

**Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
February 5, 2018**

**APPOINTMENT OF TERRI L. ORBUCH 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, Terri L. Orbuch, 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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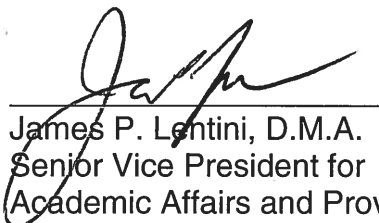
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** A selection committee of her peers recommended Terri L. Orbuch, Professor of Sociology in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Criminal Justice and Social Work, for approval to Dr. James P. Lentini, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, to the appointment of Distinguished Professor.

8. **Recommendation:**


RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the appointment of Terri L. Orbuch, Professor of Sociology, to the rank of Distinguished Professor, effective August 15, 2018.

9. **Attachment:** Biography of Terri L. Orbuch.

Submitted to the President
on 1/23, 2018 by


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

Recommendation on 1/23, 2018
to the Board for Approval by


Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.
President

Attachment A

Terri L. Orbuch, Professor of Sociology, joined the faculty of Oakland University in August 1998 as an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Criminal Justice and Social Work. Professor Orbuch is a deserving candidate given her preeminent status as a scholar and leader in the field of interpersonal relationships and her significant service contributions as a public scholar engaging local, national and international audiences. She is also known as an excellent teacher and an engaged member of her department who is generous with her time.

Beginning with her appointment as an assistant professor in 1998, Professor Orbuch has generated and sustained a significant record of contributions to the areas of scholarship, teaching and service. This was duly recognized and rewarded with early tenure and promotion to associate professor in 2000, and promotion to full professor in 2004. This impressive trajectory through the academic ranks is no less remarkable than Professor Orbuch's scholarly record since becoming a full professor.

Professor Orbuch's research has been called "stellar" and she has been described as "one of the most eminent scholars in the world in her work on family and close relationships." Since her promotion to full professor, Professor Orbuch has published four books (one for an academic press, three for trade presses) with another book currently in progress, 11 book chapters, 13 refereed journal articles (with four more currently under review or in development), submitted two National Institute of Health (NIH) grants (one of which was funded for \$1.3 million dollars), currently serves as a consultant on an NIH grant, and has presented at 21 academic conferences. Her NIH funded Early Years of Marriage (EYM) project housed is one of three major longitudinal projects studying marriage in the United States, and the longest longitudinal study of Black American couples. Under Professor Orbuch's leadership and guidance for thirty years, the project tracks a sample of 174 white and 199 black couples who applied for marriage licenses in Wayne County (MI) in 1986. Three of Professor Orbuch's 8 books have been reprinted in German, Lithuanian and Vietnamese. According to Google Scholar, her work has been cited 3447 times with close to one third (1310) of these occurring since 2012. In 2012, she received the prestigious Berscheid-Hatfield Distinguished Mid-Career Award from the International Association for Relationship Research (IARR) and in 2014 received the Oakland University Research Excellence Award.

Professor Orbuch also is a well-known "public" scholar and has translated her strong academic work to evidence-based best practice for the public. From its first beginnings in 2003, Professor Orbuch's (now) national media persona and visibility as "The Love Doctor" has grown to provide an important public service that translates social science research findings in the area of interpersonal research into the public domain while bringing significant visibility and recognition to Oakland University. For example, OU's Communications and Marketing department reports that their two media monitoring platforms (Meltwater and TVEyes) produced 255 clips using the search terms "Terri Orbuch" and "Oakland University" over the last twelve months —an average of 21 radio/TV clips a month.

In addition to her impressive accomplishments as a scholar, Professor Orbuch is known for being a compassionate and dedicated teacher whose goal is to teach sociology in a way that is applicable to everyday life and careers. She has been nominated multiple times for the University Teaching Award based on her ability to engage students and help them connect the material in her courses to their lives. She seeks to connect students in sociology to the community and to potential careers and was responsible for establishing a new course on internships for sociology students. This requires her to spend hours in the community to identify internships and interviewing students to find a good match with a community partner

organization. She requires students to interview for the internship positions so they are able to articulate their interests and abilities when they enter the job market. One small measure of Professor Orbuch's dedication to teaching can be seen in her activities outside the classroom: the time she makes to meet students to discuss course material and her many invitations to speak to student groups from across the university.

Professor Orbuch is also well-known for her commitment to service in the department, college, university, community and profession. Colleagues note the important influence she has had on their careers as their mentor and her generosity with her time. She is known for her collaborative approach but she also gets things done in an efficient and effective manner.