

Revised

MEMORANDUM

To: Presidents

From: Selma Botman *SB*

Date: September 7, 2006

Re: Distinguished Professor Nominations Deadline

I am writing to let you know that the deadline for nominating candidates for a CUNY Distinguished Professorship is Wednesday, November 1, 2006. The Board of Trustees will vote on those nominations recommended by the Chancellor at its January 2007 session.

If you are planning to make a nomination, please forward to my office:

1. The nominee's current curriculum vitae.
2. Letters of recommendation from you and from your College's highest-ranking academic administrator (usually either the Provost or Dean)
3. At least five (5) external evaluations from the most highly respected persons in the field. Evaluators must be objective and unbiased. Whenever possible, they should not be co-authors with the candidate or from any CUNY college. Evaluators should affirm, in the first paragraph of their recommendations, that they have no substantial connections with the candidate. The evaluators should then provide an authoritative and detailed discussion of the qualifications of the candidate for this honor and offer a clear rationale for their judgment.
4. Documentation of your College's process for nominating the candidate.

I will evaluate your nominations, requesting additional evaluations when necessary to achieve a thorough understanding of the nominees' qualifications. A subcommittee of Distinguished Professors, selected to enable a thoughtful and rigorous evaluation of each candidate's qualifications and to avoid potential institutional or personal bias, will then consider the nominations and make recommendations to me. I will transmit these nominations to the Chancellor.

My experience with our revised process impressed upon me that a successful candidate must represent something far more than a full professor. A Distinguished Professor is at the top of his or her field, recognized both nationally and internationally. This is not an award for past accomplishments, but one which is properly bestowed only on those who are actively making serious and substantial contributions to their fields. The standards are exceptionally high. You should consider carefully whether your proposed candidates would withstand rigorous, dispassionate evaluation.

The successful candidates from the last academic year represent the high level of scholarship expected of Distinguished Professors. They include:

Kamiko Hahn, English, Queens College
 Jeffrey Halperin, Psychology, Queens College
 Saul Kassin, Forensic Psychology, John Jay College
 Tania León, Conservatory of Music, Brooklyn College
 Katherine Verdery, Anthropology, Graduate Center
 Catherine Widom, Forensic Psychology, John Jay College
 Catherine Wilson, Philosophy, Graduate Center

The following candidates were also recommended to the Board, pending the expanded number of Distinguished Professorships to be available under the new collective bargaining agreement:

Godfrey Gumbs, Physics, Hunter College
 Wayne Koestenbaum, English, Graduate Center
 James Lynch, Criminal Justice, John Jay College
 Morris Rossabi, History, Queens College
 Willaim B. Rossow, NOAA-CREST, City College
 Ruth Stark, Chemistry, College of Staten Island

Each of these faculty members represents the exceptionally high level of intellectual achievement expected from a CUNY Distinguished Professor. If you have any questions concerning the process or if you would like assistance in assessing the qualifications of a potential candidate, please don't hesitate to contact me.

CC: Chancellor Matthew Goldstein
 Provosts