

Richard H. Bucher Adjunct Faculty Award

Policy # - VI-2.5

Approved by University Faculty Senate 1/18/17; by Provost 1/8/17; by President March 2017

Periodic Review Date: 2020 and at least every three years thereafter

Responsible Administrator: Provost

Area: Office of the Provost

Policy Contact: Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, Office of the Provost, x4032

Reviewed by Associate Provost Spring 2024

1. Introduction and Purpose

The Richard H. Bucher Adjunct Faculty Award annually recognizes an adjunct faculty member whose teaching and service to UB and its community demonstrate a core commitment to students, to love of learning, and to advocacy on behalf of adjunct faculty. The award honors the holistic contributions that adjunct faculty members make to teaching, to UB, and to the wider community they serve and that UB serves.

The award is named in honor of Dr. Richard Henry Bucher, Lieutenant Colonel, USAF (retired), who long taught as an adjunct faculty member in the College of Public Affairs and who was the first UB adjunct faculty member to serve on the University Faculty Senate, where he was secretary. Dr. Richard Bucher, or “Dick” as his colleagues knew him, had a distinguished career in the Air Force and then as a senior executive in substance abuse prevention and employee assistance. For decades, he taught political science and public administration, including many years at UB, where he worked to make UB a more equitable and integrated community of teaching and learning in which the contributions of adjunct faculty members to the education of students are recognized and valued.

The four main academic units of UB have awards that recognize outstanding teaching by an adjunct faculty member within that academic unit, but this award is intended to be broader in scope.

2. Policy

Each year a nomination and award process will be followed to identify a recipient of the Richard H. Bucher Adjunct Faculty Award whose accomplishments are consistent with the purpose of the award and the criteria set forth here.

3. Definitions

“Cash award” is that part of the Richard H. Bucher Adjunct Faculty Award paid by UB to the annual winner following the criteria identified below. The amount will be determined by the president.

“Eligible adjunct faculty member” is a person who has been employed by UB as either an Adjunct I or Adjunct II faculty member for at least one term during the two-year period immediately preceding the nomination deadline and who has taught at UB for a total of at least four terms. People who have been released from employment for cause, who have a code of conduct or

disciplinary judgment against them at any time, or who have been convicted of a crime in that two-year period are ineligible. The nominee must be eligible to serve again as an adjunct.

4. Criteria

Eligible adjunct faculty members may be nominated for the award based on demonstrating a significant contribution to some combination of the following at UB and the region, but must in any case demonstrate excellence as an adjunct faculty member at UB:

- a. Teaching – effective teaching at UB as assessed through student evaluations, student nominations, peer evaluations, supervisor evaluations, instructional innovation noted etc.
- b. Community Service – as evidenced by accomplishments as a UB volunteer or in service work supported by UB or contributing to the City of Baltimore and/or surrounding area in ways consistent with UB’s strategic plan and/or mission and vision
- c. Sector of Full-Time Work – demonstrated accomplishment in public or private employment that serves the region
- d. Service to the profession/scholarship – as evidenced by exceptional scholarship, service on national associations of academic specialists, or other non-instructional activities related to the adjunct faculty member’s area of academic expertise

5. Nomination and Selection Process

- a. Early in the spring semester, the Office of the Provost will contact the deans of the schools and of the library to provide them with criteria for the Richard H. Bucher Faculty Award.
- b. Deans will be requested to nominate one candidate and will use information from supervisor evaluations, students, full-time faculty members, input from the Adjunct Advisory Council, and other relevant sources to assist in identifying candidates.
- c. Each dean will forward the name of a candidate and a summary of the candidate’s qualifications to the Office of the Provost and the chair of the Faculty Work-Life Committee by March 15. Candidates who are ineligible based on the criteria set forth in this policy will be pulled out of the pool.
- d. The Family Work-Life Committee, or such group of individuals appointed by the University Faculty Senate president and the provost, will consider the nominations and supporting materials during the spring semester and forward their choice to the University Faculty Senate president so the Senate may consider the nominated candidate for the award at the May Senate meeting.
- e. The University Faculty Senate will consider the nomination and confirm the candidate at its May meeting.
- f. The president of the University Faculty Senate will forward the name to the Provost and President.

6. Announcement of Award

The winner of the Richard H. Bucher Faculty Award shall be announced by October 1. At the president's discretion, the award may be announced at Convocation.

7. Award

The Office of the Provost shall arrange for the cash award to be paid in the fall to the winner of the Richard H. Bucher Adjunct Faculty Award.

8. Effective Date: March 1, 2017