

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

**APPOINTMENT OF VIRGIL ZEIGLER-HILL 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 Virgil Zeigler-Hill 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 Virgil Zeigler-Hill, Professor of Psychology, to the rank of Distinguished Professor, effective August 15, 2022.

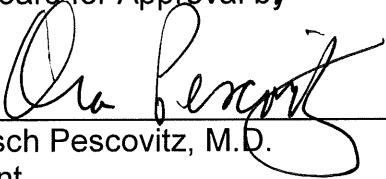
9. **Attachment**: Biography of Virgil Zeigler-Hill.

Submitted to the President  
on 2/3, 2022 by



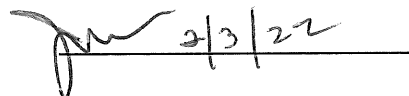
Britt Rios Ellis, M.S., Ph.D.  
Executive Vice President for  
Academic Affairs and Provost

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



Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.  
President

Reviewed by



## **Biography**

### **Virgil Zeigler-Hill, Ph.D.**

Ph.D., Oakland University

Professor of Psychology  
College of Arts and Sciences  
212A PRY; (248) 370-2676

Dr. Zeigler-Hill is an internationally recognized scholar of social-personality psychology. His most significant contributions are in the areas of high and fragile self-esteem; dark-personality traits that lead to narcissism and other socially harmful effects; and personality traits' impact on interpersonal relationships. He has amassed an extensive record of scholarship that is evaluated by his peers as "absurdly impressive" in quantity and impact.

Dr. Zeigler-Hill has published over 200 peer-reviewed journal articles since graduating from his doctoral program in 2004. Distinguished Professor Howard Tennen of the University of Connecticut states, "Dr. Zeigler-Hill has established an extraordinary record as an investigator in the field of personality psychology, particularly in the areas of self-esteem and narcissism. It is hard to imagine anyone engaged in research in either of these areas not being familiar with his work. His empirical studies have been marked by sophisticated research designs aimed at detecting underlying mechanisms and guided by the integration of clinical and social psychological theory, including his own theoretical contributions. His work linking self-esteem instability, narcissism and psychological defense mechanisms is truly exceptional. In short, Dr. Zeigler-Hill is a preeminent leader in the study of self-esteem and narcissism." This sentiment is shared by his peers. Distinguished Professor Todd Shackelford remarks that "Dr. Zeigler-Hill is a pleasure to

work with; he is viciously smart, remarkably conscientious, and extraordinarily hardworking, as attested to by his stunning productivity over the previous two decades.”

Dr. Zeigler-Hill was promoted to full professor in 2017, and one of his external reviewers, Professor Gramzow, stated, “It is important to note that Dr. Zeigler-Hill’s rate of productivity is extremely high. In social and personality psychology, there can’t be more than a handful of researchers who have anywhere near that number of publications. What makes this rate of productivity absurdly impressive is that nearly every single empirical publication is in a top-rated journal. Moreover, these publications are highly cited. Several of his papers could be considered ‘classics.’”

Dr. Zeigler-Hill’s work is highly cited – Google Scholar shows more than 10,000 citations. In addition to peer-reviewed journal publications, his contributions include nine books or edited volumes, 39 book chapters, and more than 200 conference presentations. He serves his professional community as a reviewer for numerous journals, and serves on the editorial boards of several prestigious journals, including the *Journal of Personality* and *Journal of Personality Assessment*.

Dr. Zeigler-Hill came to Oakland University in 2011 to support the development of a new graduate program in psychology, and serve as its founding director; he continues to serve the program in that role a decade later. He has mentored hundreds of graduate and undergraduate students in his leadership role in the graduate program. Additionally, he was nominated for a Teaching Excellence Award for his extensive mentorship in 2014 and received the Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award in 2015. He was nominated for the SAGE Young Scholars Award through the Foundation for Social and Personality Psychology.

Oakland University acknowledges Dr. Zeigler-Hill's exemplary record of contribution to the discipline of psychology through scholarly work, presentations at conferences, service on editorial boards of prestigious journals, and mentorship of hundreds of students by bestowing him with the title of Distinguished Professor.