WHEREAS, the Distinguished Scholar is an honorific title created to recognize persons who have made a significant impact upon their field through scholarship, creativity and leadership; and

WHEREAS, this program shall facilitate the recognition of the most distinguished scholars on the campus;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Campus Senate of the University of Illinois at Springfield approves the attached Distinguished Scholar Policy.

Criteria for Appointment

Criteria for appointment as a Distinguished Scholar are discipline-specific. Standards of excellence are not the same for a physical scientist, a creative artist, or a social scientist, for example. The criteria used for nomination and appointment within a particular academic field must be ones that recognize only the highest level of attainment in the field. The specification of such criteria and verification that the candidate's work meets or exceeds them, is a major responsibility of the person(s) nominating an individual for consideration as Distinguished Scholar.

The criteria should reflect recognition of (1) outstanding scholarly/creative contributions; (2) widely regarded leadership status within the nominee's field; and (3) recognition by arbiters of the highest level of intellectual eminence, for example, the National Academy of Science or American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The application supporting the nomination must contain at a minimum the following documentation for consideration of this honor:

- Letter of support from Department/Program Chair/Convenor to the Dean
- Letter of support from Dean to the Provost
- Current Curriculum vita
- Letters of support from leaders in the field explaining and documenting the impact of the nominee's work (minimum of three letters - nationally and internationally)

Procedures for Appointment

The route for appointment of a Distinguished Scholar is as follows:

A nomination for appointment of a Distinguished Scholar at UIS must originate from an academic unit at UIS. The nomination will be considered first in the department or program of UIS where
the faculty member holds tenure. The department or program forwards a recommendation to the Dean of the college in which the department or program is situated. The Dean, with the approval of the college executive committee or appropriate college committee, moves the nomination forward. The Sabbatical and Awards Committee will review all nominations. The reviewers will be given considerable time in order to solicit additional letters from nominee's colleagues and scholars in their area of expertise. Recommendations will be forwarded for approval to the UIS Provost and then to the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

**Term of Appointment**

The appointment of a UIS Distinguished Scholar will become effective at the beginning of the next academic year following final VPAA approval. The appointment is for the duration of their full-time tenure at UIS.