

Recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee on Research Scientist Titles

The Academic Staff Assembly endorses the recommendations from the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Research Scientists Titles (ASA Document #678), which are listed below:

- Introduction of a Research Professor title track (Assistant, Associate, No Prefix, Distinguished) that is distinct from preexisting Researcher and Scientist title series.
- Criteria for Research Professor appointment shall closely mirror the research responsibilities outlined for a tenure-track Professor at the corresponding rank.
- Research Professors receive automatic Principal Investigator status at all title ranks.
- Research Professors can serve as co-advisor (or principal advisor as policy allows) and supervise undergraduate/graduate students, postdoctoral research associates, and staff.
- Research Professors receive a minimum of 5 percent of their salary from the university general fund, are eligible to compete for intramural research funds, and are eligible for start-up, grant-writing, and bridge funding at the discretion of the unit.
- Research Professors are categorized as Academic Staff, but culturally integrated as Faculty within units per standard practices.
- Along with implementation of the Research Professor title track, we also recommend the following amendments to existing research scientist titles:
 - a. Researcher:
 - i. No change in title description
 - ii. Current [no prefix] level is replaced with the Senior level (Assistant, Associate, Senior, and Distinguished)
 - b. Scientist:
 - i. Title series is no longer intended to parallel the faculty tenure-track
 - ii. New language to distinguish Scientists from Research Professors regarding the level of independence
 - iii. Principal Investigator status still requires approval for Scientists (no change from current policy)