


**MEMORANDUM**

Office of the Provost

**C. L. Max Nikias**  
Provost and  
Senior Vice President  
for Academic Affairs

Malcolm R. Currie Chair  
in Technology and  
the Humanities

To: Academic Deans  
University and Distinguished Professors (via the deans)  
USC members of the National Academies (via the deans)  
Holders of endowed chairs and professorships (via the deans)  
The Faculty

From: C. L. Max Nikias 

Date: September 5, 2008

Subject: Call for Nominations: Distinguished and University Professors

I request your nominations for the two titles, Distinguished Professor and University Professor, which we reserve for the small number of USC faculty who have brought special renown to the University through the excellence of their academic accomplishments.

1. Your nomination should be made by confidential memo sent to the dean of your school by September 30, 2008. In your memo, summarize the reasons the nominee merits the recognition.
  - Particularly mention objective evidence of national and international stature, such as major prizes or medals and membership in the National Academies.
  - For University Professor nominations, explain how the individual makes a significant interdisciplinary contribution. Note if he or she holds a joint appointment.
  - Briefly summarize the nominee's special contribution as a University citizen. All nominees should have at least five years of full-time service at USC.
2. If the information is available without contacting the nominee, enclose the individual's CV including publications, honors, and grants.
3. The dean will forward all nominations to Vice Provost Martin Levine by October 19, 2008, with a memo containing the dean's recommendations and rank ordering.
4. A committee of current Distinguished and University Professors will then give its recommendations, and President Sample will make the final selection.

To avoid potential embarrassment, please do not inform the nominee, and please do not inform other colleagues. It may well happen that a nomination is deferred rather than approved. Appointments will not necessarily be made every year.

Distinguished and University Professorships are of equal rank and dignity, but they have different criteria. Promotion to the rank of Distinguished Professor marks outstanding contributions that have been primarily in a single discipline. In the words of the Faculty Handbook, it is “awarded on a very selective basis to those few professors in the University who have brought special renown to the University through their accomplishments.” The title of University Professor is awarded to those professors who have made significant contributions to several disciplines and so have personified the strategic initiative for interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching. As the Handbook explains, it is “awarded to a small number of professors who, because of their multi-disciplinary interests and significant accomplishments in several disciplines, qualify for an appointment that transcends any single field of study. Generally, a faculty member accorded this title also has a tenured faculty appointment in a specific academic unit.”

Our standards for selection are very high, and emphasize objective evidence of outstanding national and international stature. In the sciences, for example, we have far fewer Distinguished and University Professors than we have members of the National Academy. In making nominations, please do not overlook candidates who are women or members of under-represented minority groups.

Enclosed for your information is the list of those who now hold these ranks, which is also posted at “Faculty Distinctions” on the Faculty Portal, [www.usc.edu/faculty](http://www.usc.edu/faculty).

Enclosure

cc: Steven B. Sample  
Todd R. Dickey  
Courtney Surls  
Martha Harris  
Margo Steurbaut  
Mike Nichol  
Deans of Faculty Council

## **DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS**

Spring 2008

**Leonard M. Adleman**, *Henry Salvatori Distinguished Chair in Computer Science*

**Norman Arnheim**, *Distinguished Professor of Biological Sciences, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, and Ester Dornsife Chair in Biological Sciences*

**Warren Bennis**, *University Professor and Distinguished Professor of Business Administration*

**T. Coraghessan Boyle**, *Distinguished Professor of English*

**Percival Everett**, *Distinguished Professor of English*

**Solomon W. Golomb**, *University Professor, Distinguished Professor of Electrical Engineering and Mathematics, and Andrew and Erna Viterbi Chair in Communications*

**Mark Jonathan Harris**, *Distinguished Professor of Cinematic Arts*

**Stephen Hartke**, *Distinguished Professor of Composition*

**Brian E. Henderson**, *Distinguished Professor of Preventive Medicine, and Kenneth T. Norris, Jr. Chair in Cancer Prevention*

**James T. Higginbotham**, *Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and Linguistics, and Linda Hilf Chair in Philosophy*

**Peter A. Jones**, *Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and H. Leslie Hoffman and Elaine S. Hoffman Chair in Cancer Research*

**Francine Ratner Kaufman**, *Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics*

**Michael M. C. Lai**, *Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology, and Neurology*

**Morten J. Lauridsen**, *Distinguished Professor of Composition*

**Edward E. Lawler III**, *Distinguished Research Professor of Business*

**Alexandra M. Levine**, *Distinguished Professor of Medicine*

**George A. Olah**, *Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Donald P. and Katherine B. Loker Chair in Organic Chemistry*

**Shahbudin H. Rahimtoola**, *Distinguished Professor of Medicine and George C. Griffith Chair in Cardiology*

**Stephen J. Ryan**, *Grace and Emery Beardsley Distinguished Chair of Ophthalmology*

**Vaughn A. Starnes**, *Distinguished Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery, and H. Russell Smith Foundation Chair for Stem Cell and Cardiovascular Thoracic Research*

**Walter Wolf**, *Distinguished Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences*

## UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS

Spring 2008

**Michael A. Arbib**, *University Professor, Fletcher Jones Chair in Computer Science, and Professor of Biological Sciences and Biomedical Engineering*

**Lloyd Armstrong, Jr.**, *University Professor, Professor of Physics, and Professor of Education*

**George A. Bekey**, *University Professor Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Computer Science*

**Warren Bennis**, *University Professor and Distinguished Professor of Business Administration*

**Leo B. Braudy**, *University Professor and Leo S. Bing Chair in English and American Literature*

**Alexander M. Capron**, *University Professor, Scott H. Bice Chair in Healthcare Law, Policy and Ethics, and Professor of Law and Medicine*

**Marshall Cohen**, *University Professor Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Law*

**Geoffrey Cowan**, *University Professor and Annenberg Family Chair in Communication Leadership*

**Richard A. Easterlin**, *University Professor and Professor of Economics*

**Caleb Finch**, *University Professor, ARCO/William F. Kieschnick Chair in the Neurobiology of Aging, and Professor of Gerontology and Biological Sciences*

**Solomon W. Golomb**, *University Professor, Distinguished Professor of Electrical Engineering and Mathematics, and Andrew and Erna Viterbi Chair in Communications*

**Robert W. Hellwarth**, *University Professor, George T. Pflieger Chair in Electrical Engineering, and Professor of Physics*

**Thomas Jordan**, *University Professor, W. M. Keck Foundation Professor in Geological Sciences, and Professor of Earth Sciences*

**Marsha Kinder**, *University Professor and Professor of Critical Studies, Spanish and Portuguese, and Comparative Literature*

**Malcolm C. Pike**, *University Professor and Professor of Preventive Medicine*

**Jean C. Shih**, *University Professor, Boyd P. and Elsie D. Welin Professor of Molecular Pharmacology and Toxicology, and Professor of Cell and Neurobiology*

**Kevin O. Starr**, *University Professor and Professor of History, and Policy, Planning, and Development*

**Richard F. Thompson**, *University Professor, William M. Keck Chair in Biological Sciences, and Professor of Neurology*

**William G. Tierney**, *University Professor and Leslie Wilbur and Norma Lash Wilbur-Evelyn Kieffer Professor of Higher Education*

**Stephen E. Toulmin**, *University Professor and Adjunct Professor of Anthropology, International Relations and Religion*

**Michael S. Waterman**, *University Professor, USC Associates Chair in Natural Sciences, and Professor of Biological Sciences and Mathematics*