Frequently Asked Questions: Southeastern Conference Faculty Achievement Awards and Southeastern Conference Professor of the Year Award

1. What are the Southeastern Conference (SEC) Faculty Achievement Awards and the Southeastern Conference (SEC) Professor of the Year Award?

The SEC Faculty Achievement Awards honor professors with outstanding records in teaching and scholarship who serve as role models for other faculty and students. Each university selects its SEC Faculty Achievement Award winner and then those winners become the university’s nominee for the SEC Professor of the Year Award.

2. Why did the Southeastern Conference Establish a Faculty Recognition Program?

The Southeastern Conference Presidents and Chancellors believed it was important to honor and celebrate, at the Conference level, university faculty and their achievements and contributions in scholarship and research. The SEC Faculty Achievement and SEC Professor of the Year Awards have been created for that purpose. They were first presented in 2012.

3. How is an Individual Nominated for an SEC Faculty Achievement Award?

Each university is responsible for implementing a competitive process whereby a faculty member with a distinguished record can be selected to receive an SEC Faculty Achievement Award. The Provost on each campus is responsible for managing this university process and ensuring winners meet the established award criteria.

4. What are the Selection Criteria for the SEC Faculty Achievement Awards?

Generally, to be eligible for an SEC Faculty Achievement Award, a faculty member must be a teacher or scholar at an SEC university; have achieved the rank of full professor at an SEC university; have a record of extraordinary teaching; and have a record of scholarship that is recognized nationally and/or internationally. (A university may have additional selection criteria.)

5. Do Students have any Input in SEC Faculty Achievement Award Selections?

Currently, students are not directly involved in the selection process.

6. What is the University’s Responsibility in the Selection Process?

Each SEC university is responsible for evaluating and selecting its own SEC Faculty Achievement Award winner, who automatically becomes the university’s nominee for the SEC Professor of the Year Award. The university winners are evaluated by the SEC Provosts, who as a group select the SEC Professor of the Year.

7. When will the Winner of the SEC Professor of the Year Award be Announced?

The SEC Professor of the Year will be announced in April or May by the Southeastern Conference and will be recognized at the SEC’s annual awards dinner in Destin, Florida, and the SEC Symposium in Atlanta, Georgia.
8. What do Individuals Receive as SEC Faculty Achievement Award Winners?

SEC Faculty Achievement Award winners will receive a $5,000 honorarium and become their university’s nominee for the SEC Professor of the Year Award.

The SEC Professor of the Year receives an additional $15,000 honorarium and will be recognized at the SEC awards dinner and SEC Symposium.

9. Do other Collegiate Sports Conferences Have Faculty Recognition Programs?

The SEC is believed to be the first National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I conference to honor faculty for their achievements in research and scholarship, completely unrelated to athletics or student-athletes.

10. Who Should I Contact for More Information?

For additional information regarding the Southeastern Conference Faculty Achievement Awards, the Southeastern Conference Professor of the Year Award or other SECU academic initiatives, please contact Torie Johnson at tjohnson@sec.org.