



Guidance on Regents' Titles and the Regents' Selection Committee

Office of Vice Provost for Faculty
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Expectations of Faculty Nominees for Regents' Titles

Faculty members nominated for prestigious awards, such as the various Regents' titles, play a crucial role as ambassadors for the Institute. They showcase the depth and quality of work and research conducted within our academic community. Therefore, nominees must demonstrate exceptional scholarly achievements and contribute significantly to their respective fields. When considering faculty nominations for the Regents' titles, the following general expectations should be met:

Mission Alignment

Nominees must demonstrate significant contributions to the missions of the Institute (including instruction, research, service, and student success) as appropriate to the Regents' title being considered.

Sustained Excellence

Nominees should have a record of sustained excellence, as evidenced by significant contributions to research and/or education over an extended period.

Impactful Scholarship

The scholarly work conducted by nominees should have a demonstrable impact, whether through groundbreaking discoveries, innovative methodologies, transformative insights, or other means.

National and International Recognition

Nominees should have garnered recognition beyond the Institute, receiving prestigious awards, honors, and invitations to present their work at renowned conferences or institutions, as appropriate to the Regents' title being considered.

Leadership and Collaboration

Nominees should exhibit leadership in endeavors, foster collaboration within and outside the Institute, mentor junior scholars, and advance their fields, as appropriate to the Regents' title being considered.

Regents' titles presuppose well-sustained achievement at the level of excellence required for the BOR designation. These contributions exceed the eligibility requirements that qualify the faculty member for full Professorship or Principal status. Nominees are expected to have made significant contributions in the ways delineated below at every stage of their careers. Specific requirements for the four Regents' titles – Regents' Entrepreneur, Regents' Innovator, Regents' Professor, and Regents' Researcher – follow.

Discernment is key in identifying faculty members who meet the criteria for the Regents' Entrepreneur, Professor, and Researcher titles and who are deserving of nomination. Nominations should be thoroughly vetted and supported by robust evidence of scholarly achievement. A faculty-involved process is recommended for identification and selection of faculty nominees.

Distinguishing the Regents' Titles

The four Regents' titles recognize related but distinct forms of exceptional faculty achievement. The descriptions below clarify the primary focus and expected evidence for each designation.

Regents' Entrepreneur

The **Regents' Entrepreneur** "designation may be granted by the Board of Regents to an outstanding full-time tenured faculty member who has an established reputation as a successful innovator and who has taken their research into a commercial setting" ([BOR Policy Manual 8.3.2.2](#)). Example additional Institute expectations for the Regents' Entrepreneur nomination can include, but are not limited to:

- One or more commercializations of GT-owned IP into companies
- Entrepreneurship- and commercialization-related service with GT and within the local and state ecosystems (e.g., mentorship activities, teaching, etc.)
- Strong evidence of working with the local entrepreneurship ecosystem; examples of this include (but are not limited to) prior engagement with the GT ecosystem for commercialization assistance and working with units such as VentureLab, CREATE-X, ATDC, etc.
- Resulting companies that have had measurable success; examples of success measures include (but are not limited to) funding raised, numbers of jobs created, and powerful broader impacts on the human condition
- Resulting companies that have had measurable success within the state of Georgia at some point during the company's lifespan (see above for success measures)

Regents' Professor

The **Regents' Professor** designation may be granted by the BOR to an outstanding full-time tenured faculty member who has an established reputation as a successful scholar and educator ([BOR Policy Manual 8.3.2](#)). Example additional Institute expectations for the Regents' Professor nomination can include, but are not limited to:

- Strong record of publications (inclusive of conference proceedings) in top-tier peer-reviewed journals (or at top-tier conferences) in their discipline or related disciplines (in the case of transdisciplinary scholarship)
- Innovative approaches to instruction both inside and outside the classroom
- Strong record of accomplishments noted by the nominee's peers; examples include teaching and/or research awards, invited addresses, conference keynotes, etc.
- Strong mentorship and sponsorship of students, postdocs, and/or junior faculty
- Impactful involvement in service activities at the Institute, national, and/or international levels

Regents' Researcher

The **Regents' Researcher** designation may be granted by the BOR to an outstanding full-time faculty member who has an established reputation as a successful researcher ([BOR Policy Manual 8.3.2.1](#)). Example additional Institute expectations for the Regents' Researcher nomination can include, but are not limited to:

- Well- sustained history of funding through multiple major extramural contracts or grants, including service as principal investigator, lead on complex programs, critical proposal team member providing essential technical contributions, and/or significant impact through extension program leadership
- Strong record of publications in top-tier peer-reviewed outlets (journals, conference proceedings) and complementary contributions, including representation on prominent working groups, advisory boards, and/or technical road mapping activities, and impactful research translation and extension activities, including patents, policy briefs, public-private partnerships, and economic development activities
- Strong record of accomplishments noted by the nominee's peers, including research awards, invited addresses, conference keynotes, and/or other honors
- Strong mentorship and support of other faculty, research staff, postdocs, and/or students

Regents' Innovator

The **Regents' Innovator** designation may be granted by the BOR to outstanding full-time tenured faculty to “allow time away from their full-time faculty duties to focus on beginning or growing companies that commercialize a faculty member’s research” ([BOR Policy Manual 8.3.2.2](#)). Regents' Innovator titles are directly tied to the Regents' Innovator Leave of Absences, discussed below. Regents' Innovator designation is processed separately from the process for Regents' Entrepreneur, Professor, and Researcher; the Regents' Innovator title is a necessary first step for the Regents' Innovator Leave of Absence and is never to be sought separately from that process. Example additional Institute expectations for the Regents' Entrepreneur nomination can include, but are not limited to:

- The startup is based on research that yielded GT-owned IP, and none of the IP rights are committed to industry or any other non-federal funding sponsors;
- Evidence of solid effort toward the development of the startup; examples of such evidence include (but are not limited to) at least three months prior engagement with staff of GT commercialization units such as VentureLab, Biolocity, ATDC, etc., on the development of their startup;
- Evidence of market research, relevance, and startup viability; examples of such evidence include (but are not limited to) prior participation in faculty workshops focused on entrepreneurship run by GT personnel or in cohorts of relevant NSF/NIH/DOD/DOE ICorps programs;
- A preference for candidates who have raised some initial funding from the Georgia Research Alliance; and
- A preference for candidates who have secured Series A or later venture funding.

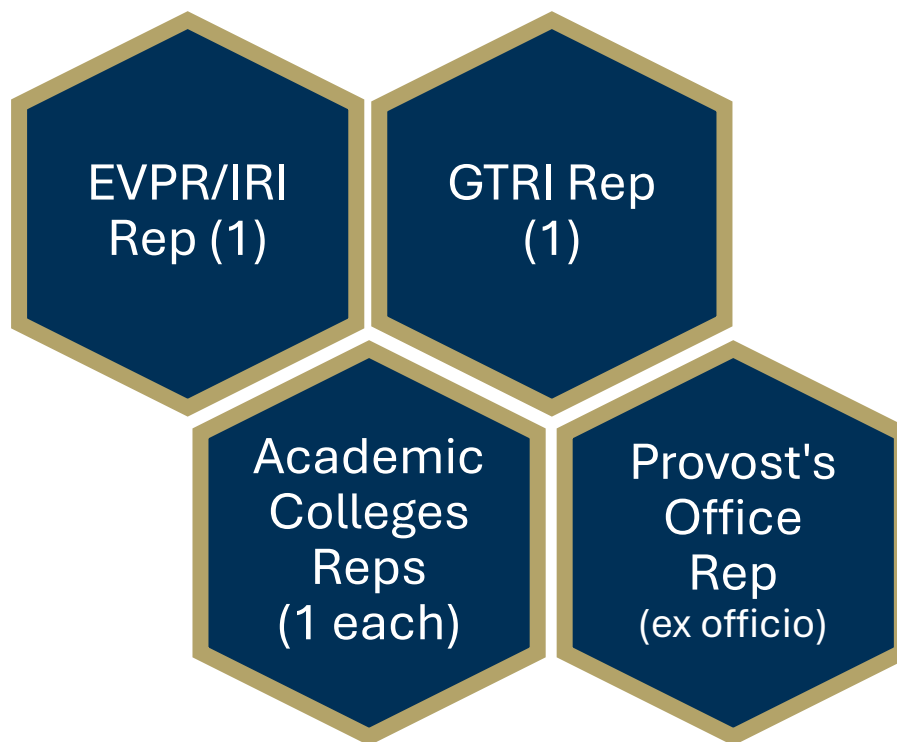
Regents' Selection Committee Formation and Membership

A committee comprising distinguished faculty members is formed to ensure a fair and transparent selection process. The Regents' Selection Committee reviews nominations, evaluates candidates based on established criteria, and recommends recipients for consideration to the Provost, EVPR, and President.

Regents' Selection Committee members serve two-year, staggered terms. Upon request from the Office of Faculty Affairs (OFA), each college Dean, the GTRI Director, and EVPR suggest the names of two or three faculty members from within their college/unit to serve as committee members. The President appoints members based on these suggestions, following the composition expectations described below. As senior and accomplished scholars, committee members should typically have been recognized formally by the Institute and/or their peers (e.g., Regents' Entrepreneur, Regents' Professor, Regents' Researcher, endowed chair holder, national academies member, etc.). Each year, the committee elects a chair.

The Regents' Selection Committee consists of:

- GTRI Representative (one voting member)
- EVPR/IRIs Representative (one voting member)
- Academic Colleges' Representatives (one from each college)
- Provost's Office Representative: As the committee convener, a Provost's Office representative oversees the selection process and ensures adherence to established guidelines. The Provost's Office Representative is *ex officio*



Representatives abstain from voting on nominees from their own colleges/units. A majority vote of the committee is necessary for a nominee to be forwarded to the Provost, EVPR, and President for consideration.

Instructions for Submitting Nomination Packages

Regents' Entrepreneur, Professor, and Researcher

Nomination packages for Regents' Entrepreneur, Professor, and Researcher are accepted each year in the fall, with an annual submission deadline of **October 15**. Each Dean/VP may forward the number of nominations for faculty members meeting the selection criteria for each title described above, in line with the caps listed below. For faculty members with joint appointments, the primary unit is responsible for submitting the nomination, and the nomination counts toward that Dean's/VP's cap. The primary unit should coordinate with the secondary unit before submission, and the package should include formal indication that the secondary unit supports forwarding the nomination, either through a co-authored nomination letter or an additional nomination letter from the secondary unit.

- Each college **Dean** may nominate:
 - Up to two full-time tenured faculty members to be considered for Regents' Entrepreneur.
 - Up to two full-time tenured faculty members to be considered for Regents' Professor.
 - Due to the size of COE, up to three full-time tenured faculty members may be nominated to be considered for Regents' Professor.
 - Up to one full-time faculty member to be considered for Regents' Researcher.
- The **Senior Vice President and Director of GTRI** may nominate:
 - Up to two full-time tenured faculty members to be considered for Regents' Entrepreneur.
 - Up to one full-time tenured faculty member to be considered for Regents' Professor.
 - Up to three full-time faculty members to be considered for Regents' Researcher.
- The **Executive Vice President for Research** (EVPR) may nominate:
 - Up to two full-time tenured faculty members to be considered for Regents' Entrepreneur; these nominees must work in units under the EVPR Office and not in GTRI.
 - Up to one full-time tenured faculty member to be considered for Regents' Professor; these nominees must work in units under the EVPR Office and not in GTRI.
 - Up to three full-time faculty members to be considered for Regents' Researcher; these nominees must work in units under the EVPR Office and not in GTRI.
- The **Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost** (EVPA) may nominate:
 - Up to one full-time tenured faculty member to be considered for Regents' Entrepreneur; these nominees must work in units under the Provost's Office and not in the academic Colleges.
 - Up to one full-time tenured faculty member to be considered for Regents' Professor; these nominees must work in units under the Provost's Office and not in the academic Colleges.
 - Up to one full-time faculty member to be considered for Regents' Researcher; these nominees must work in units under the Provost's Office and not in the academic Colleges.
- The **Executive Vice President for Administration and Finance** (EVPAF) may nominate:
 - Up to one full-time tenured faculty member to be considered for Regents' Entrepreneur; these nominees must work in units under the EVPAF Office.
 - Up to one full-time tenured faculty member to be considered for Regents' Professor; these nominees must work in units under the EVPAF Office.
 - Up to one full-time faculty member to be considered for Regents' Researcher; these nominees must work in units under the EVPAF Office.

Nomination packages should include:

- A nomination letter from the nominee's direct supervisor (e.g., Dean, School Chair, Lab Director, VP, as applicable)
- A summary of accomplishments, with specific emphasis on the criteria to be used for the evaluation
- A one-paragraph biographical sketch
- A current CV

Nomination packages are submitted in a format and to a site to be specified by OFA. Additionally, nominees for all Regents' titles must be full-time faculty members not currently on an approved leave of absence.

The Regents' Selection Committee reviews the submitted nomination packages, considers each nominee's strengths, and recommends nominees receiving a majority-positive vote to the Provost, EVPR, and President. When recommending, the committee submits the names unranked and includes a brief statement (100 words or less) for each nominee forwarded.

The Provost, EVPR, and President review the committee's recommendations. Per BOR policy, nomination of a faculty member to the Board of Regents for consideration requires unanimous recommendation by the President, the Chief Academic Officer, the appropriate college Dean, and at least three faculty committee members. Because of Georgia Tech's specific leadership structure, the EVPR, as the chief research officer, is included in parallel with the Provost, as the chief academic officer, in the process. Further, the Director of GTRI is included in the place of a college Dean for research faculty employed by GTRI.

Regents' Innovator

Nominations for Regents' Innovator title shall only be started in conjunction with a request for a Regents' Innovator Leave of Absence (discussed below). Nominations for Regents' Innovator titles are accepted each year in the fall and the spring, with biannual submission deadlines of **September 1** and **February 1**. The nomination package should include:

- A nomination letter from the nominee's direct supervisor (e.g., Dean, School Chair, Lab Director, as applicable)
- A summary of accomplishments, with specific emphasis on the criteria to be used for the evaluation
- A one-paragraph biographical sketch;
- Leave of absence form
- A current CV specifically emphasizing accomplished and anticipated commercialization and entrepreneurial activities

Nomination packages are submitted to OFA via GT-TRACS, tagging OSP in a note for review and selecting Orgs 609 and 600 as approvers. The submitted materials are shared with the Regents' Selection Committee and an EVPR designee for evaluation.

The Provost, EVPR, and President review submissions for the Regents' Innovator title and forward their recommendations to the BOR/Chancellor for approval. Once all materials have been received and reviewed, OFA notifies the school and college of the request status. Please note that the Regents' Innovator title and leave are contingent upon multiple BOR/Chancellor approval processes, and as such, leave start dates must be at least four months after the package submission date.

Renewal Process for Regents' Professor and Researcher

Initially, Regents' titles are granted by the Board of Regents for three years. BOR policy indicates that Regents' Innovator, Professor, and Researcher titles may be considered for renewal by the Board for a second three-year period "upon recommendation of the President of the USG institution, the Chancellor, and the Committee on Academic Affairs. After six years, the Regents' Professorship [and Regents' Researcher title] shall be renewed at the discretion of the President of the USG institution" ([BOR Policy Manual 8.3.2 and 8.3.2.1](#)). Currently, BOR policy does not elaborate on a renewal process for Regents' Entrepreneur titles or a second renewal process for Regents' Innovator titles.

First Renewals: During the third year that a faculty member is appointed as a Regents' Innovator, Professor, or Researcher, the school, lab, or college (or another appropriate supervisory unit) may submit a memo requesting reappointment that accompanies the faculty member's current CV. Reappointment requests are to be forwarded to OFA by the home unit by **October 15**. The Regents' Selection Committee (as described above) considers these renewal requests and makes positive or negative recommendations by majority vote to the Provost, EVPR, and President. The Provost, EVPR, and President determine whether to request reappointment by the BOR. As stated in BOR policy, the Chancellor and the BOR Committee on Academic Affairs must also support the recommendations for BOR granting of the Regents' title renewal.

Second Renewals: During the sixth year that a faculty member is appointed as a Regents' Professor or Regents' Researcher, the school, lab, or college (or another appropriate supervisory unit) may submit a memo requesting reappointment that accompanies the faculty member's current CV. Reappointment requests are to be forwarded to OFA by **October 15**. The Regents' Selection Committee (as described above) considers these renewal requests and makes positive or negative recommendations by majority vote to the Provost, EVPR, and President. No BOR approval is necessary for second renewals.

Should the school, college, lab, or home unit determine that reappointment is not desired, they should notify the faculty member and OFA of the decision not to recommend reappointment.

Regents' Entrepreneur Emeritus/Emerita

A retired faculty member who, at the time of retirement, has had ten or more years of honorable and distinguished USG service and has previously held the Regents' Entrepreneur designation may be conferred with the title of Regents' Entrepreneur Emeritus or Regents' Entrepreneur Emerita by the BOR on the recommendation of the Chancellor. Nominations for Regents' Entrepreneur Emeritus/Emerita are to be submitted to OFA annually by **October 15**. The nomination package follows the requirements for nomination to Regents' Entrepreneur.

Regents' Innovator Leave of Absence

Faculty members with the title of Regents' Innovator are eligible for an unpaid leave of absence or partial/joint appointment with their current and other institutions. Regents' Innovator Leaves of Absence can exceed one year, up to a maximum of three years. A condition of the unpaid leave of absence includes the execution of an agreement between the faculty member and the Institute, signed by both the faculty member and the President ([BOR Policy Manual 8.3.2.2](#)). This agreement will be executed after the Regents' Innovator leave is approved. Additional considerations for the Regents' Innovator Leave of Absence include:

- The faculty member may have a partial appointment with the Institute if approved by their school chair (or appropriate supervisor) and their dean (or appropriate next-level supervisor). This would be applicable if the faculty member will continue supervising students or serving as PI on sponsored projects. Continued service as a PI on sponsored projects will also require eCOI approval.
- On their return from the Regents' Innovator leave of absence, the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty will conduct a compensation review to assess the faculty member's salary against market equity data. Upon return, the faculty member may also be eligible to receive the standard

promotion raise following Institute and USG policy if not previously received with the Regents' Innovator title award.

- The Office of Commercialization will work with the designated faculty member to navigate the conflict of interest process, obtain access to Georgia Tech lab facilities under appropriate cost-center agreements, and receive licenses to appropriate Georgia Tech intellectual property.