



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**BOARD OF REGENTS POLICY**

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Academic

**AWARDS, HONORS, AND  
RECOGNITION**

**Adopted:** February 19, 1965

**Amended:** April 13, 1984; March 10, 1989; July 8, 1994; March 13, 1998; June 12, 1998; September 11, 1998; December 13, 2002; February 13, 2004; November 10, 2005; June 11, 2010; February 7, 2013; May 13, 2016

**Technical Change:** March 31, 2016

**AWARDS, HONORS, AND RECOGNITION**

**SECTION I. SCOPE.**

This policy describes the granting of awards, honors, and recognition by the University of Minnesota (University).

**SECTION II. GUIDING PRINCIPLES.**

**Subd. 1. Recognition of Excellence.** The University recognizes excellence and achievement by conferring awards and honors on prominent local, state, national, and international persons who have achieved distinction in public service, enterprise, education, science, literature, and the arts.

**Subd. 2. Employee Recruitment and Retention.** Awards granted to employees contribute to the quality of the University in extremely significant ways, enabling the University to attract and retain a talented workforce and the very best scholars and researchers in particular fields.

**Subd. 3. Alignment.** The awards, honors, and recognitions described in this policy shall be bestowed in accordance with the provisions of Board of Regents Policy: *Equity, Diversity, Equal Opportunity, and Affirmative Action* and Board of Regents Policy: *Reservation and Delegation of Authority*.

**SECTION III. CONFLICT OF INTEREST RELATING TO A REGENT.**

When a Regent or former Regent is under consideration for an award (other than *Regent Emeritus*), a special committee, chaired and appointed by the chair of the University Senate All-University Honors Committee (Honors Committee), shall be convened to review and approve the award. The special committee shall include the chair of the Board of Regents (Board), or the vice chair if the recommended award recipient is the chair; the executive vice president and provost; and the president of the University of Minnesota Foundation (Foundation). It shall have final approval.

**SECTION IV. RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF TITLE.**

The use of the titles *University*, *distinguished*, or *Regents Professor* are authorized only by the Board.

**SECTION V. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.**

**Subd. 1. Other Awards, Honors, and Recognitions.** The president or delegate shall ensure that appropriate administrative policies are maintained to support the creation and granting of other awards, honors, and recognitions for the University. The president shall recommend to the Board any use of the titles *University* or *distinguished*.



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**SECTION VI. HONORARY DEGREES.**

The awarding of honorary degrees by a university is an extension of its role as the unique institution in society devoted to the discovery, transmission, and preservation of knowledge. The honorary degree is the highest award granted by the University and constitutes recognition of distinctive achievement that has added materially to knowledge and to the betterment of society.

**Subd. 1. Approval.** The Board approves this award.

**Subd. 2. Management.** The Honors Committee manages this award process and submits recommendations to the president. The president recommends awards to the Board.

**Subd. 3. Provisions.**

- (a) **Selection Criteria and Degree Titles.** An honorary degree may be awarded to an individual who has achieved acknowledged eminence in cultural affairs (Doctor of Humane Letters), public service (Doctor of Laws), or a field of knowledge and scholarship (Doctor of Science). The University honors qualified persons within the academic community and other arenas, such as public service or enterprise. Persons receiving honorary degrees need not have received their education at, or have been otherwise associated with, the University. Honorary degrees shall not be awarded solely to encourage or reward contributions to the University.
- (b) **Public Recognition.** The awarding of honorary degrees is an event at which achievement is celebrated and given public recognition. It is customary to award several honorary degrees each year.

**SECTION VII. REGENTS PROFESSOR.**

The special title of *Regents Professor* is the highest recognition the University gives to a member of its faculty.

**Subd. 1. Approval.** The Board awards the title *Regents Professor* to selected members of the faculty, upon recommendation of the president.

**Subd. 2. Management.** The Office of the President manages this award process. The president appoints a Selection Advisory Committee (SAC) to review Regents professor nominations, consult with persons from other universities, and make recommendations to the president. Members of the SAC serve at the president's pleasure, but consideration shall be given for some continuity of membership.

- (a) **Nomination.** Any person or group may nominate a faculty member to receive the title of *Regents Professor*. Nominations are made to the president.
- (b) **Selection Criteria.** Nominations shall be judged according to:
  - the criteria used by the University to evaluate eligibility for the rank of full professor;
  - the scope and quality of scholarly and/or artistic contributions;
  - the quality of teaching; and
  - contributions to the public good.



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Only nominees whose academic distinction is clearly outstanding and whose distinction is clearly recognized by the academic community are recommended to the president.

- (c) **Review and Recommendations.** The SAC shall review nominees and make recommendations to the president. It is the responsibility of the president to recommend awards to the Board.
- (d) **Restriction on Number of Recipients.** The best guarantee of the significance of this award is careful restriction of the total number of recipients. Generally, not more than three persons shall be designated *Regents Professor* in any given year.

**Subd. 3. Provisions.**

- (a) **Title of Regents Professor.** The title *Regents Professor*, once awarded, shall be held as long as the recipient retains a full-time, tenured appointment as a faculty member of the University. To be considered "full-time," the recipient must hold at least a 66 percent time appointment or be on a sabbatical or other approved leave, including phased retirement. Upon retirement or reduction of the appointment to less than 66 percent time, the faculty member becomes *Regents Professor Emeritus*. The academic field of accomplishment shall continue to be a part of the title, as, for example, "*Regents Professor of \_\_\_\_\_* (academic department or field)."
- (b) **Duties and Responsibilities.** Designation as a Regents professor does not necessarily imply any changes in duties and responsibilities.
- (c) **Recognition.** A person named as a Regents professor shall be suitably recognized in a public ceremony and shall receive from the University a medallion suitable for desk use and for use with academic costume.
- (d) **Annual Stipend.** Regents professors shall receive annual stipends from a recognized University foundation during their tenure as faculty members. The stipend shall cease upon retirement or a reduction of appointment to less than 66 percent time, excluding phased retirement.
- (e) **Private Financial Support.** The University welcomes private donor support of stipends for Regents professors. However, no endowment shall be accepted to underwrite creation of a Regents professorship in a given department or college.
- (f) **Salary.** Appointment as a Regents professor shall not imply any particular salary level for the faculty member receiving such an honor. The salaries of Regents professors shall be determined independently and without reference to their receipt of an annual stipend from the Foundation.
- (g) **Budgetary Oversight.** The president maintains oversight of budget items for Regents professors, but budget items shall be transferred to the college in which the recipient holds appointment.

**SECTION VIII. REGENTS AWARD.**

The Regents Award is the highest honor granted by the Board to individuals who have performed exceptionally valuable and meritorious service to the University or contributed to the building and development of the University through significant benefactions. Candidacy is not limited to graduates or former students of the University.



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**Technical Change:** March 31, 2016

**Subd. 1. Approval.** The Board approves this award.

**Subd. 2. Management.** The Board Office manages this award process. A Regents Award Nominating Committee shall review nominations and submit recommendations to the Board. The committee shall include the executive director/corporate secretary, the president, the executive vice president and provost, the chair of the Honors Committee, and the chair of the Senate Consultative Committee, or their designees. The president of the Foundation shall serve as an ex officio member.

**Subd. 3. Restriction on Number of Recipients.** The best guarantee of the significance of this award is careful restriction of the total number of recipients. Generally, not more than three Regents Awards shall be awarded in any given year.

**SECTION IX. OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS.**

Outstanding Achievement Awards may be granted to former students of the University who have attained unusual distinction in their chosen fields, professions, or public service, and who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and leadership on a community, state, national, or international level. Education at the University should represent a significant portion of a candidate's total education.

**Subd. 1. Approval.** The Board approves this award.

**Subd. 2. Management.** The Honors Committee manages this award process and submits recommendations to the president. The president recommends awards to the Board.

**SECTION X. AWARDS OF DISTINCTION.**

The Award of Distinction may be granted to individuals who are not or who have not been a student or employee of the University in recognition of distinction in their field, profession, and/or public or volunteer service.

**Subd. 1. Approval.** The Board approves this award.

**Subd. 2. Management.** The Honors Committee manages this award process and submits recommendations to the president. The president recommends awards to the Board.

**SECTION XI. ALUMNI SERVICE AWARDS.**

The Alumni Service Award may be granted to a graduate or a former student in recognition of volunteer service to the University; its schools, colleges, departments, or faculty; or to the University of Minnesota Twin Cities Alumni Association (Alumni Association) or any of its constituent groups.

**Subd. 1. Approval.** The Board approves this award.

**Subd. 2. Management.** The Alumni Association manages this award process. Nominations are submitted to the executive director of the Alumni Association. After review by the Alumni Association's



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Alumni Honors Committee, a recommendation is forwarded to the Honors Committee, which then forwards a recommendation to the president. The president recommends awards to the Board.

**SECTION XII. AWARD OF OUTSTANDING MERIT.**

The Award of Outstanding Merit is given to an individual or group of individuals that has demonstrated long and meritorious service to the University.

**Subd. 1. Approval.** The Board approves this award.

**Subd. 2. Management.** The Board Office manages this award process.

**SECTION XIII. CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION.**

The Certificate of Recognition recognizes significant achievement by members of the University community who have attained unusual distinction.

**Subd. 1. Approval.** The chair of the Board approves this award.

**Subd. 2. Management.** The Board Office manages this award process.

**SECTION XIV. REGENT EMERITUS AND PRESIDENT EMERITUS TITLES.**

**Subd. 1. Regent Emeritus.** Regents are awarded the title of *Regent Emeritus* upon their retirement from the Board.

**Subd. 2. President Emeritus.** The title of *President Emeritus* may be bestowed upon a president who has completed service as president of the University. The chair of the Board approves the awarding of the title of *President Emeritus*.

**Subd. 3. Management.** The Board Office manages the process for both titles.