

GUIDELINES GOVERNING THE CREATION OF EPONYMOUS
PROFESSORSHIPS
From minutes 2/2007

When the Board of Trustees adopted a resolution authorizing the creation of unfunded named professorships in December, 1981, the stated purpose was to enable the University to “recognize, attract and retain teachers and scholars of distinction” and with the creation of the named professorship to honor persons in Duke’s past. The following updated guidelines are consistent with the original intent in creating eponymous professorships:

1. Eponyms must have a prestigious history with Duke University, such as distinguished faculty, trustees, officers, alumni and benefactors who are deceased or who retired from the University at least five years ago. The creation of an eponym also indicates that a determination has been made that it is highly unlikely that a funded chair would ever be established in said name.
2. The schools and college of Duke University are authorized to seek approval of new eponymous professors no more frequently than every five years, which provides incentive to raise funds for endowed chairs.
3. Proposals for the creation of eponymous chairs can originate from the deans of the schools or college or the Provost. The proposal shall include a statement of overall need for the professorship and rationale for the eponym.
4. Because there is no mechanism, except in unusual circumstances, to raise funds for endowed university-level chairs (those not restricted to use in a specific school or college), the Provost is authorized to seek approval of eponymous university-wide chairs as needed.
5. The Provost, with concurrence of the President, submits to the Board of Trustees or its Executive Committee proposed eponyms for approval.