



The University of New Mexico Faculty Handbook

C170 Policy

ENDOWED CHAIRS AND NAMED PROFESSORSHIPS *(Draft 12/6/12)*

1. Because the strength of a great university resides in its faculty, the identification, recruitment, appointment, and support of faculty members is a major priority of the University of New Mexico (UNM). Endowed chairs and named professorships enable UNM to attract and retain faculty members who have outstanding records of scholarly work and/or teaching. These positions, secured at least in part by an endowment, are recognized as the most prestigious honor UNM can award its best accomplished faculty.
2. Endowed positions are established and named by the UNM Board of Regents after recommendations by the President, who will consult with the Faculty Senate and the Provost/Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs or the Chancellor for the Health Sciences Center (HSC), as appropriate. These officers, in turn, will consult with the appropriate dean, department chair, and the faculty in the disciplinary area of the contemplated position. The parameters of the positions will be governed by standard UNM faculty personnel regulations as set forth in the Faculty Handbook, together with a donor agreement negotiated by the UNM Foundation and the donor or donor's estate. Before accepting an endowment gift or naming a faculty member to the position, the Board of Regents, President, and the Provost or HSC Chancellor will carefully consider the appropriateness of the proposed position. Not all proposed gifts or names may be appropriate to accept.
3. Selection of faculty for endowed chairs or named professorships will occur through nationally competitive searches or alternative procedures as allowed by the normal faculty appointment processes, overseen by the UNM Office of Equal Opportunity. The search committees will be constituted in the usual way, except that the Faculty Senate, Provost or HSC Chancellor, and the donor may suggest one or more additional members. *A majority of the members of the search committee must be full-time UNM faculty.* While a donor may suggest potential candidates, UNM retains the responsibility and authority to name the successful candidate and confer the rank and/or tenured status according to its existing standards and by its existing procedures.
4. Holding an endowed chair or named professorship does not affect the faculty member's existing UNM appointment, which may therefore be permanent or visiting, probationary or tenured, at an appropriate rank. It is envisioned that most of these honorific appointments will accrue to tenured full professors, although certain temporary or rotating positions are also possible.
5. Unless the donor agreement specifies otherwise the initial appointment period for endowed chairs and named professorships will be for a specific term, not to exceed five years. Faculty members holding these positions are subject to the normal faculty review procedures as described in the Faculty Handbook. If the cumulative reviews on multi-year accomplishments are satisfactory the appointment may be continued for another agreed-upon term, *which is eligible for further renewal.* Otherwise the appointment may be transferred to a new occupant, with the previous occupant, assuming he or she is tenured, retaining his or her normal UNM appointment.
6. The holder of an endowed chair or named professorship is responsible for fulfilling the duties set forth *by UNM and* in the donor agreement and UNM's letter of offer provided at the initiation of the appointment. This will in all cases at least include an annual report of scholarly and/or teaching activities which will be made available to the appropriate chair, dean, Provost or HSC Chancellor, the UNM Foundation, and the Regents upon request.