



The University of British Columbia  
Board of Governors

**Policy No.:**

**57**

**Approval Date:**

March 1996

**Last Revision:**

December 2012  
[Anticipated]

**Responsible Executive:**

Provost and Vice President Academic  
(UBC Vancouver)  
Principal and Deputy Vice Chancellor  
(UBC Okanagan)

**Title:**

**University Killam Professors**

**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 President 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**

**Approved: March 1996**

**Revised: December 2012 [Anticipated]**

*Pursuant to Policy #1: Administration of Policies, "Procedures may be amended by the President, provided the new procedures conform to the approved policy. Such amendments are reported at the next meeting of the Board of Governors." Note: the most recent procedures may be reviewed at <http://universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/index/>.*

### **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. To be eligible to be nominated, a candidate must hold the rank of full professor at the University.
- 1.2. 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. The criteria include the following:
  - 1.2.1. demonstration of consistent excellence in teaching and conducting research;
  - 1.2.2. recognition as an outstanding and innovative researcher whose accomplishments have made a major impact in his or her research field;
  - 1.2.3. demonstration of superior record of attracting and supervising graduate students and/or postdoctoral fellows;
  - 1.2.4. demonstration of effective and innovative teaching methods;
  - 1.2.5. recognition as a strong, passionate and inspirational teacher who encourages students to pursue excellence;
  - 1.2.6. demonstration of continuing commitment to student success through advising and mentoring inside and outside the classroom and/or laboratory;
  - 1.2.7. achievement of distinction in the academic and wider community as an extraordinary teacher and/or researcher;
  - 1.2.8. 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
  - 1.2.9. 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 International, and composed of:
  - 2.1.1. the Chancellor of the University;
  - 2.1.2. the Vice President Research and International;
  - 2.1.3. the Chair of the Senior Appointments Committee;
  - 2.1.4. the Dean of the Faculty in which the nominated candidate holds his or her primary appointment;

- 2.1.5. up to seven existing University Killam Professors selected by the Responsible Executive; and
- 2.1.6. up to three additional individuals selected by the Responsible Executive as being individuals who would contribute significantly to the deliberations of the Advisory Committee.
- 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 President, 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 three 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 Emeriti University Killam Professors) should not exceed two percent of the 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.

### **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 Responsible Executive, they may be granted a temporary reduction in teaching load in order to facilitate leadership activities that they undertake. At the discretion of the Responsible Executive, 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 twice annually to consider and make recommendations to the President 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 Professors by the President.

**5. Emeriti University Killam Professors**

- 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 “Emeritus/a University Killam Professor”.
- 5.2. Emeriti University Killam Professors are entitled to participate on the Committee of University Killam Professors.