. Mayo Professor will not be eligible for nomination to other internal awards by the University.

### 3 PAUL W. BARRUS DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD FOR TEACHING

- 3.1 Purpose: The purpose of the Paul W. Barrus Distinguished Faculty Award for Teaching is to provide recognition and a monetary award for individuals who have performed in an outstanding manner in teaching.
- 3.2 Award: The Paul W. Barrus Distinguished Faculty Award for Teaching is awarded every year. Up to three awards per year may be given. A cash stipend of \$2,000 and a plaque are given to each recipient. This award is usually given in the spring semester at a Faculty Awards event.
- 3.3 Eligibility: A nominee must electronically submit an application packet addressing each of the following items, which encompass the criteria used to make the selection.

3.3.1 Should be tenure-track, non-administrative position.

- 3.3.2 Elaborate on personal teaching style or styles.
  - 3.3.3 Present personal philosophy and goals of college teaching.
  - 3.3.4 Demonstrate effective pedagogical or curriculum innovation.
  - 3.3.5 Present information detailing his or her preparation for the classroom.
  - 3.3.6 Provide evidence of rapport with students.
  - 3.3.7 Present his or her methods of and attitudes toward evaluation of students.
- 3.4 The Faculty Senate Awards Committee will review and evaluate all nominees' application packages and make a recommendation to the full Faculty Senate and the Provost's Office. The recipient of the award will be announced at the Faculty Award Luncheon in April.
- 4 H.M. LAFFERTY DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD FOR SCHOLARSHIP AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY
- 4.1 Purpose: The purpose of the H.M. Lafferty Distinguished Faculty Award for Scholarship and creative activity is to provide recognition and a monetary award for an individual who has performed in an outstanding manner in scholarship and/or creative activity.
  - 4.2 Award: The H.M. Lafferty Distinguished Faculty Award for Scholarship and Creative Activity is awarded every year. One award is given each year. A cash stipend of \$2,000 and a plaque are given to the recipient. This award is usually given in the spring semester at a Faculty Awards event.
  - 4.3 Eligibility: A nominee must electronically submit an application packet addressing each of the following items, which encompass the criteria used to make the selection.
    - 4.3.1 Should be tenure-track, non-administrative.
    - 4.3.2 Present evidence of research activity, scholarly publications, presentations and/or creative activities by providing the committee with copies of all publications (books, chapters in books, articles, etc.).
    - 4.3.3 Describe writing, research, or creative activity not published or publicly presented during the period of this report.
    - 4.3.4 Describe involvement in other significant professional activities such as informal service rendered in support of departmental or interdepartmental goals, writing proposals, serving on Texas Education Agency committees, etc.
    - 4.3.5 List membership in professional organizations (including offices held), and describe involvement in these professional activities.
    - 4.3.6 Describe and document involvement in the development of courses and /or programs.

4.3.7 List membership and chairmanship of all graduate student committee assignments, specifying the name of the student, the level of the student, and his/her stage in the program. Please indicate direction or advisement of theses and/or dissertations where applicable.

4.4 The Faculty Senate Awards Committee will review and evaluate all nominees' application packages and make a recommendation to the full Faculty Senate and the Provost's Office. The recipient of the award will be announced at the Faculty Award Luncheon in April.

## 5 NEILL HUMFELD DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD FOR SERVICE

5.1 Purpose: The purpose of the Neill Humfeld Distinguished Faculty Award for Service is to provide recognition and a monetary award for an individual who has performed in an outstanding manner in service to the university, his or her particular college and department.

5.2 Award: The Neill Humfeld Distinguished Faculty Award for Service is awarded every year. One award is given each year. A cash stipend of \$2,000 and a plaque are given to the recipient. This award is usually given in the spring semester at a Faculty Awards event.

5.3 Eligibility: A nominee must electronically submit an application packet addressing each of the following items, which encompass the criteria used to make the selection.

5.3.1 Should be tenure-track, non-administrative position.

5.3.2 List roles in university, college, and/or departmental committees.

5.3.3 Describe involvement in other significant activities (i.e., service rendered to organizations outside the university, sponsoring student organizations, etc.).

5.3.4 Describe involvement in the development of courses and/or programs.

5.3.5 List membership and chairmanship of committee assignments.

5.3.6 List membership in professional associations and describe involvement.

5.3.7 Describe involvement in field and community service activities.

5.3.8 Provide evidence of any other contributions.

5.4 The Faculty Senate Awards Committee will review and evaluate all nominees' application packages and make a recommendation to the full Faculty Senate and the Provost's Office. The recipient of the award will be announced at the Faculty Award Luncheon in April.

## 6 MINNIE STEVENS PIPER FOUNDATION NOMINEE

- 6.1 Purpose: The purpose of this award is to give recognition to the teaching profession rather than to research, publication, administration, or other such related activity, although these criteria are also considered by the Faculty Senate Awards Committee on campus and the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation. The Piper Foundation honors fifteen Texas professors during the academic year for their dedication to the teaching profession and for their outstanding academic, scientific and scholarly achievement. A&M-Commerce is allowed to nominate one professor (the number of professors any university is permitted to nominate is based on the student body enrollment).
- 6.2 Award: If selected by the foundation the recipient is awarded a certificate naming him or her “Piper Professor of said year,” receives an honorarium of \$5,000.00, and a gold commemorative pin.
- 6.3 Eligibility: A nominee must complete a Piper Professor Nomination form and electronically submit an application packet addressing each of the following items, which encompass the criteria used to make the selection.
  - 6.3.1 Provide description of current duties (i.e., teaching, administrative duties if any, thesis or dissertation directing) and approximate number of hours devoted thereto.
  - 6.3.2 Identify student organizations, etc. sponsored by nominee.
  - 6.3.3 Identify membership in honor and professional societies and identify special awards/grants received.
  - 6.3.4 Detail description of service to off-campus community.
  - 6.3.5 Describe effective and dedicated teaching, comparing the nominee to other members of the faculty.
  - 6.3.6 List publications.
  - 6.3.7 Present statement of purpose for teaching.
  - 6.3.8 Present highlights of teaching career.
- 6.4 The Faculty Senate Awards Committee will review and evaluate all nominees’ application packages and make a recommendation to the full Faculty Senate and the Provost’s Office. The Provost will make a recommendation to the President, who will send an endorsement to the Piper Foundation for its selection. The award recipient will be announced by the Foundation in May.

## 7 FACULTY SENATE RECOGNITION AWARDS FOR PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

- 7.1 Purpose: The purpose of the Faculty Senate Awards for Professional Excellence is to recognize faculty who have distinguished themselves through outstanding achievement in particular areas of their professional duties. Areas include various aspects of teaching, scholarship, and service. These awards were established to recognize the excellence of the faculty for which the particular awards were named and to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of awardees that have endeavored to uphold those high standards of excellence in the areas identified by the awards.
- 7.2 Awards: Faculty Senate Awards for Professional Excellence are awarded every year in the spring term. Any faculty member may be eligible for consideration for a Faculty Senate Award for Professional Excellence. Awards are given in recognition that recipients have upheld the highest standards of excellence in the areas in which awards are recognized. Recipients are recognized with a plaque and a cash stipend of \$500. There are a total of 9 of these awards:
- 7.2.1 Teaching – Classroom Award (1 Award)
  - 7.2.2 Teaching – Technology Award (1 Award)
  - 7.2.3 Teaching – Innovation Award (1 Award)
  - 7.2.4 Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities – “Unfettered Thought” (1 Award)
  - 7.2.5 Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities – “Ceaseless Industry” (1 Award)
  - 7.2.6 Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities – “Fearless Investigation” (1 Award)
  - 7.2.7 Professional Service Award (1 Award)
  - 7.2.8 University Service Award (1 Award)
  - 7.2.9 Community Service Award (1 Award)
- 7.3 Eligibility: Nominations of faculty representing the spirit of each award shall be made by the Faculty Senators only. Only one nomination should be submitted per award per senator. Each Senator represents its department and is expected to solicit nominations from their departmental colleagues. Senators should not nominate themselves. The Faculty Senate Awards Committee will evaluate each nominee’s application package and make one recommendation per award to the full Faculty Senate. The award recipients will be announced at the Faculty Award Luncheon in April.



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## **Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements**

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[The Texas A&M University System Regents Award](#)

Suspends University Procedure *12.99.99.R0.02 William L. Mayo Professor Award*

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## **Contact Office**

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