

**Agendum  
Oakland University  
Board of Trustees Formal Session  
February 7, 2022**

**APPOINTMENT OF ANDREA EIS TO THE RANK  
OF DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR**  
**A Recommendation**

1. **Division and Department:** Office of the Executive 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.
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.
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** A selection committee of her peers recommended Andrea Eis of the College of Arts and Sciences for approval to Dr. Britt Rios Ellis, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, to the appointment of Distinguished Professor.

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8. **Recommendation:** RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the appointment of Andrea Eis, Professor of Cinematic Studies and English, to the rank of Distinguished Professor, effective August 15, 2022.

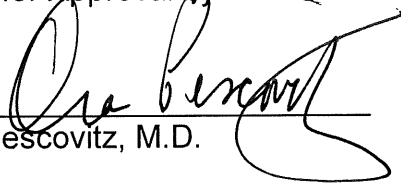
9. **Attachment:** Biography of Andrea Eis.

Submitted to the President  
on 2/3, 2022 by



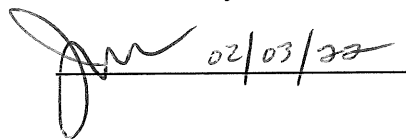
Britt Rios Ellis, M.S., Ph.D.  
Executive Vice President for  
Academic Affairs and Provost

Recommendation on 2/4, 2022  
to the Board for Approval by



Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.  
President

Reviewed by



## **Biography**

### **Andrea Eis, MFA**

MFA, Oakland University

Professor of Cinematic Studies & English

College of Arts and Sciences

528 ODH; (248) 370-2987

Professor Andrea Eis is a multifaceted artist who has blended anthropology, archeology, and the classics to create art and film over a period spanning nearly four decades. Her contributions in the areas of photography and film, through her creative work and scholarship, have brought attention and recognition to Oakland University. Professor Eis's contributions to Oakland University's departments of Art and Art History, Studio Art, and Film Studies will dwell in the lives of countless students. A sought-after colleague to faculty members campus-wide, she has shared her talents and wisdom freely, as well as served on numerous faculty committees. In recognition of her lifetime of achievements as an artist, educator, and trusted and revered colleague, Oakland University is proud to bestow the title of Distinguished Professor on Professor Eis.

Professor Eis's art draws heavily from Greek art, literature, and nature. Her work is informed by ancient sources such as the literary works of Homer and Plato, the ruins and relics of ancient Greece, as well as modern human experiences and literature. In addition to local and national exhibitions, her art and films have been exhibited in galleries and shows internationally in Paris, Athens, Budapest, Stockholm, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Toronto. According to the online movie review site IMDb, her film *Penelope's Odyssey* "contrasts the ancient landscape and sea of Greece with glimpses of contemporary domestic spaces, in images that are simultaneously ordinary and vivid, detailed and

generic, precise and ambiguous.” Penelope's patient waiting for her husband is beautifully portrayed using variations in color, sound, rhythms, and quotes from *The Odyssey*. The film has been featured in international film screenings in Rome, Vienna, and Toronto, and is the subject of a plenary session at an international conference on media studies.

Another work of Professor Eis's that garnered international attention is “*Art and Marginalia: The Intrigue of Tiny Black Script in the Margins*.” This work examines the scribbles in the margins of ancient Greek manuscripts and reveals new insights about women and education in ancient Greece. This work has been exhibited internationally, including at the Hegyvidék Gallery in Budapest. A collection of works from this project appears in her book *Inscriptions*.

In addition to her contributions in photography and film, Professor Eis has made a mark as a curator. In *Encountering the Rare Book*, she offers a collection of commentaries by Oakland University faculty on Kresge Library's rare books collection. These commentaries were then translated into visual art and written text and displayed in the OU Art Gallery. This exhibition drew the local community's attention, including the Detroit Public Library. Her skills as a curator were recognized by the Association of College and Research Libraries.

Professor Eis's contributions to her profession did not stop with art shows, film screenings, and curatorial work; she wrote three book chapters, published refereed journal and newspaper articles, and given numerous invited and refereed presentations at national and international conferences.

Professor Eis has offered decades of exemplary service to Oakland University. She led the initiative to start a Studio Art major at OU, and served as its coordinator and academic

adviser from 2004 to 2009. During her tenure as department chair of Art and Art History, she led the initiative to start a new major in graphic design. In 2012, she joined the English department for the newly created Cinema Studies program. Since 2016, Professor Eis has served as the chair of the program - it is now a robust program with a new name, Film Studies. She has developed many new courses in all of her programs. Her dedication to the students of the programs has won the admiration of not only her students, but her colleagues as well. Professor Eis's application for the Distinguished Professorship title is filled with testimonies from her colleagues across campus about her role as an educator and mentor. The letters are also noteworthy for their tribute to her service to the university community. She has served on the University Senate for 17 years, including nine as a member of the steering committee. She has been a member of the College of Arts and Sciences Assembly for 14 years. Her other service accomplishments are too numerous to list. Her years of contributions and commitment to her female colleagues were honored by the Phyllis Law Googasian Award. She is the recipient of many other awards and nominations. Prestigious institutions, including the National Art Education Foundation, the Arts Foundation of Michigan, and The National Endowment for the Arts have supported her work.

Professor Andrea Eis serves as a role model for her students and colleagues alike. For her lifetime of achievements as an artist, educator, and mentor, she is recognized with the title of Distinguished Professor.