
As adopted by the Faculty Senate at its meeting on 3 December 2012

**RECOMMENDATION TO DISSOLVE THE
HONORIFIC MODIFIED PROFESSORIAL TITLE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Background

The UW-Madison Faculty Senate, at its meeting on 5 February 2001, approved the creation of two zero-dollar, honorific working titles to be used to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of meritorious academic staff in research. Those titles are *associate research professor* and *research professor*.

The honorific working title *associate research professor* can be awarded to outstanding academic staff members with terminal degrees and titles of associate scientist or higher rank. The honorific working title *research professor* can be awarded to outstanding academic staff members with terminal degrees and titles of senior scientist or distinguished scientist. The research professor titles are limited, in nearly all cases, to academic staff members whose funding is 50% or more from non-state GPR sources. These titles are awarded only to truly meritorious academic staff members and require the positive recommendation of the executive committee of the department in which the staff member is employed, or the relevant academic planning council (APC) for staff members not easily identified with a single department. The basis for awarding the *associate research professor* and *research professor* titles is criteria and documentation similar to those required for tenured faculty.

A department or APC recommendation is forwarded to the dean of the school or college. Upon approval by the dean, the recommendation is forwarded to a committee appointed by the University Committee consisting of eight faculty members, two from each faculty division. This committee reviews the dossier to determine whether it meets the criteria for bestowing the title. If the committee approves the dossier, it recommends that the provost grant the proposed working title.

Recommendation

At its meeting of 16 April 2012, the Honorific Modified Professorial Title Review Committee unanimously recommended that the functions of this committee move to the divisional committees and that this committee be dissolved.

In its ten-year history, the Honorific Modified Professorial Title Review Committee has reviewed 29 recommendations, with the majority from the biological and physical sciences divisions and a smaller number from social studies. There have been no recommendations for academic staff in the arts and humanities. In most years, one or two cases are presented.

The review process for determining honorific titles is similar to the tenure review process, although less time-consuming. The divisional committees, which are engaged each month in tenure reviews, are well suited to review honorific modified professorial titles, since a comparable assessment is called for and the direct comparison with current tenure reviews will be additionally helpful.

The University Committee supports this recommendation.