Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
February 10, 2020

APPOINTMENT OF VIJAYAN SUGUMARAN 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, Vijayan Sugumaran, 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.

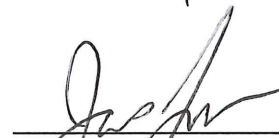6. **Personnel Implications**: None.

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7.   **University Reviews/Approvals:** A selection committee of his peers recommended Vijayan Sugumaran, Professor of Management Information Systems in the Department of Decision and Information Systems in the School of Business Administration, 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 Vijayan Sugumaran, Professor of Management Information Systems, to the rank of Distinguished Professor, effective August 15, 2020.

9.   **Attachment:**   Biography of Vijayan Sugumaran.

Submitted to the President
on _____1/24_____, 2020 by

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

Recommendation on _____1/24_____, 2020
to the Board for Approval by

Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.
President

Attachment A

Vijayan Sugumaran, Professor of Management Information Systems in the School of Business Administration, joined the faculty of Oakland University in 1993. He was promoted to associate professor in 2002 and to professor in Fall 2007. He is a prolific scholar who has made outstanding contributions to advance the teaching and research mission of SBA and is internationally known. Professor Sugumaran is a c scholar, an instructor who believes strongly in education of the whole person and is dedicated to preparing students for careers in the IT industry and a dedicated member of his department, school, Oakland and professional community.

Professor Sugumaran's research focus centers around the development of intelligent systems using a design science approach. He has published 94 peer reviewed journal articles, 132 peer reviewed conference papers, 20 edited books, 9 book chapters, 6 journal special issues and has more work in progress. His work has been cited almost 5000 times and he has received nearly $11 million in funding from governments around the world. His work appears in the top tier journals and conferences and the results of his work have been used by researchers in natural language processing, computer science, and information systems. Professor Sugumaran's work has contributed to the body of knowledge in the areas of Ontologies and Semantic Web, Intelligent Agent and Multi-Agent Systems, Web Services and Service Oriented Architecture, Agile Development, Machine Learning and Big Data Analytics.

Professor Sugumaran was recognized with the Research Excellence Award at Oakland University in 2010. Recognition of his significant contributions extend well beyond OU's boundaries. In 2016, he was invited as a Distinguished Professor of the Ministry of Public Security, People's Republic of China and a visiting scholar at Shanghai University, China. He was a visiting professor at Sogang University, Seoul, South Korea from 2010-2013. Finally, he has keynoted at international meetings and he was a Fulbright Scholar in 2012 as part of the Fulbright Specialist Program.

A dedicated teacher-scholar, Professor Sugumaran takes the opportunity to integrate his research into the courses he teaches. He values engagement with his students both in and out of the classroom and is continuously focusing on improving student learning. His courses often center around projects from the industry allowing individual students or student teams to work under his supervision along with a project liaison from the company. This approach allows students to directly tie theory to practice in a way that creates deep learning for them, but also creates value for the companies involved. The students engaged in these projects are often recruited for internships and jobs with their partner companies.

Professor Sugumaran also has mentored students serving as a dissertation committee member to students at OU, at other US universities and internationally, and he has served as an external examiner on dissertations for students around the world. In addition to teaching and mentoring, Professor Sugumaran has been actively engaged in curriculum development, including introducing new graduate programs in Business Analytics and Information Security Management in the Master of Science in Information Technology Management and the MBA. In 2019, he was Oakland University's nominee

for the Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year award sponsored by the Michigan Association of Colleges and Universities.

Professor Sugumaran is engaged professionally at the national and international level. His service record to SBA, OU and the profession has been exceptional. He is the founding Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Intelligent Information Technologies now in its 15th volume. He serves on the editorial board of many other journals, and provides many technical and ad hoc reviews every year for many top MIS journals. He has co-chaired numerous conferences and has organized a track on Intelligent Agent and Multi-Agent Systems for 20 years at the Americas Conference on Information Security conference. He has served as President of the AIS SIGODIS group and Chair of the IT Committee for the Decision Sciences Institute. At Oakland University, Professor Sugumaran is an active contributor at the department, school and university levels. He is Chair of the Department of Decision and Information Sciences. He has served on numerous committees and led many initiatives. Most recently, he has served as co-director of the Center for Data Science and Big Data Analytics that promotes interdisciplinary research in data science. Professor Sugumaran and his colleagues are actively developing curriculum and working with local industries enhancing OU's reputation in the community.

Professor Sugumaran has made significant contributions to teaching, research and service in the field of Management Information Systems and at Oakland University. He continues to promote the University's mission for excellence in all areas and is worthy of the title Distinguished Professor.