

APPLYING FOR THE TITLE OF RESEARCH PROFESSOR

During the academic year 2000-2001, the Committee on Emeriti Relations, the Committee on Academic Personnel, and the Provost at the time, John Simpson, worked out a process that would make the title of Research Professor potentially available to a large number of emeriti due to the establishment of a broader range of criteria for receiving it than had previously existed, along with the delegation of the authority to make the appointment to the divisional deans after receiving in-put from the relevant departmental chair and the Committee on Academic Personnel.

The new process was developed because a number of emeriti felt that this title, first offered when by the Office of the President in the 1990s as one part of the package to encourage early retirements, would be of benefit to those who wanted to continue their scholarly careers. It was thought to be useful for signaling to colleagues on and off the campus that the person had chosen to remain active, for legitimating submissions to scholarly journals and professional meetings, and in applying for research grants.

This agreement is memorialized in AS/SCP/1307-1, which is the Committee on Emeriti Relations Annual Report 2000-2001.

The basic principle behind the proposal is that Academic Senate committees must remain as important to emeriti faculty as they are to regular faculty so that emeriti are not under the exclusive authority of the administration.

Evidence that the emeriti professor meets one of the following three criteria is sufficient as a basis for receiving the title:

1. The emeriti professor provides evidence of publication of scholarly books, monographs, or journal articles.
2. The emeriti professor provides evidence of regular scholarly presentations at professional meetings.
3. The emeriti professor provides evidence of outside research funding or of a proposal to attain funding.

The procedure for applying for the title is as follows.

1. The emeriti professor gives a brief letter of request and a c.v. to his or her departmental chair, making note of the criterion or criteria under which he or she is applying. One template for such a letter is provided below in the form of a request for renewal of the title by one emeriti professor.
2. The chair adds his or her letter of support and sends the file to the personnel officer of the relevant academic division, who in turns sends it to the Committee on Academic Personnel for a recommendation. As noted, the 2000-2001 Committee on Emeriti Relations considered it

essential that this prestigious Senate committee be part of the process so that deans could not exercise arbitrary authority.

3. The Committee on Academic Personnel sends its recommendation to the divisional dean, who then makes the appointment. Originally, appointments were for a one- or two-year period, and they are readily renewable.

As far as the 2007-2008 Committee on Emeriti Relations has been able to ascertain, this process has worked well. We do not know of any cases where a request for appointment has been denied. It seems that the Office of the Provost and the divisional deans have fully accepted the process, as well as the rationale for awarding the title. This was not always the case in the 1990s, when the title was arbitrarily restricted to those who were applying for or had received outside funding, a restriction that was not present in the general guidelines originally issued by the Office of the President. (For those who want to know more details on these issues, see the original proposal here.)

What follows is one possible template for a letter requesting appointment to this title.

Dear Dean X:

I would like to apply for a renewal of the title of Research Professor, which is due to end for me on June 30, 2005. This renewal would be for the 2005-2006 academic year, and if possible, for the 2006-2007 academic year as well, a possibility based on the fact that my last such appointment was for two academic years.

I make my application based on the guidelines developed by the Academic Senate and promulgated by the Executive Vice Chancellor in 2002.

I enclose an updated vita containing my scholarly publications for 2003 and 2004 to demonstrate that I remain active in my scholarly work, thereby meeting one of the criteria for receiving this title.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

This document was prepared by G. William Domhoff, Chair, Committee on Emeriti Relations, 2007-2008