



The State University  
of New York

Office of the Chancellor

State University Plaza  
Albany, New York 12246

[www.suny.edu](http://www.suny.edu)

## **MEMORANDUM**

**November 6, 2014**

**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 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 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 6, 2014:

Professor Colin Loftin, State University of New York at Albany;  
Professor Michael Constantinou, State University of New York at Buffalo;  
Professor Eugene D. Morse, State University of New York at Buffalo;  
Professor Karolyn Stonefelt, State University of New York College at Fredonia; and  
Professor Erwin London, State University of New York at Stony Brook.

### **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. For the sake of brevity, it is necessary to prioritize noted accomplishments. 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 the following: 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 status as an invited presenter at conferences and symposia. The following describes their disciplinary accomplishments:

**Professor Colin Loftin** – Dr. Loftin, of the University at Albany, has distinguished himself as a scholar with a stellar reputation, both nationally and internationally, in multiple areas of research. He publishes extensively on the social sources of criminal violence, criminal justice policy, and crime measurement. His research is marked by rigorous analysis and theoretical creativity. It has served as a model for other scholars, and has had a lasting influence on later work. Accuracy of official crime measurement has been a significant theme in Colin's work. His role influencing the evolution of the National Crime Survey is particularly notable. He participated in the survey's redesign in the early 1980s, recently reviewed the survey as part of a National

Research Council panel, and will now advise the group charged with the upcoming redesign. In 2010, Attorney General Eric Holder invited Colin to serve as an inaugural member of the Office of Justice Programs' Science Advisory Panel, a group formed to help bridge the gap between research and practice in criminal justice. Dr. Loftin has an extensive service record throughout the discipline and the University. He is an American Society of Criminology ("ASC") Fellow and a former ASC Executive Counselor.

**Professor Michael Constantinou** – Dr. Constantinou, of the University at Buffalo ("UB"), is one of the world's leading scholars in the area of seismic protective systems. Dr. Constantinou has had a profound impact on the practice of earthquake engineering in the U.S. and around the globe. His research has been employed to ensure the stability and safety of some of the world's most prominent structures located in some of the most seismically active and highly populated regions of the planet, from the San Francisco International Airport and the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge to on-and-off shore gas platforms in Greece and Russia. The Deputy Director of the Structural Engineering and Earthquake Simulation Laboratory at UB, Dr. Constantinou has been the primary investigator or co-primary investigator for more than \$30 million of externally funded research. His four patents—one in use and three pending after filing innovation disclosures—are described by colleagues as having the capability to protect millions of people from the effects of earthquakes, storms, and other severe hazards.

**Professor Eugene D. Morse** – Dr. Morse, of UB, is a pioneer and internationally recognized leader in the field of HIV pharmacology research. Among his most influential accomplishments was development of the charge to national clinical pharmacology groups to pursue Therapeutic Drug Monitoring ("TOM") and pharmacogenomics, establishing the National HIV TOM Registry for protease inhibitors. He created ground-breaking methodologies important to drug level measurements in human subjects, including the development of novel liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry methods for quantifying HIV protease inhibitors, and developed a pharmacology laboratory for a National Institutes of Health funded AIDS Clinical Trials Group, increasing the number of antiretrovirals nationally and internationally. The founding leader of the new SUNY Global Health Conferences and SUNY Global Health Institute, he is internationally renowned as a leader in assessing pharmacokinetics of new medications addressing Hepatitis C and tuberculosis in relation to HIV, and established a highly successful antiretroviral pharmacology training program in Zimbabwe, where 15 percent of the population lives with AIDS.

**Professor Karolyn Stonefelt** – Dr. Stonefelt joined the SUNY Fredonia School of Music faculty in 1993 after years of performing as a percussionist in a wide variety of venues and styles. She performed with orchestras throughout the U.S., Germany, France, and the U.S.S.R. With the Baltimore Symphony, she was the first full-time woman percussionist on contract with a major symphony

orchestra. She also performed in over 20 Broadway and off-Broadway shows, recorded television and radio commercials, and founded various chamber, jazz, and percussion ensembles. As a Fulbright Senior Scholar in Ghana, she studied Dagara xylophone styles and has mentored several Ghanaian artists. She has had 11 funded grants, seven recordings, 20 solo performances, and much conducting, composing, producing, consulting, and arranging. She has led ethnic music ensembles on campus and around the world. She is currently the percussionist and hammered dulcimer player for Fioretto (Finland), timpanist for the Western New York Chamber Orchestra, and a regular performer in New York and California.

**Professor Erwin London** – Dr. London, of Stony Brook University, has investigated the structure of biological membranes. In 140 published studies, his group has developed methods to define the position of molecules within membranes at the angstrom level of resolution, and applied them to define how the position of membrane proteins within biomembranes is controlled by sequences and lipid composition, plus the mechanisms by which bacterial protein toxins insert into and cross biomembranes. His work on the principles behind lipid organization in biomembranes is perhaps most well-known. Dr. London proposed (together with Professor Deborah Brown of Stony Brook University) the now widely accepted model that sphingolipid-cholesterol rich membrane domains co-exist with domains rich in unsaturated phospholipids. His group recently identified such domains in the bacterium causing Lyme disease (together with Distinguished Professor Jorge Benach of Stony Brook University). Membrane domains can segregate and cluster membrane proteins, thus controlling protein-protein interactions and function, and his recent work has defined the mechanisms controlling protein behavior. Finally, his group has made breakthroughs in production of artificial membranes mimicking natural membranes to an unprecedented degree. Combined, this work has revolutionized our understanding of biological membranes.

It is my pleasure to present the faculty members named in this resolution to the Board of Trustees for its approval. A copy of the campus 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. Complete dossiers are available in the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor.

Attachments