

EMERITUS FACULTY

A. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set forth guidelines by which a retired faculty member of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) may be conferred the honorific academic title of Emeritus Faculty.

B. Persons Affected

This policy applies to retired faculty of UTRGV.

C. Policy

Emeritus titles recognize tenured faculty members who have served UTRGV with particular distinction and honor. Designation as Professor Emeritus or Emerita is an honorary rank. An emeritus designation becomes effective upon retirement, but it is not automatic. The designation must be authorized by the President of UTRGV or his designee as informed by the advice of the faculty and the appropriate Executive Vice President (EVP).

1. *Terms of Designation:*

- a. An emeritus designation shall not be held concurrently with any other tenured or tenure-earning designation at UTRGV.
- b. An emeritus designation may be terminated at any time by The University of Texas System Board of Regents in response to a recommendation by the President of UTRGV.
- c. An emeritus designation does not entitle the designee to any compensation by UTRGV beyond the courtesy privileges described in this policy.

D. Procedures

1. *Nominations:*

- a. Nominations for emeritus status shall be initiated in the faculty member's department. An individual may be nominated by any full-time faculty member.
- b. The nomination must be accompanied by the candidate's CV along with documentation of contributions that are exceptional and meritorious.
- c. The documents shall be reviewed and recommendations made, in turn, by the department/school faculty, Chair/Director, Dean of the College, and the appropriate EVP.
- d. The President shall review the documentation and recommendations and establish a list of candidates receiving final approval for an emeritus title.

- e. Candidates who receive approval for an emeritus title from The University of Texas System Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs shall have their names presented to The UT System Board of Regents for their approval.
2. Failure of a UTRGV administrator to recommend an individual for an emeritus title is not subject to review under any of the UTRGV grievance procedures.
 3. *Privileges and Limitations:*
 - a. Emeritus faculty are accorded privileges intended to encourage and facilitate their continued participation in the academic community without compromising the professional authority or responsibility necessarily delegated to faculty and staff with active (non-honorary) appointments.
 - b. A professor emeritus shall be granted the following privileges:
 - i. have his or her name listed in the UTRGV catalog and directory;
 - ii. have the library privileges of the regular faculty members;
 - iii. be entitled to apply for a free parking decal, which indicates his or her emeritus status;
 - iv. be given an identification card which indicates the individual's status as "Emeritus";
 - v. be able to continue using his or her UTRGV email;
 - vi. be able to request a UTRGV business card which indicates the Emeritus Faculty title;
 - vii. be entitled to attend all appropriate faculty social, athletic and honorary functions; and
 - viii. receive appropriate UTRGV mailings.
 - c. A professor emeritus is entitled to full freedom in research and publication.
 - d. When a professor emeritus speaks or writes as a citizen, he or she should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but should emphasize that he or she is not a UTRGV spokesperson.
 - e. Emeritus designations do not confer full membership on UTRGV faculty. As a consequence, emeritus professors shall be precluded from participating in activities for which an active membership on the faculty is a prerequisite, including (but not limited to) serving on committees, and voting.

E. Definitions

1. *College* – An academic unit organized within the university, which is usually comprised of many departments or provides programs in multiple academic specialties/professional instruction. This academic unit may be referred to as a college or school, and is led by a dean reporting to a designated EVP.

2. Department – An academic unit organized within a college, usually devoted to a particular academic discipline. This academic unit may be referred to as a department, school, or center, and the unit’s head (usually a chair or director) reports to the dean of the college.
3. Retirement - Withdrawal from employment with UTRGV with a retirement benefit or enrollment in retiree health insurance.

F. Related Statutes or Regulations, Rules, Policies, or Standards

[University of Texas System Board of Regents’ Rules and Regulations Rule 31007, Tenure](#)

[University of Texas System Board of Regents’ Rules and Regulations Rule 31001, Faculty Appointment and Titles](#)

[University of Texas System Board of Regents’ Rules and Regulations Rule 31004, Rights and Responsibilities of Faculty Members](#)

G. Dates Reviewed or Amended

Amended on July 15, 2019