



Georgia Institute of Technology

Date: January 13, 2023

To: Deans and GTRI Director

From: Steven McLaughlin, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Chaouki Abdallah, Executive Vice President for Research *Chaouki Abdallah*

Re: Regents' Professor, Regents' Researcher, and Regents' Entrepreneur Selection and Renewal Processes and Regents' Innovator Leave of Absence Process

The purpose of this memorandum is to incorporate the selection of Regents' Entrepreneurs into the process of selecting Regents' Professors and Researchers. This memorandum also introduces the process and criteria to apply for a Regents' Innovator Leave of Absence.

Basics of the BOR Policy

The BOR policies require a recommendation to the Chancellor and BOR Committee on Academic Affairs for approval of new Regents' Professors, Regents' Researchers, and Regents' Entrepreneurs. This recommendation should be unanimous and come from the President, the chief academic officer, the appropriate academic dean, and three other members of the faculty to be named by the President.

The BOR policies also state guidelines for the renewal of Regents' Professor and Regents' Researcher appointments every three years. For renewal, the President and chief academic officer make a recommendation to the Chancellor and BOR Committee for Academic Affairs. After six years, Regents' Professor and Researcher titles are renewed at the discretion of the President. BOR policy does not specify an appointment length or renewal process for the Regents' Entrepreneur designation.

Given the leadership structure at Georgia Tech, the Executive Vice President for Research, as the chief research officer, shall be included in parallel with the Provost (as a chief academic officer) in the process. In the recommended process outlined below, that addition is included.

Recommended Revisions to the Selection and Renewal Processes

Nomination Process

Each year, the academic deans will be invited to nominate up to two academic faculty members to be considered for selection as a Regents' Professor, up to two full-time tenured faculty members to be considered for selection as a Regents' Entrepreneur, and up to one research faculty member for Regents' Researcher. Due to the size of the college, the Dean for the College of Engineering will be invited to

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nominate up to three academic faculty members to be considered for selection as a Regents' Professor. The Senior Vice President and director of GTRI may nominate up to three research faculty members for consideration as Regents' Researcher and up to two full-time tenured faculty members for consideration as Regents' Entrepreneur. The Executive Vice President for Research (EVPR) shall appoint a designee among the EVPR senior leadership to coordinate and facilitate the nomination of up to two research faculty members for consideration as Regents' Researcher and up to two full-time tenured faculty members for consideration as Regents' Entrepreneur; these nominees must work in units under the EVPR Office but not in GTRI.

The nomination package for Regents' Professor or Regents' Researcher should include:

- A nomination letter from the candidate's direct supervisor (dean, school chair, or lab director, as applicable);
- A one-paragraph biographical sketch; and
- A current CV.

The nomination package for Regents' Entrepreneur should include:

- A nomination letter from the College Dean (or appropriate higher-level supervisor) expressing a strong endorsement of the candidate for nomination;
- A summary of accomplishments, describing in no more than three pages how the candidate satisfies the different criteria the Regents' Selection Committee will consider in its evaluation;
- A one-paragraph biographical sketch; and
- A current CV, with specific emphasis on accomplished and anticipated commercialization and entrepreneurial activities.

The nomination package must be submitted to the Office of Faculty Affairs by March 1 of each year.

Specific Criteria for Regents' Entrepreneur

- Full-time, tenured faculty who are not currently on leave through the Regents' Innovator program.
- Strong support from the College Dean (or appropriate higher-level supervisor), conveyed through the nomination letter.
- One or more commercializations of GT-owned IP into companies.
- Preference for entrepreneurship and commercialization service with GT and within the local and state ecosystems (mentorship activities, teaching, etc.).
- Preference for strong evidence of working with the local entrepreneurship ecosystem. Examples of this include (but are not limited to) prior engagement with the GT ecosystem for commercialization assistance and working with units such as VentureLab, CREATE-X, ATDC, etc.
- Preference for resulting companies that have had measurable success. Examples of success measures include (but are not limited to) funding raised, numbers of jobs created, and strong broader impacts on the human condition.
- Preference for resulting companies that have raised funding, created jobs, and delivered impacts within the state of Georgia at some point during the lifespan of the company.

Regents' Selection Committee

Each year, the President will appoint three faculty members to a Regents' Selection Committee. This committee reviews the nominations and recommends up to four names for each honor (Regents' Researcher, Regents' Professor, and Regents' Entrepreneur) to the Provost, EVPR, and President for their consideration. These names should be unranked and include a brief case statement (100 words or less) for the recommendation of the individual.

The membership of this committee will be comprised of three senior research or academic faculty members and will be distributed across the institution in an annual rotation (see rotation schedule below). Each year, the applicable Deans or GTRI Director will be asked to suggest a few names from within their college/unit to serve as members, and the President will appoint three members from these suggestions. As senior and accomplished scholars, members should typically have been recognized in some formal manner by the Institute or their peers for their teaching and/or research contributions (as a Regents' Professor, Regents' Researcher, Regents' Entrepreneur, endowed chair holder, national academies member, teaching or research award winner, etc.).

For evaluation of Regents' Entrepreneur nominations, the Regents' Selection Committee will be supplemented by two faculty members who represent the Georgia Tech entrepreneurship and commercialization ecosystem. The two additional faculty members will comprise one faculty member with entrepreneurship experience appointed by the EVPR's Office and one College Dean chosen on an annual rotation basis.

Annual Rotation of Membership of the Regents' Selection Committee

Year	Member 1	Member 2	Member 3	Regents' Entrepreneur Process	
				EVPR	Dean
2023	Computing	Design	Engineering	EVPR	Computing
2024	GTRI	Ivan Allen	Scheller	EVPR	Engineering
2025	Sciences	EVPR (not GTRI)	Computing	EVPR	Design
2026	Design	Engineering	GTRI	EVPR	Ivan Allen
2027	Ivan Allen	Scheller	Sciences	EVPR	Scheller
2028	EVPR (not GTRI)	Computing	Design	EVPR	Sciences
2029	Engineering	GTRI	Ivan Allen	EVPR	Computing
2030	Scheller	Sciences	EVPR (not GTRI)	EVPR	Engineering

Selection

The Provost, EVPR, and President will review the nominations and select up to four (one, two, three, four, or none) for each Regents' Professor/Researcher/Entrepreneur designation for submission to the Chancellor and BOR Committee on Academic Affairs for approval. The selection will be completed by early April and submitted to the Chancellor's office in time for the May Board of Regents meeting.

Renewal Process for Regents' Professor or Researcher

During the third year that an individual is appointed as a Regents' Professor or Regents' Researcher, the school, lab, or college may submit a memo requesting reappointment that accompanies an up-to-date curriculum vitae for the individual.

After two three-year terms (six years), the President may renew the appointment at his or her discretion. During the sixth year of reappointment, the school, college, or lab may submit a memo requesting continuous appointment, including a current curriculum vitae. The President may request additional documentation from the home department/unit or faculty member, if needed to make a decision.

These reappointment requests will be submitted to the Office of Faculty Affairs by the home college at the same time new nominations are submitted. The Regents' Selection Committee (as described above) will consider these renewal requests and make a positive or negative recommendation to the Provost, EVPR, and President, who will then determine whether to request reappointment to the Board of Regents for approval by the Chancellor and BOR Committee on Academic Affairs in the case of the second three-year term appointment. After a Regents' Professor/Regents' Researcher completes their sixth year, the President, EVPR, and Provost will determine whether to grant continuous reappointment as a Regents' Professor or Regents' Researcher to the faculty member.

Should the school, college, or lab determine that reappointment is not desired, they should notify the Office of Faculty Affairs of the decision not to recommend reappointment.

Regents' Entrepreneur Emeritus/Emerita

A retired faculty member who, at the time of retirement, has had ten or more years of honorable and distinguished USG service and has previously held the Regents' Entrepreneur designation, may be conferred with the title of Regents' Entrepreneur Emeritus or Regents' Entrepreneur Emerita by the BOR on the recommendation of the Chancellor. Nominations for Regents' Entrepreneur Emeritus/Emerita should be emailed to the Office of Faculty Affairs by March 1 of the calendar year. The nomination package requirements follow those for the nomination to Regents' Entrepreneur.

Regents' Innovator Leave of Absence

The title of Regents' Innovator may be granted by the BOR to outstanding full-time tenured faculty to allow time away from their full-time faculty duties to focus on beginning or growing companies that commercialize a faculty member's research. The Regents' Innovator title shall be awarded by the BOR only upon the unanimous recommendation of the President, Provost, EVPR, and Chancellor, upon the approval of the BOR Committee on Academic Affairs.

A Regents' Innovator title shall be granted by the BOR for an initial period of three years. Consideration of the renewal of the title for a second three-year period shall be given by the BOR upon recommendation of the President, Chancellor, and the BOR Committee on Academic Affairs.

Faculty members with the title of Regents' Innovator are eligible for an unpaid leave of absence, or partial or joint appointment with their current and other institutions. A

condition of the unpaid leave of absence includes the execution of an agreement between the faculty member and the Institute, signed by both the faculty member and the President.

Additional Considerations:

- Faculty may hold a partial appointment, with approval from the School Chair (or appropriate supervisor) and Dean, if they will continue to supervise students or continue serving as PI on sponsored projects based on the results of eCOI.
- On their return from the leave of absence, a compensation review will be conducted by the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty to assess the faculty member's salary against market equity data. Upon return, the faculty member may also be eligible to receive the standard promotion raise in accordance with Institute and USG policy.
- The Office of Commercialization will work with the faculty members receiving the designation on navigating the conflict of interest process, getting access to Georgia Tech lab facilities under appropriate cost-center agreements, and receiving licenses to appropriate Georgia Tech intellectual property.

Criteria for Regents' Innovator Leave:

- Full-time, tenured faculty only.
- Strong endorsement from the School Chair (or appropriate supervisor) and Dean. (School Chairs may engage a faculty committee, such as the School RPT Committee, to evaluate applications, if desired.)
- Startup is based on research that must have yielded IP that is GT owned, without IP rights commitments to any industry or other non-federal funding sponsors.
- Evidence of strong effort toward the development of the startup. Examples of such evidence include (but are not restricted to) at least three months prior engagement with staff of GT commercialization units such as VentureLab, Biolocity, ATDC, etc., on the development of their startup.
- Evidence of market research and relevance, and startup viability. Examples of such evidence include (but are not restricted to) prior participation in faculty workshops focused on entrepreneurship run by GT personnel or in cohorts of relevant NSF/NIH/DOD/DOE ICorps programs.
- Preference for candidates who have raised some initial funding from the Georgia Research Alliance.
- Preference for candidates who have secured Series A or later venture funding.

Application Process:

To apply for a Regents' Innovator leave, a faculty member should submit the materials listed below at least four months in advance of the leave start date. The materials listed below must be submitted to the Office of Faculty Affairs via GT-TRACS, tagging OSP in a note for review and selecting Orgs 609 and 600 as approvers. Submitted materials will also be shared with a designee of the EVPR for evaluation.

- Updated Curriculum Vitae, with specific emphasis on accomplished and anticipated commercialization and entrepreneurial activities.

- Summary of accomplishments, describing in no more than three pages how the candidate satisfies the specific criteria for the Regents' Innovator leave, listed above.
- Letters of support from School Chair (or appropriate supervisor) and Dean expressing a strong endorsement of the candidate for the nomination. (School Chairs may engage a faculty committee, such as the School RPT Committee, to evaluate applications, if desired.)
- Current biographical sketch.
- Leave of Absence form.

Once the materials have been received and have undergone review, Faculty Affairs will notify the School and College of the request status. Please note that Regents' Innovator leave is contingent upon the Chancellor, BOR Committee on Academic Affairs, and BOR's approval, and as such, requests should be submitted at least four months prior to the intended start date. Furthermore, BOR policy requires the execution of an agreement between the faculty member and Georgia Tech, signed by both the faculty member and President. This agreement will be executed after approval of the Regents' Innovator leave.

8.3.2 Regents' Professorships

Regents' Professorships may be granted by the Board of Regents to outstanding faculty members of Augusta University, the Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, the University of Georgia, and, in special circumstances, other University System of Georgia (USG) institutions. A Regents' Professorship shall be awarded by the Board only upon the unanimous recommendation of the USG institution President, chief academic officer, appropriate academic dean, and three other members of the faculty named by the President, and upon the approval of the Chancellor and the Committee on Academic Affairs.

A Regents' Professorship shall be granted by the Board for a period of three years. Consideration of the renewal of the professorship for a second three-year period shall be given by the Board upon recommendation of the President of the USG institution, the Chancellor, and the Committee on Academic Affairs. After a period of six years, the Regents' Professorship shall be renewed at the discretion of the President of the USG institution.

8.3.2.1 Regents' Researchers

Regents' Researcher titles may be granted by the Board of Regents to outstanding full-time principal researchers of Augusta University, the Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, the University of Georgia, and, in special circumstances, other USG institutions. The Regents' Researcher title shall be awarded by the Board only upon the unanimous recommendation of the USG institution President, chief academic officer, and three members of the faculty named by the President and upon the approval of the Chancellor and the Committee on Academic Affairs.

A Regents' Researcher title shall be granted by the Board for a period of three years. Consideration of the renewal of the title for a second three-year period shall be given by the Board upon recommendation of the President of the USG institution, the Chancellor, and the Committee on Academic Affairs. After a period of six years, the Regents'

Researcher title shall be renewed at the discretion of the President of the USG institution.

8.3.2.2 Regents' Innovator Leave of Absence and Regents' Entrepreneur Designation

Regents' Innovators Leave of Absence

The title of Regents' Innovator may be granted by the Board of Regents to outstanding full-time tenured faculty of Augusta University, the Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, the University of Georgia, and, in special circumstances, other USG institutions, to allow time away from their full-time faculty duties to focus on beginning or growing companies that commercialize a faculty member's research, consistent with Board of Regents' policies, including but not limited to institutional policies and practices for intellectual property. The Regents' Innovator title shall be awarded by the Board only upon the unanimous recommendation of the USG institution President, chief academic officer, and the Chancellor and upon the approval of the Committee on Academic Affairs.

A Regents' Innovator title shall be granted by the Board for an initial period of three years. Consideration of the renewal of the title for a second three-year period shall be given by the Board upon recommendation of the President of the USG institution, the Chancellor, and the Committee on Academic Affairs.

Faculty members with the title of Regents' Innovator are eligible for an unpaid leave of absence (or partial or joint appointment with their current and other institutions). The USG chief academic officer will promulgate guidelines regarding Regents' Innovator leave that will address, among other requirements, the use of institutional resources, potential and actual conflicts of interest, and the application of intellectual property policy requirements. A condition of the unpaid leave of absence includes the execution of an agreement between the faculty member and the USG institution, signed by both the faculty member and the institutional president.

Regents' Entrepreneur Designation

The Regents' Entrepreneur designation may be granted by the Board of Regents to an outstanding full-time tenured faculty member who has an established reputation as a successful innovator and who has taken their research into a commercial setting. The Regents' Entrepreneur designation shall be bestowed by the Board only upon the unanimous recommendation of the USG institution President, chief academic officer, and Chancellor and upon the approval of the Committee on Academic Affairs.

A retired faculty member who, at the time of retirement, has had ten or more years of honorable and distinguished USG service, and has previously held the Regents' Entrepreneur designation, may be conferred with the title of Regents' Entrepreneur Emeritus or Regents' Entrepreneur Emerita by the Board of Regents on the recommendation of the Chancellor.