Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
April 1, 2015

APPOINTMENT OF DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR FOR DR. MEIR SHILLOR

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, Dr. Meir Shillor, 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.

7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** A selection committee of his peers recommended Dr. Meir Shillor, Professor of Mathematics, 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 Dr. Meir Shillor, Professor of Mathematics, to the rank of Distinguished Professor, effective August 15, 2015.

9. **Attachment:** A. Biography of Dr. Meir Shillor.

Submitted to the President
on 3/25, 2015 by

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

Recommendation on 3/25, 2015
to the Board for Approval by

George W. Hynd
President

ATTACHMENT A

Dr. Meir (Fiki) Shillor joined Oakland University in 1988 as an associate professor and was promoted to professor in 1993. He is a world renowned mathematician whose work has been applied to research questions in biology, engineering and other fields.

Professor Shillor's productivity as a scholar is undeniable. He has more than 175 published articles to date in addition to numerous papers in print. He has given more than 50 research presentations at conferences and universities around the globe. His specialty is mathematical modelling using partial differential equations and dynamic systems. His work can be applied to contact mechanics, biology, geophysics and industry. He is an international expert in contact mechanics, the study of the motion of objects that may come into contact with one another. This work has implications for our understanding of friction, adhesion, wear, heat generation and material damage and thus much relevance to industry and also to our understanding of tectonic plates. His work is considered pioneering and important and has been cited thousands of times.

The scope of Professor Shillor's contributions are perhaps underscored by the large number of coauthors and topics covered by his research. He has studied thermoelastic plates, vehicle platform stabilization, bonded rods, viscoelastic adhesive contact with damage, nonlinear springs, Chagas Disease, and magnetorheological dampers among other topics. He has more than 80 coauthors spanning the range of topics he investigates; many of these coauthors are from countries other than the United States supporting the assertion that he is internationally known. His large number of visiting positions and lecture appearances at universities outside the U.S lend further support to his status as an internationally known scholar.

Many of those supporting Professor Shillor's nomination took pains to address his collegiality and leadership within the mathematical community. He was described by one writer as very enthusiastic and capable, willing to help and to interact with colleagues in his research field. He is a lead investigator on the European Grant Marie Curie International Research Staff Exchange Scheme which is the only grant in applied mathematics granted by the European Community in 2012. This grant brings together six universities from France, Poland, China, and the United States and involves more than 50 researchers and 30 Ph.D. students. He is the associate editor of two journals and has organized professional meetings for mathematicians.

Professor Shillor is also generous with his time within Oakland University. He has led the graduate program within the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and has served on Graduate Council. He has served on more than 50 dissertation committees. His chair notes that in service he is "indispensable to the department."

Professor Shillor's work as a mentor and teacher applies to students and faculty alike. He has a good relationship with students and receives good evaluations in the classroom. His lectures are clear and demonstrate his knowledge of the material while also communicating the topic effectively to those attending. His clarity of presentation was cited by a number of those supporting his nomination.