

## The University of Sydney Association of Professors

# Revised Policy on Conferring the Title of Emeritus Professor

*The present policy is as follows:*

### Coverage

The title of Emeritus Professor may be conferred on a retiring Professor of the University in recognition of sustained outstanding service to the University.

### Procedure

Following consultation with the Head of Department and Dean, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (College) prepares a recommendation which should consider and advise upon

- the Professor's distinction of service to the University by reference to intellectual and scholarly contribution and to other services
- the length of such service, in all ranks, to the University

The recommendation is sent to the Vice-Chancellor, for referral to the Senate Chair Appointments Committee for approval. The Senate Chair Appointments Committee notifies Senate of the conferral.

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*The Council of the University of Sydney Association of Professors has drafted a proposal for suggested changes and clarification of the University policy on conferring the title of Emeritus Professor.*

*The proposed changes and the reasons for recommending them are as follows:*

### Coverage

1. .... *the title is awarded in recognition of a past record of distinguished service and not with the requirement or expectation of future service to the University.*

This wording has been included to indicate that the decision to confer the title is quite independent of any future role that the retired professor may have in the University.

2. .... *the retiring Professor would, except in exceptional circumstances, have held a chair for ten years or more.*

This expresses the existing policy, which does not appear to have been defined in writing. The flexibility, however, to vary this criterion for the award still remains at the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor.

3. *Except in exceptional circumstances, the title is conferred only on Professors who are retiring from full-time employment.*

The USAP Council suggests that the prestige of the title should not be exploited for commercial ends.

## **Procedure**

1. *The recommendation of a candidate for the title can be made by any Professor...or by a Head of school or department.*

The main change recommended to existing policy is that the award of the title is defined as being analogous to the award of an honorary degree rather than being a proposed appointment to be filtered through channels of management. The professors are particularly aware of the outstanding academic service of their retiring peers. All those who currently have the privilege of being able to recommend the conferral of the title would continue to do so in this suggested policy change.

3. *The recommendation process can be initiated before the proposed date of retirement to allow the conferring of the title immediately on retirement.*

USAP suggests that there is no need for a delay in the award of the title so the process of recommendation could be completed by the time of retirement.

5. *The award of the title, and the recipient's record of distinguished academic service to the University, will be acknowledged publicly at an appropriate ceremony.*

As well as acknowledging those on whom the title is being conferred, the University could gain some benefit from publicizing the distinguished achievements of its senior academic staff. Appropriate ceremonies could be the standard conferring of degree ceremonies or perhaps a special event similar to that where long-service medals are awarded.

## **Proposed Modifications to the University Policy on conferring the title *Emeritus Professor***

### **Coverage**

1. The title of Emeritus Professor may be conferred on a retiring Professor of the University in recognition of sustained, outstanding academic service to the University. Although an Emeritus Professor may continue to serve the University after retirement, the title is awarded in recognition of a past record of distinguished service and not with the requirement or expectation of future service to the University.
2. To be considered for the award, the retiring Professor shall, except in exceptional circumstances, have held a chair for ten years or more.
3. Except in exceptional circumstances, the title is conferred only on Professors who are retiring from full-time employment.

### **Procedure**

1. The recommendation of a candidate for the title can be made by any Professor (including the Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice Chancellors, Pro-Vice Chancellors, Deans and the Chair of the Academic Board) or by a group of Professors or by a Head of school or department.
2. The recommendation shall be in writing and shall provide clear evidence of sustained distinguished academic service to the University during the time of tenure of the chair.
3. The recommendation process can be initiated before the proposed date of retirement to allow the conferring of the title immediately on retirement.
4. The recommendation is sent to the Vice Chancellor for consideration, through the recommended Professor's College Pro-Vice-Chancellor who, after appropriate consultation, may provide written comment about the recommendation. The Vice Chancellor, after consideration of the recommendation, may refer it to the Senate Chair Appointments Committee for approval. The Senate Chair Appointments Committee notifies Senate of the conferral.
5. The award of the title, and the recipient's record of distinguished academic service to the University, will be acknowledged publicly at an appropriate ceremony.

[Revised by USAP Council 2 August 2001]