From the Purdue University Handbook:

<table>
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<th>Definitions</th>
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<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
<td>A special recognition bestowed on a select few professors of outstanding accomplishment who have achieved national and international prominence. Conferring the title of distinguished professor requires a rigorous academic review and appointment by the Board of Trustees.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Named Professor</td>
<td>A title that recognizes a professorship supported by external funding as outlined in the University’s Guidelines for Naming Opportunities and Endowed Funds for the West Lafayette Campus (IX.4.1) or an equivalent funding plan. A named professorship is not an academic designation, although holders would normally be individuals of high accomplishment. Faculty of the rank of assistant, associate, or full professor can hold a named professorship.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Named University Professor</td>
<td>The transitional title for faculty who received named professor appointments under the prior University policy that bestowed this title as an academic recognition similar to distinguished professorships.</td>
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COE and PU Levels of Policy:

Guidelines

- A named professorship is not an academic designation. While it is expected that holders of named professorships would be individuals of high accomplishment, it should be possible to hold a named position as an associate professor, perhaps even as an assistant professor.
- The primary purpose in naming is to attract and retain top quality faculty. A named professorship is not a prerequisite for becoming a distinguished professor.
- A position can be named only when there is a source of funds sufficient to name the position in accordance with the University policy on naming opportunities.
- An allocation of discretionary funds will be provided with a named professorship in accordance with University policy. The commitment of a discretionary allocation should continue as long as the named professor’s academic productivity and scholarly performance merit such funding. The dean and department head are responsible for appropriate, periodic reviews.
- The salary of a named professor can be supplemented from the discretionary allocation in accordance with University policy. The supplement is determined annually and can be up to the equivalent of one month’s salary.
• The term for a named professorship should be specified in writing to the candidate with copies to the department, dean, and provost.

Process
• The process for designating a named professorship should be a school or college-level process. It should not require an extraordinary academic review and, if the named position is being used in recruiting, should be an expeditious process.
• The document package sent to the provost should contain a memo from the dean or chancellor outlining the review team’s recommendation, a two to three-page condensed curriculum vitae, as well as a full vitae, and letters of support. This completes the process for named assistant or associate professors. For all individuals named at the professor rank, the provost reviews the materials and, if appropriate, recommends approval to the president. If the president approves, the signed document is streamlined and sent to the Board of Trustees for their approval.

COE Specific Policy
• Nominees for named professors come to the leadership team from the Dean. The Dean may acquire such nominees in a number of ways, including polling Departmental Heads, faculty, development officers, or other formal or informal processes.
• The leadership team discusses and approves consideration of the nominees.
• The Dean or his/her designee calls a Named Professor Committee meeting to consider the nominees. The Committee composition is determined by the Dean or his/her designee and depends, to some extent, on the nominee’s area of appointment and the number of nominees being considered. The Committee will include at least the following members: an Associate Dean (ex-officio and Committee Chair); 1 tenure-track faculty member from the nominee’s area; 1 tenure-track faculty member of the nominee’s Departmental Primary Committee; and 1 faculty member not in the nominee’s Department.
• Committee meeting discussions are confidential. Recommendations of the Committee are forwarded to the Dean. The ultimate decision regarding the nominee is the Dean’s.