

GUIDELINES GOVERNING THE CREATION OF EPONYMOUS PROFESSORSHIPS

When the Board of Trustees adopted a resolution authorizing the creation of unfunded named (“eponymous”) 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. Every five years the Provost will invite the deans of the schools and college of Duke University to submit proposals for two to three new eponymous professors.
3. Proposals 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 determination to propose the creation of an eponymous professorship shall be made by the Provost in her / his sole discretion, and the Provost, with concurrence of the President, submits to the Board of Trustees or its Executive Committee proposed eponyms for approval.

October 24, 2017