

**Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
March 30, 2011**

APPOINTMENT 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.

Eddie Cheng, Professor of Mathematics, is recommended for 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 that Eddie Cheng, Professor of Mathematics, be appointed as a Distinguished Professor, and his appointment is recommended by the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

8. **Recommendation:**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the appointment of Eddie Cheng, Professor of Mathematics, to the rank of Distinguished Professor, effective March 30, 2011.

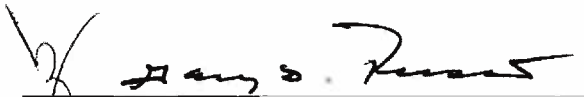
9. **Attachments:** A. Biography of Eddie Cheng

Submitted to the President
on 3/22/2011 by



Virinder K. Moudgil
Senior Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost

Recommendation on 3/23, 2011
to the Board for Approval by



Gary D. Russi
President

Attachment A

Biography

Dr. Cheng joined Oakland University in 1997 as an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 2001, and then promoted to full professor in 2007. Professor Cheng's doctorate was earned in 1995 at the University of Waterloo, Canada, with a specialization in Combinatorics and Optimization. In addition, he was a recipient of a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) post-doctoral fellowship at Rice University from 1995 to 1997. Professor Cheng is an expert in the area of discrete mathematics and is credited with being a leading authority in the area of the structure of the stable-set polytopes. He is pursuing important work in edge augmentations in graphs that has application to the telecommunications industry and also works on problems related to interconnection networks. He is the author of over 75 articles published in some of the most highly respected journals in mathematics including: *Discrete Applied Mathematics*, *Information Processing Letters*, and *Operations Research Letters* among others. He serves as member of the editorial board at *Networks*, where he also serves as associate editor, the *International Journal of Computer, Mathematical Sciences and Applications*, the *Open Operational Research Journal*, and, most recently, the *Journal of Interconnection Networks*. He has also given almost three-dozen oral presentations at conferences, colloquia, and seminars in the United States, Canada, and Europe. Dr. Cheng has distinguished himself as a leading scholar in his field of research.

Teaching is a demonstrable strength of Professor Cheng's. He is a much-lauded instructor in his department, impressing students with his accessibility, knowledge, patience, and good humor. Professor Cheng was the recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award of the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America in 2007. Dr. Cheng has published papers with graduate students, undergraduate students, and, even high school students, which is a rarity for a scholar of his stature. The integration of his research with the desire to advance student learning and academic success reaches the heart and soul of academic life. The members of his department enthusiastically consider him to be an "exceptional teacher."

Since 2002, Professor Cheng has been the director of the Oakland University Summer Mathematics Institute (OUSMI), a six-week summer camp for bright high school students from Southeast Michigan to study upper-level topics in mathematics such as graph theory, linear algebra, operations research, geometry, and statistics. According to the Institute's philosophy statement, "Students are selected based on both exceptional talent and interest in mathematics...the topics [will] expand the horizons and confidence of bright students, and encourage them to work to their fullest potential." Generally,

students will have completed the tenth or eleventh grade, but exceptional ninth grade students are accepted, this unique opportunity to learn advanced mathematical concepts and earn college credit by high school students is fostering a new generation of learners who acquire a sophisticated knowledge of complex mathematical questions. And, remarkably, the camp is free for the students, thanks to an anonymous donor who participated in an NSF-funded summer program at OU many years ago.

Professor Cheng's vital contributions to the field of mathematics, his dedication to teaching and mentoring, and his service to Oakland University merit the rank of Distinguished Professor.