



## **MEMORANDUM**

**November 15, 2013**

**To: Members of the Board of Trustees**

**From: Nancy L. Zimpher, Chancellor**

**Subject: Appointment of Distinguished Professors**

### **Action Requested**

The proposed resolution appoints the faculty members listed below to the rank of Distinguished Professor at the State University of New York campus indicated.

### **Resolution**

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Whereas the State University of New York Board of Trustees has proudly established a historic tradition of acknowledging and honoring extraordinary faculty achievement through appointment to Distinguished Faculty Rank; and

Whereas the appointment to Distinguished Faculty Rank at the state-operated campuses is both a system-wide distinction and a promotion in rank; and

Whereas the SUNY Board of Trustees has the authority to bestow system-wide distinctions; now, therefore, be it,

Resolved that each faculty member listed below be, and hereby is, appointed to the rank of Distinguished Professor at the State University of New York campus indicated, effective November 15, 2013:

Professor John Tagg, Binghamton University  
Professor Rajan Batta, University at Buffalo  
Professor Jeremy D. Finn, University at Buffalo

Professor Joseph A. Gardella, Jr., University at Buffalo  
Professor Eckhard Krotscheck, University at Buffalo  
Professor Joseph S.B. Mitchell, Stony Brook University  
Professor Stephen V. Faraone, Upstate Medical University

### **Background**

Appointment to the rank of Distinguished Professor is conferred upon individuals who have achieved national or international prominence and a distinguished reputation within a chosen field. This distinction is attained through significant contributions to the research literature or through artistic performance or achievement in the case of the arts. The candidates' work must be of such character that the individuals' presence will tend to elevate the standards of scholarship of colleagues both within and beyond these persons' academic fields. It must be of such quality that students and scholars on other campuses of the State University could and would wish to benefit by lectures and seminars or other appropriate presentations the faculty members might bring to them.

The contributions of these scholars far exceed those mentioned in this resolution. Several important characteristics are omitted for brevity's sake. The candidates are also considered superlative teachers, setting the highest academic standards for their students. Beyond their scholarship, the candidates have contributed meaningfully and consistently in several notable areas, including extensive and superior service to the profession; leadership and ongoing participation on influential disciplinary committees; membership on prestigious editorial boards; service as reviewer or consultant on regulatory, advisory, and award-making bodies; and invited presentations at conferences and symposia. The following encapsulates their disciplinary accomplishments:

**Professor John Tagg** – A member of the Binghamton University faculty for almost 30 years, Professor Tagg is perhaps the most influential historian of photography in the world and one of the most important art historians of his generation. His publications have played a critical role in gaining recognition for photography as a significant artistic medium and fundamentally changed the way art historians and scholars more generally apprehend photography and view photographs. His influence has extended well beyond the history of photography, helping forge a new approach to the field of art history—one that is theoretically informed and insists on viewing images as part of a socially constructed visual culture. Not only has Professor Tagg's scholarship earned him an international reputation in art history, it has made him an influential figure in other disciplines in the humanities and the social sciences. His scholarly accomplishments have been recognized by numerous prestigious fellowships he has held in the U.S. and Europe, and frequent invitations to lecture across the U.S., Europe, and Asia.

**Professor Rajan Batta** – Dr. Batta, of the University at Buffalo, has made a major impact in the area of urban operations research, a branch of Operations Research (OR) concerned with logistical and planning applications impacting services such as emergency response, disaster logistics and national security. Professor Batta has received numerous prestigious awards including the Dr. David F. Baker Distinguished Research Award, the highest research award given by the Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE). A Fellow of IIE, he is noted for his extensive scholarship in location and queuing theory, districting and routing, and as a national leader in the area of urban policing and public safety. He has been PI or co-PI on over \$13 million of externally funded research, and has served as department editor or editorial board member of four OR journals. He has had a significant impact on the next generations of OR scholars, having advised 39 doctoral and 46 masters students and currently advising six more dissertations. Many of his former students are now leaders at nationally renowned companies and major academic institutions worldwide.

**Professor Jeremy D. Finn** – Dr. Finn, of the University at Buffalo, is a pioneer in the early development of software for the statistical analysis of educational data, Dr. Finn has created a remarkable body of educational research that has had a profound impact on educational policies, both nationally and internationally. Dr. Finn has been awarded a Spencer Research Fellowship, the NSF/American Statistical Association Research Fellowship, and the 2006 University at Buffalo Exceptional Scholar Award in the category of Sustained Achievement. His pioneering research on class size effects through true experimental design has had significant impact on using large-scale randomized field trials (gold standard) in educational research and evaluation. His work was nationally recognized by Education Leadership in 2003, as one of 11 programs of research that had “the greatest impact on education...during the past 50 years.”

**Professor Joseph A. Gardella, Jr.** – Dr. Gardella, of the University at Buffalo, has a 30-year academic record that has balanced excellence in research, teaching, civic engagement, public service and economic development. Professor Gardella's research is concentrated on the development of chemical analysis of surfaces, especially in complex biological and environmental media. His translation of research to environmental science, engineering and public policy has stressed the development of geospatial data analysis to chemical information. This has led to civic engagement with regulatory agencies and community activists to understand environmental impact of contaminants in brownfields and Superfund site remediation and urban farming, as well as his work in air pollution data in regional environmental/health impacts. Honored by the White House with the 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentorship, Dr. Gardella's teaching and public service intersect with his work with the Buffalo Public Schools to enhance teacher education and pedagogical content in the STEM fields. He played an instrumental role in guiding this program to be awarded a five-year, \$9.8 million grant from the National Science Foundation Math Science Partnership Program.

**Professor Eckhard Krotscheck** – Dr. Krotscheck, of the University at Buffalo, is a world renowned expert in theoretical condensed matter physics, specializing in quantum many-body theory and low temperature physics. A Fellow of the American Physical Society, he received the Eugene Feenberg Memorial Medal in 2007, the world's highest honor for this area of research. Professor Krotscheck is credited as one of the inventors of the Fermi hypernetted-chain theory, a method proven to be an invaluable tool in theoretical studies of strongly-interacting many-body systems ranging from neutron stars and strongly correlated electron systems to quantum liquid drops, lattice spin systems and beyond. Dr. Krotscheck's research group also performed the first principle calculation on the structure of the film of helium-4 and the state of helium-3 in such a film. His nomination is supported by a list of distinguished scientists, including two winners of the Nobel Prize, four recipients of the Feenberg Memorial Medal, three winners of the London Prize, and five members of the National Academy of Sciences and its international equivalents.

**Professor Joseph S.B. Mitchell** – Dr. Mitchell, of Stony Brook University, is nationally and internationally recognized as one of the world's leaders in computational geometry, a field that deals with difficult geometrical problems that have inherent industrial application; a classic example being the traveling salesman problem. He has been an NSF Presidential Young Investigator awardee, a Fulbright Scholar, a recipient of the 2010 Gödell prize, and is a Fellow of the Association for Computing Machinery. Dr. Mitchell has an extensive record of service to his professional field; he serves on the editorial board of four of the top journals in computational geometry; and he has been very active as a committee organizer of the top conferences in his area. Professor Mitchell is an outstanding teacher and mentor, and is a recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

**Professor Stephen V. Faraone** – A brilliant clinically-trained psychologist, Dr. Faraone is the leading researcher in the genetics of schizophrenia and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Professor Faraone has been a member of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science at Upstate Medical University for nine years. In that time, he has served both as leader and mentor in raising the profile and productivity of the department. He currently is a participant in nine federally-funded studies. Further, Dr. Faraone is currently a member of the editorial board of six journals and editor of the prestigious *Neuropsychiatric Genetics*, deputy editor of the *Journal of the Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, *Biostatistical and Methodology*, editor of the *Journal of Attention Disorders*, associate editor of *Behavioral and Brain Functions*, and has served as associate editor of the *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology* (2001-2009). Professor Faraone is also an ad hoc member of advisory committees in the UK, Ireland, Singapore, Australia and Norway.

It is my pleasure to present these faculty members named in this resolution to the Board of Trustees for its approval. A copy of the President's letter for each professor is attached. The letter highlights the individual's major career achievements, and provides the campus rationale for recommending appointment. The full dossier is available in the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost.

Attachments