

## **Bylaws**

### **Academy of Distinguished Researchers (ADR) The University of Texas at San Antonio**

#### **Article I. Name**


The name of this organization shall be the Academy of Distinguished Researchers (ADR).

#### **Article II. Purpose and Objectives**

- A. Mission: To foster and promote excellence in research, discovery and training at UTSA.
- B. Vision: To advance and sustain UTSA as a premier research university.
- C. Values: Research excellence, integrity, diversity, collaboration, creativity, ingenuity.

#### **Article III. Membership**

- A. Membership in the ADR
  - a. Members of the ADR shall be elected by a vote of at least two-thirds of the active ADR membership in attendance during an annual ADR meeting called to review nominations. No proxy votes will be permitted and voting for all nominations will occur at the end of the ADR meeting, such that only those ADR members who are present for the entire meeting will be allowed to vote on induction of new members. Members are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting in person, but if absolutely necessary may attend virtually.
  - b. Candidates for membership shall be nominated by the Dean of the College in which the candidate holds a primary faculty appointment or by the Vice President for Research (VPR). Please note that -
    - i. Administrators at the Dean or higher levels are ineligible for nomination.
    - ii. Nominees should hold the rank of full professor and recognized senior standing in the relevant field of research.
    - iii. Deans may nominate up to two candidates for ADR membership from their respective college or school each year.
    - iv. Nomination packages submitted by the Dean should include:
      - 1. A letter of nomination from the relevant Dean.
      - 2. A current curriculum vitae of the nominee.
      - 3. A 3-page focused CV which includes up to five major research accomplishments of the nominee, especially recent publications or other scholarly achievements.
      - 4. Three letters of support from senior, doctoral-level colleagues from outside of UTSA commenting on the nominee's standing and reputation in the relevant field of research.

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- The seal of the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) is centered in the background. It features a shield with a blue field containing a white star and a red field containing a white star. The shield is flanked by two olive branches and a banner at the bottom with the text "UTSA".
- 5. Two letters of support from faculty members within the nominee's college at UTSA commenting on the nominee's collective body of research, its impact on their profession, and its impact on the UTSA research enterprise.
  - c. Election to membership shall be based on voting by existing ADR members present at the annual ADR meeting (see above) in consideration of the following criteria among others:
    - i. Achievement of the rank of full professor and recognized senior standing in the relevant field of research.
    - ii. Publication record in peer-reviewed high quality and leading scientific journals
    - iii. Citation counts in high quality and leading academic journals
    - iv. Recognized works, performances, exhibitions, presentations
    - v. Sustained research support
    - vi. Inventions and/or patents
    - vii. Path-breaking academic research books and monographs
    - viii. Other recognition(s) of research excellence
  - d. Independent oversight of deliberations by the ADR membership leading to selection of new members will be provided by individuals drawn from the roster of UTSA Vice Presidents.
  - e. New members shall be inducted once per year – normally in the fall.
  - f. New members shall be honored by receipt of a plaque to be bestowed at the annual ADR membership induction luncheon along with a one time cash prize of \$2,000.
  - g. ADR membership shall not exceed 2% of the overall faculty.
  - h. Active membership shall continue for the duration of a member's active faculty appointment at UTSA unless otherwise modified by a vote of at least two-thirds of the active ADR membership.
  - i. Upon cessation of an active faculty appointment at UTSA, an active ADR member will be transitioned to emeritus status in the ADR upon transition to emeritus status within their home department and/or college.
  - j. Members may resign by submitting a letter of resignation to the VPR.
  - k. A delegate of the VPR shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the ADR.
- B. Responsibilities of membership
- a. To provide institutional leadership and guidance toward excellence in research at UTSA.
  - b. To provide mentorship in research to junior or new faculty.
  - c. To promote institutional activities, initiatives or resources that:
    - i. Enhance research capabilities or infrastructure at UTSA.
    - ii. Advance training of future researchers at UTSA.
    - iii. Elevate faculty, student or public interest in research activities at UTSA.

- d. To advise and assist the University administration in matters that impact research potential, capabilities or training.
- e. To attend ADR meetings and participate in ADR initiatives and activities including election of new members to the ADR.

C. Categories of membership

- a. Active
- b. Emeritus

**Article IV. Governance of the ADR**

A. The ADR shall have a Chair

- a. The Chair shall be elected by a vote of at least two-thirds of the active ADR membership.
- b. The term of the Chair position shall be three years with the potential for re-election for another term.
- c. The Chair shall call and preside over meetings of the entire ADR or the Executive Committee.
- d. The Chair shall be responsible for establishing ad hoc committees or task forces as needed.
- e. The Chair may appoint an assistant Chair to fill in during any absence of the Chair or to assist the Chair as needed.
- f. The Chair may resign prior to the end of the elected term by submitting a letter of resignation to the VPR.
- g. In the event of a vacancy in the position of the Chair, a new Chair shall be elected by a vote of at least two-thirds of the active ADR membership as soon as possible.

B. The ADR shall have an Executive Committee made up of the ADR Chair and three other active members of the ADR.

- a. Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected to membership on the Executive Committee by a vote of at least two-thirds of the active ADR membership.
- b. The term of membership on the Executive Committee shall be one year with the potential for re-election for one or more additional terms.
- c. The Executive Committee will assist the Chair with initial vetting of any matters arising or with representation of the ADR to the Administration.

**Article V. Meetings of the ADR**

- A. The full active membership of the ADR shall meet at least once per year to review nominations and elect new active ADR members – normally in the spring.
- B. The Chair may call additional meetings of the full active membership as needed.
- C. The Chair may also call meetings of the Executive Committee as needed.

- D. Active ADR members are expected to participate in all ADR meetings to the greatest extent possible.

#### **Article VI. Validation of the bylaws**

The initial bylaws shall become effective upon approval by a vote of at least two-thirds of the active ADR membership.

#### **Article VII. Amendments**

These bylaws may be amended by a vote of at least two-thirds of the active ADR membership.

#### **Article VIII. Exemptions**

Requests for exemptions from or exceptions to any of the policies or procedures described above will be reviewed by the ADR Executive Committee and considered on a case-by-case basis.

