

April 26, 2017

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Susan Herbst 

RE: Recommendations for Designation as Board of Trustees Distinguished Professors, Academic Year 2016-2017

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees accept the recommendation of the Distinguished Professor Review Committee and designate the following faculty members as University of Connecticut Board of Trustees Distinguished Professors: Sandra Chafouleas (Department of Educational Psychology), Patrick Hogan (Department of English), and Sanguthevar Rajasekaran (Department of Computer Science and Engineering).

BACKGROUND:

On November 10, 1998, the Board of Trustees voted to establish the title of Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor. This designation is the University's highest academic honor.

Pursuant to the *By-Laws of the University of Connecticut*, the Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor award is reserved exclusively to recognize faculty who have achieved exceptional distinction in scholarship, teaching, and service while at the University of Connecticut. Faculty chosen must have distinguished themselves in all three of these categories. The designation process occurs annually, as a result of a peer review process.

After careful deliberations, the Review Committee recommended the three individuals named above. I am recommending that the Board of Trustees designate these faculty as its Distinguished Professors.

Sandra M. Chafouleas

Dr. Chafouleas is a Professor in the Department of Educational Psychology within the Neag School of Education. Her primary work is within the master's/specialist and doctoral programs in school psychology. She also serves as Co-Director of the UConn Collaboratory on School and Child Health (CSCH), the mission of which is to facilitate innovative and impactful connections across research, policy, and practice arenas relevant to school and child health. Her previous awards include the Oakland Mid-Career Scholarship Award from Division 16 of the American Psychological Association (2016), the UConn Alumni Association Award for Faculty Excellence in Graduate Teaching (2009), and the Neag School of Education Outstanding Young Investigator Award (2003). She is an invited member and President-Elect of the Society for the Study of School Psychology, and a fellow in both the American Psychological Association and Association for Psychological Science.

Dr. Chafouleas builds and leads research teams that bring together personnel from across UConn and the nation who offer different disciplinary perspectives and expertise in tackling important issues for children, families, and schools. Her scholarly work has focused on assisting with decisions about school-based practices to help define *which* behaviors are critical to learning, health, and well-being, *who* needs additional supports to be successful, and *what* processes can inform practices that are effective for individual students, classrooms, and schools. To date, Dr. Chafouleas has authored over 150 publications - many of which have become seminal citations for expanding school-based services in identification and response to social, emotional, and behavioral risk. As Principal Investigator, she has maintained continual federal support for her research since 2006.

Dr. Chafouleas is acknowledged as an excellent teacher and mentor. To date, she has successfully mentored 6 postdoctoral scholars and 17 doctoral students in pursuit of diverse career paths in education. Ten of those advisees currently hold tenure-track positions across the nation, with many others serving part-time roles in postsecondary education along with full time applied work. As Principal Investigator, she successfully led an IES-funded postdoctoral training project designed to increase the capacity for high quality education research, with each trainee achieving continual success in academia. In 2009, she received the UConn Alumni Association Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching.

Dr. Chafouleas has extensive history of service to the university, region, and nation. At UConn, she served for two years as associate dean of the Graduate School followed by two years as associate dean of research for the Neag School of Education. She has continually served as associate or guest editor for primary journals in her field, provided invited expert testimony to those charged with determining directions that impact school and child health, and reviewed proposals for federal agencies including IES, NIH, NSF, and OSEP. In addition, she has been a member of two state task forces on education-related topics, and is currently a board member for *Achieve Hartford!*, an independent nonprofit organization founded by business and community leaders with the belief that strong schools lead to a strong city.

Patrick Colm Hogan

Dr. Hogan is a Professor of English at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, where he is also affiliated with the programs in Cognitive Science, Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies, and India Studies. He was elected to the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences (1995) and the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society (1997). He received the Excellence in Research Award (Humanities Division) from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (2013) and the Career Excellence in Research and Creativity Award from the UConn AAUP (2017). He was a visiting professor at Nanjing University of Science and Technology (2015).

Professor Hogan is an influential writer on literary universals and the relations between narrative and emotion. He is the author of 19 scholarly books and a book of poetry. He is editor or co-editor of four scholarly collections and six special issues of journals. He has published over 150 scholarly articles and book chapters and roughly another 50 creative or other pieces.

As many students have testified, Professor Hogan is an accomplished teacher. He was a finalist for the “Educator of the Year” Professional Excellence Award of the Undergraduate Student Government in 2009. A number of Professor Hogan’s graduate students have published work written under his supervision. He is also a popular lecturer and has delivered invited talks at universities around the world. Hogan’s engagement with teaching is evident in his publications treating curricular and pedagogical topics.

Professor Hogan has been actively committed to service in and outside the University of Connecticut. In the English Department, he served as associate department head and acting department head; he first initiated hires in ethnic, gay-lesbian, and postcolonial studies; he began the Irish Literature Concentration; he initiated courses in World Literature in English and Major Works of Eastern Literature, and designed the Literature and Culture of India course. Outside the English Department, he has, among other duties, served on the advisory board of the India Studies program for over a decade and before that was academic program coordinator for the Rabindranath Tagore conference. In the profession, along with extensive refereeing, he has served on a number of Modern Language Association committees. For instance, on the Committee on Academic Freedom, he treated such topics as the MLA’s statement on the censorship of scholars and writers in India. He has also addressed broad social concerns—such as conflict resolution in Kashmir--in interviews and publications.

Sanguthevar Rajasekaran

Dr. Rajasekaran's is a professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering within the School of Engineering. His primary research is in Applied Algorithms, Big Data, and Bio-medical Informatics. He has made seminal and high-impact contributions to the field, solving many problems that remained open for more than a decade. As a case in point, for the problem of parsing with error correction, the cubic time algorithm of Aho and Peterson had remained the best since 1972. In 2015, Dr. Rajasekaran presented a sub-cubic time algorithm, improving a 43-year-old result. He has written more than 300 influential research articles appearing in top-tier publications. He has more than 5,500 citations in Google Scholar with a h-index of 34. His research funding record is exemplary, with grants totaling more than \$8M as the PI and more than \$9M as a co-PI. A vast majority of these grants were received from the NSF and NIH. He is a Fellow of the IEEE and AAAS, and he is an elected member of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering.

Dr. Rajasekaran has taught at UConn and two other universities. He has consistently received excellent teaching evaluations, and he has constantly strived to update curricula with funding from NSF. He has written influential texts and published two popular text books that have been translated into several languages, and he has inspired many students to pursue a career in computer science. Dr. Rajasekaran has graduated 23 Ph.D. students and published many research articles with undergraduate students. He won the School of Engineering's Outstanding Teacher Award in 2004 and the Outstanding CSE Faculty of the Year Award in 2005.

Dr. Rajasekaran has contributed immensely to UConn as well as the scientific community at large. Within UConn he has served on many key departmental, school, and university committees. In addition, he has served as the Director of the Booth Engineering Center for Advanced Technology (BECAT) since 2005, and the Center has seen a lot of growth and recognition under his leadership. He has promoted High Performance Computing within UConn and UConn Health. He has taken the lead on writing many large multidisciplinary proposals, including the successful \$1.4M proposal for the UConn Strategic Plan Competition in 2015. He also shines in external service, founding three international conferences, serving as Chair/co-Chair of 25 and as a PC member of 75+ conferences.