

Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
February 7, 2019

**APPOINTMENT OF LIANXIANG YANG 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 his peers recommended the following faculty member, Lianxiang Yang, 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.

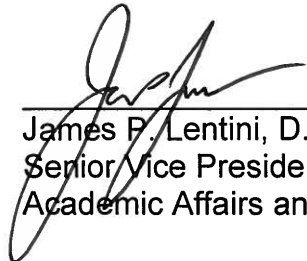
5. **Educational Implications:** Recognition of a distinguished faculty member's long-standing dedication to the mission of the institution reinforces a culture that is devoted to excellence in teaching, research, creative endeavor, and service.

6. **Personnel Implications:** None.

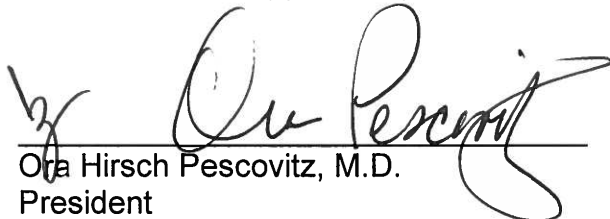
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7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** A selection committee of his peers recommended Lianxiang Yang, Professor of Engineering in the Department of Mechanical Engineering in the School of Engineering and Computer Science, for approval to Dr. James P. 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 Lianxiang Yang, Professor of Engineering, to the rank of Distinguished Professor, effective August 15, 2019.
9. **Attachment:** Lianxiang Yang.

Submitted to the President
on 2/5, 2019 by


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

Recommendation on 2/5, 2019
to the Board for Approval by


Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.
President

Attachment A

Lianxiang Yang, Professor of Engineering, joined the faculty of Oakland University in 2001 and is a prolific scholar, teacher, leader and engineering professional who embodies all attributes the University would associate with a distinguished professor. He is known for developing new measurement approaches and applying his methodologies to solve many practical and challenging engineering problems. Professor Yang's primary research area is laser optical theory and its application for strain/stress measurement and non-destructive testing/evaluation. His research covers digital laser speckle interferometry, digital holography and digital shearography. Professor Yang was a pioneer in the development of speckle metrology and has made significant contributions to the field. His work has been credited with bringing the performance of digital speckle interferometry and digital shearography to a new level and opened the doors to new perspectives that have not been fully explored until now. Oakland University recognized Professor Yang for Research Excellence in 2016.

Evidence of his preeminence in scholarship abounds. His co-authored book *Digital Shearography – Theory and Application of Digital Speckle Pattern Shearing Interferometry* was a landmark book that provided a systematic review of the fundamentals of digital shearography and gathered many of its applications. His recent book *Digital Shearography – New Developments and Applications* presents state of the art digital shearography and its applications in the last decade to nondestructive testing and strain measurement. In addition to these important works, Professor Yang has authored or co-authored approximately 197 articles in peer reviewed journals and conference proceedings. Professor Yang has advanced the technology of digital speckle interferometry and digital shearography and has made the technology accessible to the wider experimental mechanics community. He is an active and engaged scholar with a new book scheduled for publication in 2019. Professor Yang holds numerous patents and has additional patent applications. He has received over \$4 million in external funding. Evidence of his international reputation is the regular funding he has received from European and Asian universities. His work has been cited nearly 2400 times. He was elected to be a SPIE Fellow in 2008 in recognition for his outstanding achievements in optical metrology and as a SAE fellow in 2017 in recognition of his significant contribution for Applying Optical Technologies for Automotive Engineering.

Professor Yang is dedicated to training the next generation of engineers in topics related to optical measurement. He has taught six different courses at OU, including a very popular course he developed in Optical Measurement and Quality Inspection and has developed courses building upon his expertise. For example, using methods pulled from his course and research, Dr. Yang developed an Optical Measurements lab. He is a sought after mentor who has graduated 10 PhD students and 19 MS students and currently serves as the chair for 7 PhD and 3 MS students. He has supervised 25 doctoral associates and visiting scholars. He has been cited for the high quality dissertations and theses produced by his students. Two of his students received the Oakland University Outstanding Dissertation Award and one Master's student received the Outstanding Master's Thesis Award. Professor Yang also contributes to the undergraduate research efforts advising numerous undergraduate student projects, including several sponsored by the National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates program.

Similar to his outstanding performance in teaching and research, Professor Yang has a strong record of service to the Department, School, University and profession. Professionally he has organized conferences and technical sessions, edited journals and served on editorial boards. He regularly conducts peer reviews for 18 journals. In the School, he has served as a special assistant to the Dean of the School of Engineering and Computer Science for China programs and has participated in the development of undergraduate and graduate collaboration programs with six Chinese partner universities and is currently working on additional partnerships. In addition to working with the partner universities, Professor Yang actively recruits students to Oakland University. A large portion of the success of these programs and recruitment efforts is due to his stellar reputation and deep contacts in China.

Professor Yang has made significant contributions to teaching, research and service in the field of engineering 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.