

Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
April 1, 2009

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 candidates 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.

Judith K. Brown, Professor of Anthropology, 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.

Appointment of Distinguished Professor
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
April 1, 2009
Page 2

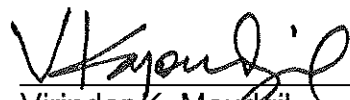
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** A selection committee of her peers recommended that Judith K. Brown, Professor of Anthropology, be appointed as a Distinguished Professor, and her appointment is recommended by the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

8. **Recommendation:**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the appointment of Judith K. Brown, Professor of Anthropology, to the rank of Distinguished Professor, effective August 15, 2009.

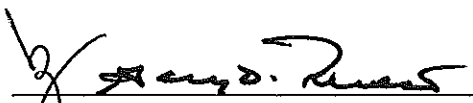
9. **Attachments:** A. Biography of Judith K. Brown

Submitted to the President
on 3/18, 2009 by



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

Recommendation on 3/18, 2009
to the Board for Approval by



Gary D. Russi
President

Attachment A

Biography

Judith K. Brown, Professor of Anthropology, has been a faculty member at Oakland University since 1964 and a full professor since 1983. She has been described as a trailblazer in the anthropological study of women's lives in societies across the cultural spectrum. With five co-edited books to date, and dozens of articles, contributions to books of readings, and papers presented at scholarly conferences, Dr. Brown's contributions to her discipline have garnered her an international academic reputation and visibility to Oakland University.

Professor Brown is known as a pioneer in the field known today as feminist anthropology, which has, in turn, spawned women's and gender studies as a ubiquitous part of the academic landscape. Her cross-cultural research on the sexual division of labor, women's life cycle, female hierarchies, and domestic violence has been instrumental in carving new paths of inquiry and regarding sex and gender. Her seminal article, "A Cross-Cultural Study of Female Initiation Rites," was first published in 1963 and has since become a classic, reprinted most recently in 2006 in *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader*, edited by Ellen Lewin. Lewin observes that Dr. Brown's cutting-edge essay inspired a following in feminist anthropology and remains relevant today: "Brown's reading of the division of labor set the tone for much of the theorizing that would follow in feminist anthropology, but also is in sync with theories of gender that have predominated across the disciplines." (Lewin 42) Dr. Brown turned her attention to research in other areas regarding women's lives, including a cross-cultural understanding of middle-aged women. She has also been credited with being among the first anthropologists to examine domestic violence as a cross-cultural problem. Those areas of inquiry led to the publication of *In Her Prime: A New View of Middle-Aged Women* (1992), *Sanctions and Sanctuary: Cultural Perspectives on the Beating of Wives* (1992), *Women Among Women: Anthropological Perspectives on Female Age Hierarchies* (1998) and *To Have and To Hit: Anthropological Perspectives on Wife-Beating* (1999).

Dr. Brown has been a dedicated teacher at Oakland University for over four decades. She has been an extraordinary mentor and role model to scores of students over many years of teaching. According to her colleagues, she "demands much from her students – many of whom consider her their mentor in life as well as their profession. Her engagement of students, whether in large lectures classes or small seminars, serves as a model of a senior scholar for the department."

Professor Brown's vital contributions to the field of feminist anthropology, her dedication to teaching and mentoring, and her service to national professional organizations and to Oakland University merit the rank of Distinguished Professor.