TO: Members of the Board of Trustees  
FROM: Kristina M. Johnson, Chancellor  
SUBJECT: Establishing an Endowed Professorship at the State University of New York at Buffalo

Action Requested

The proposed resolution approves the action taken by the State University of New York at Buffalo Council on March 9, 2020, establishing the “Donald A. and Patricia A. Coates Professor in Innovation Science.”

Resolution

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

Resolved that the action of the State University of New York at Buffalo Council, establishing an endowed professorship named the “Donald A. and Patricia A. Coates Professor in Innovation Science” in the University’s School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, be, and hereby is, approved.

Background

The action taken by the State University of New York at Buffalo (UB) Council at its March 9, 2019 meeting was in recognition of a significant gift of $1 million from UB Alumnus Dr. Donald A. Coates (BS ’64) and his wife, Mrs. Patricia A. Coates. Dr. Coates credits his UB education for providing the framework for his highly successful career in engineering.

Dr. Coates most recently served as a tenured Assistant Professor at Kent State University following a successful corporate career that included work at the Speed Queen Division of Raytheon, the Frigidaire Company of AB Electrolux, the Hoover Company of the Maytag Corporation, and Whirlpool Automatic Washers at the Whirlpool Corporation. He holds 38 U.S. and international patents with another eight pending; he has authored 18 publications.

This endowed professorship will provide focused research and teaching leadership needed to further develop the School of Engineering’s innovation-centered curriculum and further promote the reputation and standing of the UB School of Engineering and Applied Sciences by drawing top faculty and students to the program.