

SUGGESTIONS FOR NOMINATING UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

1. Purpose and Selection Procedures relating to University Distinguished Professors (UDPs) including nomination procedures may be found at: <https://provost.colostate.edu/awards/university-awards/>. It is advisable to read this short document in its entirety. It is important to follow nomination procedures in detail, including page limitations. Nominations shall be confidential and done without input from the nominee. Nominations should be prepared to be easily comprehensible to persons without expertise in the field of the nominee. This is particularly important since all UDPs must approve each new nominee.
2. When UDP nominations are requested, there is sometimes only one opening available. There may be 10 or more nominations received, and while no more than one will be selected, several nominees may meet the standards for a UDP. It appears that nominators are frequently discouraged because their nominee was not chosen after one or two attempts. There have been occasions when a nominee from a previous round may have been selected had the nomination been resubmitted.
3. It is important to select the best nominee(s) in a Department or College, not one who simply has been in a queue for the longest time, or who is most senior in the unit.
4. Only a very few women and minorities have been nominated for UDP over the years, yet excellent candidates exist in these categories. Such nominations are especially encouraged. Unless people are nominated, there is no process for them to become UDPs. For reasons explained in item 2 above, renomination of persons not selected is often advisable. However, more than 3 nomination attempts are discouraged unless substantive new honors have been conferred.
5. It is best not to clutter nominations with trivia, for example, high school valedictorian (a substantial percentage of CSU professors had that distinction and some UDPs did not) or undergraduate honors. A concise, relevant CV is, however, important. The UDP selection process must distinguish between the really good, productive professors (which include the majority of full professors at CSU), and the truly acclaimed professors with clear international reputations in their fields. In almost all cases, successful nominees will have received major honors, awards, or prizes, and will have been regularly invited to speak internationally. While “local” awards for teaching, advising, service, etc. from CSU or one’s alma mater are important and considered they are no substitute for major honors and awards. Overall, the selection process emphasizes recognition of major honors with conveyance of an additional honor, UDP, based on that recognition.
6. The selection is for Colorado State University UDPs. This implies a significant presence and contribution to Colorado State University. This criterion will rarely be met by a relatively new hire, regardless of stature. While there are no specific requirements along these lines other than tenured full professor, someone with 5 to 10 or more years of

contributions while at CSU will likely be considered more favorably than someone who has been at CSU for only a year or two.

While the main criteria for conferring UDP status are “records of performance ranking them among the most outstanding members of their disciplines, as reflected by their research publication, exhibition, artistic performance. . .,” the professor aspect also is important. Teaching and mentoring are implied in the term professor, and these aspects are considered in the selection process. Successful mentoring, while not a requirement, is viewed favorably. Service of a national/international nature, such as editorial boards, offices in societies, and panels evaluating grant proposals, while not overriding, also is considered.