

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

**APPOINTMENT OF FRANK GIBLIN 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, Frank Giblin, 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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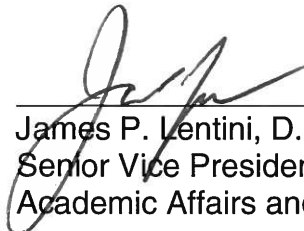
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** A selection committee of his peers recommended Frank Giblin, Director and Professor of the Eye Research Institute in the Eye Research Institute, for approval to Dr. James P. Lentini, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, to the appointment of Distinguished Professor.

8. **Recommendation:**


RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the appointment of Frank Giblin, Director and Professor of the Eye Research Institute, to the rank of Distinguished Professor, effective August 15, 2018.

9. **Attachment:** Biography of Frank Giblin.

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

Frank Giblin, Director and Professor of the Eye Research Institute, joined Oakland University in August 1974 as a research associate in the Department of Biological Sciences. Two years later he was appointed as an adjunct assistant professor and in 1977 was hired as Assistant Professor of Health Science. He was promoted to Professor of Biomedical Sciences in the Eye Research Institute in 1993. Professor Giblin has led the Eye Research Institute since 2002 first as interim director and then in 2004 as director. Professor Giblin is a deserving candidate given his preeminent status as a scholar and leader in the field of eye research, his commitment to mentoring the next generation of scientists and his service to the ERI, the university and the discipline.

Beginning with his appointment as an assistant professor in 1998, Professor Giblin 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. His stature in his field as an expert on the lens of the eye is all the more impressive because he shifted his research focus to the lens once hired at Oakland University. He has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health for nearly 30 years and has brought in more than \$12.5 million dollars in external funding during his career.

Professor Giblin is considered one of the world's leading experts on oxidative stress of crystalline lens and his work has contributed to science's understanding of the formation of cataracts. He published the first report that linked cataracts in humans to geographical areas with high UV levels. Professor Giblin, however, is not known for a single discovery, one reviewer stated that he "laid the foundations the rest of the field built upon." He has discovered biochemical mechanism that cause blindness, the importance of glutathione antioxidant mechanisms in the lens, the benefit of vitamin C to protect the lens and retina and developed techniques for studying various issues and processes related to the human lens. He has published 110 peer-reviewed articles and his papers have been cited nearly 5000 times. His expertise has been recognized by NIH where he served repeatedly on NIH Study Sections and by colleagues who have recruited him to serve on editorial boards and as editor of leading journals. He is a sought after collaborator from scientists around the country and from around the world. The Association of Researchers in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) has recognized Professor Giblin as a Distinguished Fellow and Charter member.

His service to the profession is extensive and includes the editorial work that has already been mentioned in addition to serving on review panels for NIH, a trustee of the National Foundation for Eye Research, as a keynote speaker at conferences and symposia around the world, and as an organizer and speaker at all major vision research meetings. His service to Oakland University includes participation on over 50 committees, his work raise funds for the ERI and his advocacy for its faculty. He has been identified as a "tireless advocate for the University, the Unit and his profession" who has "tenaciously advanced the cause of biomedical research at Oakland University in a unique and significant fashion."

Professor Giblin has taken an active interest in teaching young scientists from postdoctoral researchers to undergraduates. One 2017 publication included six undergraduate researchers and, speaking to the quality of his mentorship, one served as first author on the publication. The Summer Undergraduate Program in Eye Research (SUPER) has provided an opportunity for OU undergraduates to participate in NIH and other externally funded research programs under the mentorship of ERI faculty. He has trained nearly 20 postdoctoral researchers and nearly 100 undergraduate students in his lab. Many of his undergraduate students have gone on to graduate school either as a PhD student or to medical school.