

**Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
February 15, 2021**

**APPOINTMENT OF BARBARA OAKLEY 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 Barbara Oakley in the School of Engineering and Computer Science 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 Barbara Oakley, Professor of Engineering (Industrial and Systems), to the rank of Distinguished Professor, effective August 15, 2021.

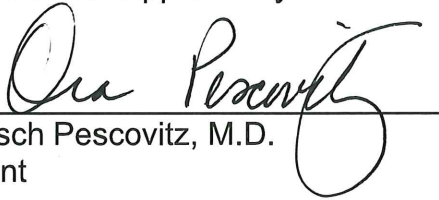
9. **Attachment:** Biography of Barbara Oakley.

Submitted to the President
on 2/11/, 2021 by



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

Recommendation on 2-12, 2021
to the Board for Approval by



Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.
President

Biography

Barbara Oakley, Ph.D.

Ph.D., Oakland University

Professor of Engineering
Industrial and Systems Engineering Department
510 EC; (248) 370-2435; Fax: (248) 370-4633

[Personal Website](#)

Professor Oakley, is both a revolutionary and true innovator in the area of pedagogy and is recognized as one of the world's leading experiments in learning, especially in the STEM disciplines, and in the design of high quality online pedagogical materials. Since joining Oakland University in 1998 she has made significant contributions as a productive scholar in the areas of STEM pedagogy, neuroscience and social behavior. Her books have been translated into over 20 different languages around the world. Among her many articles, her article on student teams is considered foundational and has been cited more than 1000 times. Further, she has pioneered important work that has significantly helped the Academy understand what impacts a person's interest in subject matter along with what affects their ability to master mentally difficult material. Indeed, her online courses have helped to increase awareness of and interest in STEM worldwide. It is truly impressive that of the 4,000 MOOCs currently available worldwide, her course, *Learning How to Learn*, is the world's most popular with nearly two million registered learners from over 200 countries. In recognition of her exemplary course materials and approach, Dr. Oakley was honored as Coursera's inaugural Innovation Instructor in 2015, is the recipient of the IEEE William E. Sayle II Award for Achievement in Education, the Theo C. Pilkington award for Biomedical Engineering Education, Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year, and the Oakland University

Teaching Excellence award. She is a fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science, the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineers, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. *According to one of the review committee, her MOOCs “have earned her international attention from the media, as well as several prestigious STEM and engineering teaching awards. She also has acclaimed publications on learning in STEM disciplines”.* Richard Felder, Professor Emeritus of Chemical Engineering at North Carolina State University, wrote “In Short, I cannot think of anyone else who is doing as much as Barbara Oakley has done to enhance the public image of engineering as a rich, exciting, and critically important profession. In time, I can envision her becoming Exhibit A in support of the popular (among engineers) but not widely accepted (by the rest of the world) claim that their broad training equips engineers to do essentially anything.” All of her many awards, honors, and accolades, including the 2018 Michigan Distinguished Professor Award, are well-deserved and only lend further evidence that she so richly deserves the rank of Distinguished Professor at Oakland University.