

 The University of British Columbia Board of Governors	Policy No.: LR6
Long Title: University Killam Professors	
Short Title: Killam Professors Policy	

Background & Purposes:

To give recognition to the most exceptional members of faculty who have distinguished themselves as scholars and have therefore received the highest acclaim from the academic community and the general public.

1. General

- 1.1 The designation “University Killam Professor” is conferred by the Board of Governors on the recommendation of the Responsible Executive to recognize exceptional members of faculty who are extraordinary teachers and researchers, who are leaders in their academic fields, and who have received national and international recognition and prestige as a result of these characteristics.
- 1.2 The designation “University Killam Professor” is the highest honour that the University can confer on a member of faculty.



PROCEDURES ASSOCIATED WITH THE KILLAM PROFESSORS POLICY

Pursuant to the Regulatory Framework Policy, the President may approve Procedures or the amendment or repeal of Procedures. Such approvals must be reported at the next meeting of the UBC Board of Governors or as soon thereafter as practicable.

Capitalized terms used in these Procedures that are not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings given to such terms in the accompanying Policy, being the Killam Professors Policy.

1. Nomination Requirements and Selection Criteria

- 1.1 A nomination should be directed to the Responsible Executive by six members of the University community which must include at least one student, one staff member, one faculty member, and one alumnus/a, indicating the extent of the nominee's acknowledgement by the University community as a person of substantial and widely recognized scholarly distinction. The nomination shall be accompanied by a letter supporting the nomination, a *curriculum vitae* as well as three arm's length, external referee letters in support of the nominee's suitability for the designation.
- 1.2 To be eligible to be nominated, a candidate must hold the rank of full professor at the University.
- 1.3 The nomination of an individual to receive the designation of "University Killam Professor" will be evaluated against criteria that demonstrate the characteristics of an exceptional professor worthy of this honour, and must demonstrate consistent excellence in teaching and research. The nomination will be evaluated against a broad set of criteria include the following:
 - 1.3.1 recognition in the academic and wider community as an extraordinary researcher whose accomplishments have made a major impact;
 - 1.3.2 recognition in the academic and wider community as an extraordinary teacher who encourages students to pursue excellence;
 - 1.3.3 demonstration of a superior record of attracting and supervising graduate students and/or postdoctoral fellows within the standards of the relevant discipline;
 - 1.3.4 demonstration of continuing commitment to student success through advising and mentoring inside and outside the classroom and/or laboratory/studio;
 - 1.3.5 achievement of national and international acclaim in the areas of teaching and/or research in the form of an award or recognition of high esteem; and

- 1.3.6 demonstration of continuing receipt of high degree of respect from students, fellow faculty members, and members of the University administration.

2. Advisory Committee

- 2.1 On receipt of a nomination of a candidate, the Responsible Executive shall seek the advice of a committee (the “Advisory Committee”) chaired by the Chancellor of the University or, if absent, the Vice President, Research and Innovation, and composed of:
 - 2.1.1 the Chancellor of the University;
 - 2.1.2 the Provost and Vice-President, Academic (UBC Vancouver);
 - 2.1.3 the Provost and Vice-President, Academic (UBC Okanagan);
 - 2.1.4 the Vice-President, Research and Innovation;
 - 2.1.5 the Chair of the Senior Appointments Committee;
 - 2.1.6 up to seven existing University Killam Professors selected by the Responsible Executive; and
 - 2.1.7 up to three additional individuals selected by the Responsible Executive as being individuals who would contribute significantly to the deliberations of the Advisory Committee, which shall include at least one undergraduate or graduate student representative.
- 2.2 All requirements regarding quorum and procedures and the manner in which meetings will be held will be determined by the chair of the Advisory Committee.
- 2.3 In determining which candidates to recommend to the Responsible Executive, the Advisory Committee will consider how the University Killam Professors reflect the balance and diversity of the University’s faculty members and their academic fields.
- 2.4 A positive recommendation made by the Advisory Committee to the Responsible Executive for the conferral of the designation of “University Killam Professor” will, on the recommendation of the Responsible Executive, be forwarded to the applicable Senate for information and to the Board of Governors for approval.

3. Number of Awards

- 3.1 The University may confer the designation of “University Killam Professor” on up to six individuals in any given academic year, at the discretion of the Board of Governors. The University reserves the right not to confer this designation every year.
- 3.2 At any given time, the number of University Killam Professors (not including University Killam Professors Emeriti) should not exceed two percent of those faculty members holding the rank of full professor at the University.

- 3.3 Upon receiving the designation, a University Killam Professor will continue to hold the designation for as long as he or she remains a tenured faculty member at the University, except in extraordinary circumstances, as determined by the Responsible Executive.

4. Roles and Responsibilities of University Killam Professors

- 4.1 University Killam Professors are expected to contribute to the overall intellectual life of the University and to serve as academic ambassadors to the University's external community. While University Killam Professors are expected to continue to fulfill their roles as professors, at the discretion of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic (UBC Vancouver) and the Provost and Vice-President, Academic (UBC Okanagan), they may be granted a temporary reduction in teaching responsibility in order to facilitate leadership activities that they undertake. At the discretion of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic (Vancouver) and the Provost and Vice-President, Academic (UBC Okanagan), the University may also provide additional resources in order to enhance the capacity of University Killam Professors to play this leadership role.
- 4.2 Within one year after receiving the designation of "University Killam Professor", each University Killam Professor shall deliver a lecture to the University community (the "University Killam Professor Lecture") on a subject of his or her choice, though preferably on a subject that transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries. The University Killam Professor Lectures will be recorded, published and made available to the University community and to the University's external community.
- 4.3 The University Killam Professors shall form a committee (the "Committee of University Killam Professors") that shall meet at least annually to consider and make recommendations to the Responsible Executive regarding matters of importance to the University including:
- 4.3.1 the role University Killam Professors should play within the scholarly fabric of the University community and in relation to the University's external community;
 - 4.3.2 the standards to be upheld by University Killam Professors; and
 - 4.3.3 other issues directed to the attention of the University Killam Professors by the Responsible Executive.

5. University Killam Professors Emeriti

- 5.1 If a faculty member is a University Killam Professor at the time he or she retires, after retirement such individual will no longer be a University Killam Professor but will be entitled to refer to himself or herself as an "University Killam Professor Emeritus/a", subject to Senate policies applicable to emeritus status.



EXPLANATORY NOTES REGARDING THE KILLAM PROFESSORS POLICY AND ASSOCIATED PROCEDURES

Issued October 2020 by the Office of the University Counsel

The OUC has prepared these Explanatory Notes to provide context and background regarding the Killam Professors Policy. These Explanatory Notes do not replace or supersede the content of the Killam Professors Policy and its Procedures.

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Policy Short Title: Killam Professors Policy

Policy Number: LR6

Responsible Executive: President

Responsible Board Committee: Learning & Research Committee

Related Policies: GA2 - Regulatory Framework Policy

History:

- The Killam Professors Policy and Procedures were first approved by the Board of Governors in March 1996;
- The Killam Professors Policy and Procedures were revised in December 2012;
- The Killam Professors Policy was updated in July 2019 to reflect a new policy identification system; it is currently identified as the Killam Professors Policy, its long title is University Killam Professors, and its number is LR6. The previous identification number for this policy was #57;
- The Procedures were updated in September 2019 to reflect current position titles;
- The Procedures were updated in October 2020 to reflect a change to section 3.1 to increase the potential recipients of the designation of “University Killam Professor” from three to six recipients in an academic year.

Related Legislation: N/A