

Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
April 1, 2015

**APPOINTMENT OF DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR
FOR DR. EDWARD H. HOEPPNER**

A Recommendation

1. **Division and Department:** Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

2. **Introduction:** In 1988 the Board of Trustees (Board) created the faculty rank of Distinguished Professor. Upon recommendation of the President and Provost, the Board may appoint individuals to the rank of Distinguished Professor for the duration of the individual's active service at Oakland University. Appointments to distinguished professorships are based on the candidate's efforts and accomplishments in the areas of teaching, intellectual contributions and service, giving consideration to the programmatic and institutional setting of the candidate's work at Oakland and the nature of the candidate's assignments and responsibilities, the quality of the candidate's accomplishments and the relation of all the foregoing factors to the objectives of the area or departments, the goals of the college or school, and the mission and long-range vision of the University.

A selection committee of their peers recommended the following faculty member, Dr. Edward H. Hoeppner, for approval to Dr. James P. Lentini, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, to the appointment of Distinguished Professor.

3. **Previous Board Action:** The Board has periodically appointed individuals to the rank of Distinguished Professor at Formal Sessions of the Board.

4. **Budget Implications:** A one-time salary stipend of \$2,500 plus an annual supplies and services allocation of \$1,500, up to five years, for the Distinguished Professor will be paid from the Provost's Discretionary Fund.

5. **Educational Implications:** Recognition of a distinguished faculty member's long-standing dedication to the mission of the institution reinforces a culture that is devoted to excellence in teaching, research, creative endeavor, and service.

6. **Personnel Implications:** None.

Appointment of Distinguished Professor
for Dr. Edward H. Hoepner
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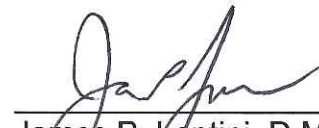
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** A selection committee of his peers recommended Dr. Edward H. Hoepner, Professor of English, for approval to Dr. James P. Lentini, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, to the appointment of Distinguished Professor.

8. **Recommendation:**

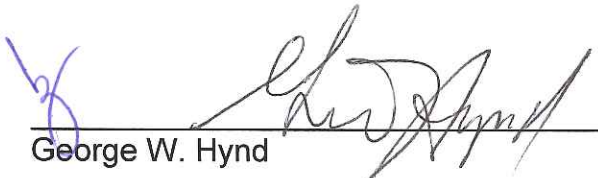
RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the appointment of Dr. Edward Haworth-Hoepner, Professor of English, to the rank of Distinguished Professor, effective August 15, 2015.

9. **Attachment:** A. Biography of Dr. Edward H. Hoepner.

Submitted to the President
on 3/25, 2015 by


James P. Lentini, D.M.A.
Senior Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost

Recommendation on 3/25, 2015
to the Board for Approval by


George W. Hynd

President

ATTACHMENT A

Dr. Edward (Ed) Haworth Hoepfner, Professor of English, joined the faculty of Oakland University (OU) in August 1990 and was promoted to the rank of Professor in 2001. In his 26 years of service to the institution, he has quietly made his mark on the institution, his students and his discipline. He is an award winning poet, a respected scholar, a gifted teacher and mentor and a hard-working member of the academic community at OU.

Professor Hoepfner is an established scholar and well-known poet who has published three highly acclaimed collections of poems *Rain Through High Windows*, *Ancestral Radio*, and *Blood Prism*. His chair, Kathleen Pfeiffer wrote, "[A]t the same time that he maintained this productive career as a scholar, however, Professor Hoepfner was quietly and steadily establishing himself as a significant poet with an original voice. He has placed well over one hundred individual poems in a wide range of magazines, journals and reviews during a time when the marketplace for publishing poetry has become increasingly (almost excruciatingly) competitive." His most recent collection of poems, *Blood Prism*, received the Charles Wheeler Prize for Poetry from the Ohio State University Press. He also was one of three finalists for the prestigious Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award in 2013. This award was created to honor poets at mid-career whose work has not received the attention it merits. To be nominated for the \$100,000 prize is an honor in itself. Thomas Lynch said of Hoepfner's work, "[T]he scrutiny of the past and happenstance rarely yield such rich returns as they do in Hoepfner's poetry. These are richly wrought and deeply satisfying works in words."

Professor Hoepfner has also mentored a new generation of poets whose work is achieving recognition. Among his former students are Terry Blackhawk, a 2013 Kresge Artist Literary Fellow, Molly Brodak, winner of the 2009 Iowa Poetry Prize, and David Hornibrook, a recipient of the 2013 Pushcart Prize. Students recognize and appreciate Professor Hoepfner's love of poetry – even in introductory general education courses. Student evaluations contain high praise for his classes and his passion for his subject.

As a colleague, Professor Hoepfner has demonstrated his willingness to lead and contribute to the development of OU and the profession. He has left a lasting mark on the institution through his work to develop the Creative Writing major proposal in the Department of English. Long desired by students, the Creative Writing program enrollment has grown to more than 70 majors in just three years. The Maurice F. Brown, Jr. Memorial Poetry Reading has grown in stature and import due to his leadership and his ability to attract contemporary poets, including two Poet Laureates, to come to OU to read their work. The quality of his work has broadened the appeal of the annual reading and has introduced many people from the broader community to OU and its programs.