Date January 31, 2022

To: Deans and GTRI Director

From: Steven W. McLaughlin
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Chaouki Abdallah
Executive Vice President for Research

Re: Regents’ Professor and Regents’ Researcher Selection and Renewal Process

The purpose of this memorandum is to update the selection of Regents’ Researchers by having part of that selection process run through the EVPR Office. This memorandum also updates the annual rotation of membership of the Regents’ Professorship/Regents’ Researcher Selection Committee; the original rotation schedule ended with the 2022 cycle. The remainder of Georgia Tech’s selection process remains unchanged from the 2015 memo.

Basics of the BOR Policy

The BOR policies require a recommendation to the Chancellor and BOR Committee on Academic Affairs for approval of new Regents’ Professors and Regents’ Researchers. This recommendation should be unanimous and come from the President, the chief academic officer, the appropriate academic dean, and three other members of the faculty to be named by the President.

The BOR policies also state guidelines for the renewal of Regents’ Professor and Regents’ Researchers appointments every three years. For renewal, the President and chief academic officer make a recommendation to the Chancellor and BOR Committee for Academic Affairs.

Given the leadership structure at Georgia Tech, the Executive Vice President for Research, as the chief research officer, shall be included in parallel with the Provost (as chief academic officer) in the process. In the recommended process outlined below, that addition is included.
Recommended Revisions to the Selection and Renewal Processes

Nomination Process

Each year, the academic deans will be invited to nominate up to two academic faculty members to be considered for selection as a Regents’ Professor and up to one research faculty member for Regents’ Researcher. The executive director of GTRI may nominate up to two research faculty members for consideration as Regents’ Researcher. The Executive Vice President for Research (EVPR) shall appoint a designee among the EVPR senior leadership to coordinate and facilitate the nomination of up to two research faculty members, who work in units under the EVPR Office but not in GTRI, for consideration as Regents’ Researcher.

The nomination package should include:

- A nomination letter from the candidate’s direct supervisor (dean, school chair, or lab director, as applicable);
- A one-paragraph biographical sketch; and
- A current CV.

The nomination package will be submitted to the Office of Faculty Affairs by March 1 of each year.

Review and Recommendation Committee

Each year, the President will appoint three faculty members to a Regents’ Professorship and Regents’ Researcher Review and Recommendation Committee. This committee reviews the nominations and recommends four names for each honor (Regents’ Researcher and Regents’ Professor) to the Provost, EVPR, and President for their consideration. These names should be unranked and include a brief case statement (100 words or less) for the recommendation of the individual.

The membership of this committee will be comprised of three senior research or academic faculty members and will be distributed across the institution in an annual rotation (see rotation schedule below). Each year, the applicable Deans or GTRI Director will be asked to suggest a few names from within their college/unit to serve as members, and the President will appoint three members from these suggestions. As senior and accomplished scholars, members should typically have been recognized in some formal manner by the Institute or their peers for their teaching and/or research contributions (as a Regents’ Professor, Regents’ Researcher, endowed chair holder, national academies member, teaching or research award winner, etc.).

Annual Rotation of Membership of the Regents’ Professorship/Regents’ Researcher Selection Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Member 1</th>
<th>Member 2</th>
<th>Member 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>Computing</td>
<td>Design</td>
<td>Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>GTRI</td>
<td>Ivan Allen</td>
<td>Scheller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>Sciences</td>
<td>EVPR (not GTRI)</td>
<td>Computing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2026</td>
<td>Design</td>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>GTRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2027</td>
<td>Ivan Allen</td>
<td>Scheller</td>
<td>Sciences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Selection

The Provost, EVPR, and President will review the four nominations and select up to four (one, two, three, four, or none) for each Regents’ Professor/Regents’ Researcher for submission to the Chancellor and Committee on Academic Affairs for approval. The selection will be completed by early April and submitted to the Chancellor’s office in time for the May Board of Regents meeting.

Renewal Process

During the third year that an individual is appointed as a Regents’ Professor or Regents’ Researcher, the school, lab, or college may submit a memo requesting reappointment that accompanies an up-to-date curriculum vitae for the individual. After two three-year terms (six years), the President may renew the appointment at his or her discretion. During the sixth year of reappointment, the school, college, or lab may submit a memo requesting a continuous appointment, including a current curriculum vitae. The President may request additional documentation from the home department/unit or faculty member if needed to make a decision. These reappointment requests will be submitted to the Office of Faculty Affairs by the home college at the same time new nominations are submitted. The Review and Recommendation Committee (as described above) will consider these renewal requests and make a positive or negative recommendation to the Provost, EVPR, and President, who will then determine whether to request reappointment to the Board of Regents for approval by the Chancellor and Committee on Academic Affairs in the case of the second three-year term appointment. After a Regents’ Professor/Regents’ Researcher completes their sixth year, the President, EVPR, and Provost will determine whether to grant continuous reappointment as a Regents’ Professor or Regents’ Researcher to the faculty member. Should the school, college, or lab determine that reappointment is not desired, they should notify the Office of Faculty Affairs of the decision not to recommend reappointment.

8.3.2 Regents’ Professorships

Regents’ Professorships may be granted by the Board of Regents to outstanding faculty members of Augusta University, the Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, the University of Georgia, and, in special circumstances, other University System of Georgia (USG) institutions. A Regents’ Professorship shall be awarded by the Board only upon the unanimous recommendation of the USG institution President, chief academic officer, appropriate academic dean, and three other members of the faculty named by the President, and upon the approval of the Chancellor and the Committee on Academic Affairs.
A Regents’ Professorship shall be granted by the Board for a period of three years. Consideration of the renewal of the professorship for a second three-year period shall be given by the Board upon recommendation of the President of the USG institution, the Chancellor, and the Committee on Academic Affairs. After a period of six years, the Regents’ Professorship shall be renewed at the discretion of the President of the USG institution.

8.3.2.1 Regents’ Researchers

Regents’ Researcher titles may be granted by the Board of Regents to outstanding full-time principal researchers of Augusta University, the Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, the University of Georgia, and, in special circumstances, other USG institutions. The Regents’ Researcher title shall be awarded by the Board only upon the unanimous recommendation of the USG institution President, chief academic officer, and three members of the faculty named by the President, and upon the approval of the Chancellor and the Committee on Academic Affairs.

A Regents’ Researcher title shall be granted by the Board for a period of three years. Consideration of the renewal of the title for a second three-year period shall be given by the Board upon recommendation of the President of the USG institution, the Chancellor, and the Committee on Academic Affairs. After a period of six years, the Regents’ Researcher title shall be renewed at the discretion of the President of the USG institution.