

**Agendum  
Oakland University  
Board of Trustees Formal Session  
February 13, 2017**

**APPOINTMENT OF YANG XIA TO THE RANK  
OF DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR**

**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, Yang Xia, 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.

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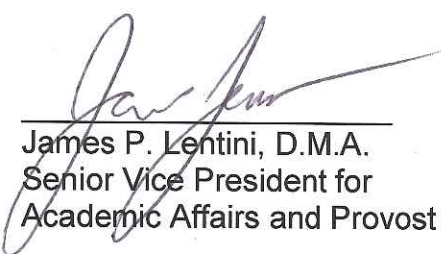
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** A selection committee of his peers recommended Yang Xia, Professor of Physics, for approval to Dr. James P. Lentini, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, to the appointment of Distinguished Professor.

8. **Recommendation:**

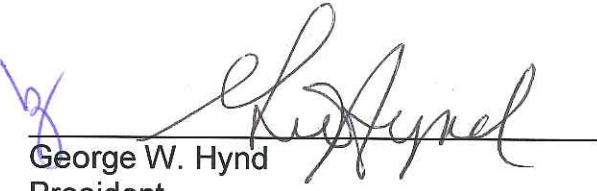
RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the appointment of Yang Xia, Professor of Physics, to the rank of Distinguished Professor, effective August 15, 2017.

9. **Attachment:** Biography of Yang Xia.

Submitted to the President  
on 2/11, 2017 by

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

Recommendation on 2/2, 2017  
to the Board for Approval by

  
George W. Hynd  
President

## ATTACHMENT A

### BIOGRAPHY

Yang Xia joined Oakland University in 1994 as an assistant professor and was promoted to associate professor in 1999 and to professor in 2005. A prominent researcher in the microscopic imaging of cartilage degradation, Professor Xia's research productivity and strong record of funding is truly remarkable.

Professor Xia's productivity as a scholar is undeniable. He has published almost 100 journal articles, an edited book and 12 peer reviewed book chapters in highly regarded publications. He has given more than 120 research presentations and lectures at conferences and universities around the globe. Considered one of the top people in the field of magnetic resonance microscopy, he has substantive contributions in the development and applications in the field. His research interests include Microscopic imaging and multi-disciplinary correlation, quantitative mapping of physical parameters in biological systems, image analysis and processing, and applications in complex systems. His work can be applied to tissues, collagen, cartilage, bone, the eye, and vascular flows in plants to name a few.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has continuously funded his research since 1999. To date he has received 7.5 million dollars from NIH alone despite a very difficult funding environment. Professor G. Allan Johnson, Director of the Center for In Vivo Microscopy noted that those who are lucky enough to receive NIH funding are "those who can consistently formulate good questions and innovative approaches." His 2008 RO1 grant application to NIH received the highest possible ranking possible in the NIH peer review process. Peter Bassler from the Department of Health and Human Services notes Professor Xia's "stellar scientific contributions throughout his career, primarily in elucidating the microstructure, architecture, and composition of porous biological materials particularly cartilage, using NMR and MRI methods.

According to his department chair, Distinguished Professor Andrei Slavin, Xia's prominence can be measured by the numerous invitations for him to speak at the international conferences and workshops, both in clinical research and in fundamental sciences. As a physicist, Professor Xia has organized and chaired three special workshops at the conferences of Orthopaedic Research Society, which is the most prominent academic society in the area of musculoskeletal tissue and organ research. As a physicist, Professor Xia has been on a number of grant review panels at NIH (called the Study Sections) since 1998 – several times a year in the recent years. As a physicist, Professor Xia has been the speaker at several Distinguished Lecture or Grand Round series in several major research hospitals in Michigan and elsewhere. Another excellent example on Professor Xia's international status and recognition is the invitation for Professor Xia to become the lead Editor for an academic book, titled "Biophysics and Biochemistry of NMR and MRI of Cartilage," published by the Royal Society of Chemistry in Cambridge UK in 2016. Professor Xia assembled a 'dream team' of the world-leading authorities on the topics to author 24 chapters in what has been called a treatise on cartilage research; it is the first book of its kind.

Professor Xia is also a dedicated instructor and an excellent mentor. He teaches at both the undergraduate and graduate level in the department including courses from introductory physics to specialty courses in nuclear magnetic resonance. Whether in a classroom setting or in the laboratory, Professor Xia is recognized as an outstanding teacher. A sought after mentor, he has worked with high school students, undergraduates, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and an international array of visiting faculty in his lab. Many of his undergraduates have gone on to become professors at other institutions carrying his legacy to new generations of students. He has served on numerous dissertation committees both at Oakland University and internationally. In 2011, he received the Oakland University Outstanding Leadership Award for Dissertation Committee Advisor in 2011. Those supporting his nomination also identify his clear and engaging presentation style as a strength he would bring to the classroom setting.

In service, Professor Xia has served on the College of Arts and Sciences Assembly, the Senate Library Committee, and the Academic Computing committee. He has served as an external reviewer for a number of individuals undergoing promotion and tenure reviews, not only at Oakland University, but at other US and international institutions. He is a regular reviewer of grant proposals for the National Institutes of Health and has reviewed for other organizations including the Arthritis Foundation, the Prince Charles Hospital Foundation in Australia and the Kentucky Science and Engineering Foundation to name a few. He has organized and chaired scientific sessions at international and national conferences and serves as a reviewer for numerous journals. He is an active member of a number of professional organizations.