

**Agendum  
Oakland University  
Board of Trustees Formal Session  
February 6, 2023**

**APPROVAL OF HONORARY DEGREE FOR EUGENE GARGARO  
A Recommendation**

1. **Division and Department:** Academic Affairs, Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.
2. **Introduction:** In accordance with Article IX of the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees, honorary degrees may be awarded by the Board of Trustees in recognition of distinguished accomplishment and service within the scope of the arts and letters, sciences, professions, and public service as recognized and supported by the University. The awarding of honorary degrees reaffirms Oakland University's scholarly, creative, and humanitarian values and ties the University to the community at large.

Eugene Gargaro truly demonstrates the high level of achievement and service this award is meant to recognize, as evidenced by a strong track record of success and leadership.

In his position as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA), Mr. Gargaro led through a period of challenging transition. During 2003-2007 he was instrumental in helping the DIA through a \$160 million dollar renovation and expansion project. The DIA is a cultural treasure and is one of the leading art museums in the country. Even during the financial crisis of 2008-2009, he provided steady leadership to keep the DIA open and supporting the community.

To continue to support the DIA, Mr. Gargaro led the regional millage initiative involving Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties. This provided approximately \$230 million dollars to support the museum. His work to protect the DIA through Detroit's bankruptcy was critical to its success and independent status. Due to his efforts in May 2015, he received the DIA's Lifetime Service Award for exemplary volunteer service.

In addition, Mr. Gargaro served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Detroit Mercy. He has also served as the Board Chair of the Michigan Manufacturers Association, the Citizens Research Council of Michigan, President of the Board of Trustees of University Liggett School, President of the Board of Governors of the Country Club of Detroit, and Vice Chair of the Board of Regents of Georgetown University. He has also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Legacy Detroit Medical Center and New Detroit. These are but a few examples of Mr. Gargaro's work to support the local community and create a brighter future for the Metro Detroit area.

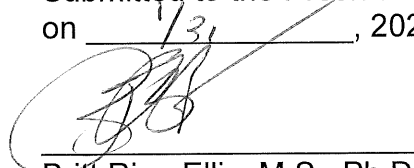
In his professional career, he was a member of the Dykema law firm in Detroit for 26 years before joining Masco Corporation in 1993. With Masco, he served as Vice President and Corporate Secretary before his retirement from the company in 2008. At present, Mr. Gargaro serves as legal counsel and President of the Manoogian Foundations. He has

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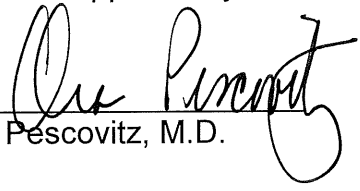
distinguished himself as a Detroit civic leader in business and in our communities and we sincerely and enthusiastically recommend him for this honor.

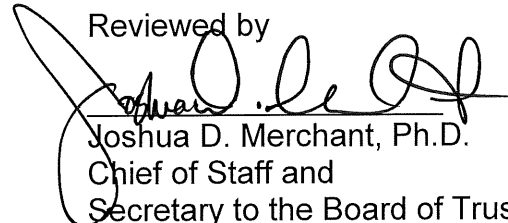
3. **Previous Board Action:** The Board of Trustees periodically awards honorary degrees at its Formal Sessions.
4. **Budget Implications:** None.
5. **Educational Implications:** The awarding of honorary degrees is an established tradition in academe, by which the University reaffirms its scholarly, creative, and humanitarian values and its ties to the wider community.
6. **Personnel Implications:** None.
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** The Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost has recommended approval of the recipient to receive an Honorary Degree.
8. **Recommendation:** RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees awards the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities *Honoris Causa* to Eugene Gargaro.
9. **Attachments:** None.

Submitted to the President  
on 1/31, 2023 by

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

Recommended on 2/1, 2023  
to the Board for approval by

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.  
President

Reviewed by  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joshua D. Merchant, Ph.D.  
Chief of Staff and  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees