GUIDELINES FOR SELECTION OF
NAMED PROFESSORSHIPS AND ENDOWED CHAIRS
IN THE COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES and ENVIRONMENT

The Board of Visitors of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University has approved the establishment of named professorships and chairs. Each named professorship is defined distinctly as to the criteria of appointment. Many named professorships are established on behalf of a donor who provides an endowment to support the salary and/or operating funds of the professor. The purpose of these guidelines is to codify the selection criteria and procedures for named professors and chairs in the College of Natural Resources and Environment. Selection of each named professor must be made in accordance with any reasonable constraints set forth by the donor.

Criteria

Named professorships and endowed chairs are pre-eminent faculty appointments reserved for those whose scholarly and professional attainments have attracted national and/or international recognition. Full-time faculty in the College of Natural Resources and Environment are eligible for consideration. Distinguished contributions in any of the University's missions could qualify a person for a named professorship. Excellent performance in all areas of responsibility is assumed, with truly distinguished contributions in at least one area of the tripartite mission required.

Appointment to a pre-eminent faculty rank is based on exceptional professional achievements as evidenced by an appropriate combination of outstanding teaching, research, and outreach activities. A well-balanced academic program coupled with a high level of service to the Department, College, University, and the faculty member's professional and client groups is assumed. Ordinarily, a minimum of four to five years of service at the rank of Professor will be necessary to demonstrate the high level of achievement expected for appointment to a named professorship.

Tenure

Designation as a named professorship will ordinarily continue through the active career of the individual in the University until it is relinquished in favor of some other honored appointment or an administrative post. Periodic review may be required and/or desirable for certain professorships.

Selection Procedure

When a named professorship becomes available, the College Dean will solicit nominations and applications. All faculty in the College will be notified and all may be considered for this honor. Nominations can be made by any faculty within the University and shall consist of submission of the name of the faculty member; a nomination statement is not required. A qualified faculty member can submit an application package in absence of a nomination being made on their behalf. In the solicitation, the Dean will reiterate criteria stated in these guidelines and specify any constraints on the position that may have been imposed by the
donor. A national or international search for suitable candidates may be conducted in instances where a faculty position is available for filling the post from outside the University.

The candidate application package shall consist of the candidate's curriculum vitae listing cumulative accomplishments and prepared in accordance with the University guidelines for preparation of promotion and tenure dossiers, with the exception that external letters of review are not included as part of the named professorship/endowed chair application package.

The College Dean will submit credentials of qualified nominees to the College Named Professorships and Endowed Chairs Selection Committee. The Selection Committee, chaired by the Dean, shall consist of:

1. All active members of the College faculty holding named professorships or chairs.

2. At least one, but no more than two, additional Virginia Tech faculty members from outside the College and from the pool of University Distinguished Professors, Alumni Distinguished Professors, holders of endowed chairs, and named professors. The Selection Committee members selected from outside the College will be appointed by the Dean and will be full voting members. However, those appointed from outside the College shall not constitute more than one-third of the total number of faculty members on the Selection Committee (unless the minimum of one outside member were to exceed the one-third rule).

3. One tenured faculty member shall be elected from each Department to serve as a voting member of the Selection Committee. These members of the Selection Committee shall be elected by the faculty of their Departments who hold the rank of assistant professor or above. These individuals shall not be candidates for the named professorship.

At the Selection Committee meeting to decide the most qualified candidate, after review of all candidates, consensus on filling the position will be sought. If a consensus cannot be reached, then a closed ballot of the voting members of the Selection Committee will be taken with each person having one vote. In the event of a tie, the Dean will cast the tie-breaking vote. The Dean will forward credentials of candidates nominated for named professorships and endowed chairs by the College selection process through appropriate University channels. If approved at all University levels, the nomination will be recommended to the Board of Visitors for final approval.

Revised and Approved April 2014

Approved by: [Signature]

Thomas R. Fox

College of Natural Resources and Environment
Faculty Association President