

MEMORANDUM

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

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

**From:** C. L. Max Nikias (C.L. Nikias)

**Date:** September 16, 2005

**Subject:** Nominations: Distinguished Professors and University Professors

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

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.

Nominations  
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Your nomination should be made by confidential memo sent to the dean of your school by October 28, 2005:

1. In your memo, summarize the reasons the nominee merits the recognition.
2. Particularly mention evidence of national and international stature, such as major prizes.
3. Note if the individual holds a joint appointment. Explain if the individual makes a significant interdisciplinary contribution.
4. If the information is available without contacting the nominee, enclose the individual's CV and list of publications and grants.

The dean will forward all nominations to the Vice Provost Martin Levine by November 5, 2005, with the dean's recommendations and rank ordering.

To avoid potential embarrassment please do not inform the person nominated, and please do not inform other colleagues. It may very well happen that a nomination is deferred rather than approved. We do not necessarily make such appointments every year. Enclosed for your information is the list of those who now hold these ranks, which is also posted at the link "Faculty Distinctions" on the Faculty Portal, [www.usc.edu/faculty](http://www.usc.edu/faculty).

Enclosure

cc: Steven B. Sample  
Todd R. Dickey  
Dennis F. Dougherty  
Alan Kreditor  
Martha Harris

**DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS**  
**Spring, 2005**

**Distinguished Professor** This title 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 following faculty members have been awarded the title of Distinguished Professor:

**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*

**Brian E. Henderson**, *Distinguished Professor, Kenneth T. Norris, Jr., Chair in Cancer Prevention, May S. and John Hooval Dean's Chair in Medicine*

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

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

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

**Alexandra M. Levine**, *Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Bloom Family Chair in Lymphoma Research*

**Ian Mitroff**, *Harold Quinton Distinguished Chair in Business Policy and Professor of Management and Organization*

**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*

**Vaughn A. Starnes**, *Hastings Distinguished Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery*

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

## UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS Spring, 2005

**University Professor** This title 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 which transcends any single field of study. Generally, a faculty member accorded this title also has a regular faculty appointment in a specific academic unit. The following faculty members have been awarded the title of University Professor:

**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, Henry W. Bruce Professor of Equity, and Professor of Law and Medicine*

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

**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, Andrew and Erna Viterbi Chair in Communications, and Professor of Electrical Engineering and Mathematics*

**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 of Geophysics, and Professor of Earth Sciences*

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

**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*

**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*