Emeritus Professorships

Introduction
Most universities internationally allow some or all of their retired senior academic staff who at the date of retirement hold the rank of Professor to retain the title subsequently. The advantage of such a facility is that
(a) it allows the university to recognise and honour exceptional and sustained achievement;
(b) it maintains a reasonably formal link between the retired member of staff and the university; and
(c) it encourages the holder, within reason, to continue to undertake some academic tasks (usually research).

Criteria for award
To be awarded the title, the person to whom it is awarded must normally satisfy the following criteria:
- s/he must have been employed by DCU immediately prior to retirement;
- s/he must on the date of retirement be of the rank of professor or associate professor, and must have held that rank for at least five years before that date;
- s/he must be recognised and respected as a national and international expert in his or her field;
- s/he must have made and sustained an exceptional contribution to DCU in academic and leadership and other activities; and
- no office of a similar character is held by the nominee at another institution.

Process for determining the award
The process will usually be initiated by the Dean of the Faculty in which the person worked prior to retirement; in exceptional circumstances the President may initiate it, at the request of a member of staff other than the Dean, and after consultation with the Dean. It must normally be initiated during a period beginning one month before the date of retirement and ending six months after that date.

The process will be as follows:
- the Dean will address a short written proposal to the President, explaining how the candidate satisfies the criteria above;
- the President will discuss the proposal with the Dean. If the President and the Dean are in agreement, the Dean (or such other senior university officer as the President may suggest) will informally sound out the candidate to ascertain whether s/he would wish to accept the status of Professor (Emeritus), were it to be offered;
- the Dean will consult other senior staff in the Faculty as s/he deems appropriate;
- the President will ask a senior academic from outside the university (who must be of professorial status and must not have worked with the candidate) to submit a short written assessment of the merits of the candidate;
- on the basis of the information received, and having consulted the university’s Executive, the President will make a written recommendation to the Governing Authority;
- the Governing Authority will take a decision on the recommendation;
- if the decision is to award the title, the candidate will at this point be informed by the President.

Please note that a retired member of staff awarded the title of Professor (Emeritus) does not have employee status or any other contractual rights.

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