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## Policy on Professor Emeritus and Distinguished Professor Emeritus

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### **Professor Emeritus**

The Professor Emeritus designation is awarded a minimum of one year after retirement on members of faculty who have served a minimum of 20 years at Bishop's. Exceptions to the 20-year rule may be made if deemed appropriate by the Degree Committee of Convocation. The designation will be approved by the Degree Committee of Convocation a minimum of one year following retirement from Bishop's. The recipient's name will be included in the Convocation program, and the recipient will be honoured in person at an appropriate University event.

The Degree Committee may decline to approve a Professor Emeritus designation should it become known that the candidate has been:

- a. convicted of a criminal offence;
- b. sanctioned by an adjudicating body, professional association or other organization.
- c. engaged in conduct that constitutes a significant transgression of recognized standards of public behavior which is deemed to undermine the credibility, reputation and integrity of the University.

### **Distinguished Professor Emeritus**

The designation Distinguished Professor Emeritus will be awarded by the Degree Committee of Convocation on a nomination basis to retired professors who have served a minimum of 20 years at Bishop's, and who have demonstrated an outstanding contribution to either teaching or research, or who have combined a distinguished academic career with an outstanding contribution to academic administration/service. The decision of the Degree Committee of Convocation will be forwarded to Senate, which may or may not approve the decision. The designation of Distinguished Professor Emeritus will be awarded to no more than one person per year, and the designation will be conferred at Convocation or at another appropriate University event.

## Procedure for Revoking Professor Emeritus and Distinguished Professor Emeritus designations

The purpose of this guideline is to establish the circumstances under which the withdrawal of Professor Emeritus and Distinguished Professor Emeritus designations bestowed by Bishop's University would be considered and the procedure for doing so.

### 1. Criteria

The Degree Committee may recommend revoking Professor Emeritus and Distinguished Professor Emeritus designations should it become known that the recipient has been:

- a. convicted of a criminal offence;
- b. sanctioned by an adjudicating body, professional association or other organization.
- c. engaged in conduct that constitutes a significant transgression of recognized standards of public behavior which is deemed to undermine the credibility, reputation and integrity of the University.

The Degree Committee may also recommend revoking these designations should it determine that a primary reason for which the award was conferred was fraudulent or invalid (e.g. if the recipient's work was plagiarized.)

The Professor Emeritus or Distinguished Professor Emeritus designations will not generally be revoked posthumously.

### 2. Procedure

The procedure is as follows:

#### a. Request to withdraw

A community member can submit a request for withdrawal of Professor Emeritus and Distinguished Professor Emeritus designations to the Secretary General by providing evidence and setting out substantial grounds for the request. The Secretary General will submit all reasonable<sup>1</sup> requests to the Degree Committee for its consideration.

#### b. Notice to the Professor Emeritus or Distinguished Professor Emeritus

The Secretary General, on behalf of the Chancellor, will send a written notice advising the Professor Emeritus or Distinguished Professor Emeritus that the designation bestowed is under

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<sup>1</sup> The facts alleged in the request, if assumed to be true, would make out a prima facie case for withdrawal of the designation.

review and informing the recipient of the allegations of fact set out in the request to revoke. The notice will inform the Professor Emeritus or Distinguished Professor Emeritus that they may make written representations respecting the matter under review.

c. Review by the Degree Committee

The Secretary General will send the relevant documentation, including any written representations submitted by the Professor Emeritus or Distinguished Professor Emeritus to the Degree Committee.

The Degree Committee will review the request and may seek advice as necessary from legal counsel or other members of the Community. Should the Degree Committee reach a preliminary conclusion that a Professor Emeritus or Distinguished Professor Emeritus designation should be revoked, it will consult with Senate prior to making a final recommendation to the Board of Governors that a designation be revoked.

The standard that must be met before making a recommendation to revoke a Professor Emeritus or Distinguished Professor Emeritus designation is high. Consequently, the recommendation shall be based on clear, compelling and uncontroverted facts and evidence. The recommendation shall be guided by the principle of fairness and shall be made after the Degree Committee has ascertained the relevant facts related to the case under review.

Deliberations of the Degree Committee and consultation with Senate will be conducted in camera.

d. Decision by the Board of Governors

The Board of Governors, after receiving the Degree Committee's recommendations and after consulting with Senate, has the authority to decide by majority vote whether a Professor Emeritus or Distinguished Professor Emeritus designation should be rescinded.

The Professor Emeritus or Distinguished Professor Emeritus has no right to a hearing and the University is not obliged to provide reasons for its decision.

e. Communication

The Chancellor shall inform the recipient of the withdrawal of the designation.

A Professor Emeritus or Distinguished Professor Emeritus whose designation is revoked must cease to use this designation.