

May 2, 2018

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Susan Herbst 

RE: Recommendations for Designation as Board of Trustees Distinguished Professors, Academic Year 2017-2018

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: Regina Barreca (Department of English), Miguel Gomes (Department of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages), and Peter B. Lu (Department of Electrical and Computer 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 four individuals named above. I am recommending that the Board of Trustees designate these faculty as its Distinguished Professors.

Regina Barreca

Dr. Barreca is a Professor of English at the University of Connecticut, Storrs. Her previous awards include the UConn-AAUP career award for Excellence in Research and Creativity (2018), the University of Connecticut's Reed Fellowship (2017), the University of Connecticut's Engagement Fellowship (2016), induction into the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame (2012), and her appointment to the Mark Twain Board House of Trustees at The Mark Twain House and Museum (2017). Dr. Barreca was inducted into the Friars Club in New York City in 2012 and remains the only full-time, female academic to be admitted into the club; that year, she was also the first alumnae of the college to have her personal papers (including all diaries, journals, and correspondence) requested by the Rauner Special Collections Library at Dartmouth College. Dr. Barreca was awarded the UConn Prize for Excellence in Teaching by the Institute for Teaching and Learning (1998) and was appointed by the Library of Congress to be an Advisor to the American Humor Project in 1995. She received a Reynold's Fellowship to attend Cambridge University and was the first woman to be named Alumni Scholar in the history of Dartmouth College (1979).

Dr. Barreca is the author of nine books (several of which have been translated into Chinese, Spanish, German, Japanese as well as other languages) and the books she's edited, all seventeen of them, have made her one of the world's leading experts on why humor is one of life's greatest survival strategies. Her most recent book, **If You Lean In, Will Men Just Look Down Your Blouse? Questions and Thoughts for Loud, Smart Women in Turbulent Times** was an ELLE Reader's Prize selection in 2016. Dr. Barreca is also an internationally syndicated columnist by the Tribune Co. For several years, Dr. Barreca was a regular contributor to *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* "Conversation" section. Her work has appeared in most major publications, including *The New York Times*, *The Independent of London*, *Cosmopolitan*, and *The Harvard Business Review*. Gina has also appeared on 20/20, The Today Show, CNN, the BBC, NPR and Oprah to discuss politics, popular culture, education, literature, and why women hate The Three Stooges. Professor Barreca received the Connecticut Woman in Leadership Award from the State of Connecticut in 2011 and the Girl Scouts' Leadership Award and Girl Scouts of Connecticut Storyteller's Badge from the Connecticut Valley Girl Scout Council in 2006.

Professor Barreca has received an Honorary Doctorate of Human Letters from Charter Oak State College, (2016) an Honorary degree from Manchester Community College (2014) and an Honorary Doctorate from Shepherd College (2000). Professor Barreca is an accomplished teacher who regularly teaches Creative Writing and British Literature. She regularly supervises undergraduate and graduate theses, as well as works with students on developing and publishing their own creative writing.

Miguel Gomes

Miguel Gomes is a professor of Spanish Studies at the University of Connecticut, Storrs. His fields of expertise are modern poetry and essay, but a few of his works have been devoted to contemporary fiction and cultural theory, usually with a comparative approach. His research has focused on the existence of a continuous tradition of literary theory and criticism in the Spanish and Portuguese-speaking countries of Latin America, from their independence to the present, as well as on key historical moments when local currents of thought collided with international perspectives on modernity and modernization.

Professor Gomes has authored four book-length monographs, two collections of related critical essays, and over 100 articles, along with chapters in academic journals and books; he has also edited sixteen anthologies and journal issues. Moreover, he has been invited to give keynote addresses at national and international conferences of Iberian and Latin American Studies and has received numerous distinctions for his scholarly work, such as the Medal of Honor Alejo Zuloaga, the Medal of Honor José Félix Ribas, and the Fundarte Award for Essay and Criticism. He is a member of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences and the North American chapter of the Royal Academy of the Spanish Language. In his role as a public intellectual, he is also a regular contributor to prestigious journals and other publications of the Hispanic World, such as *Letras Libres* (Spain and Mexico), *El Malpensante* (Colombia), *Papel Literario de El Nacional* (Venezuela).

In addition, Professor Gomes has penned eight collections of short stories and novellas as well as a novel. As a writer of fiction, he has been the recipient of numerous awards, such as the Caracas Municipal Prize and the Venezuelan short story award *El Nacional*. His literary work has been published by prestigious publishing houses around the world, including Random House Mondadori, Seix-Barral, and Gallimard.

Professor Gomes has supported young writers from across the Hispanic world with book introductions, reviews, and his participation at book fairs and roundtables. At UConn, he has a long experience mentoring numerous doctoral students and, as chair of the Spanish Studies Section, decisively contributed to the renovation of both its graduate and undergraduate programs. His involvement in important departmental, college-level and university committees has been a constant throughout the years, as has his service to the profession, including seats on the editorial boards of numerous international journals.

Peter B. Luh

Dr. Luh is the SNET Professor of Communications & Information Technologies at the University of Connecticut, Storrs. His previous awards include UConn's Distinguished Engineering Professor, Chair Professor at National Taiwan University (2009 and 2015), Visiting Fellow at United Technologies Research Center (2010), Life Fellow of Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and 2017 IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (RAS) Saridis Leadership Award. He is also a member of Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering.

Professor Luh has made pioneering contributions to 1) intelligent manufacturing for efficient production and on-time product delivery; 2) smart grid for efficient generator coordination and renewable energy integration; and 3) smart buildings for energy efficiency and safety. The overall goals are on efficiency, greenness, and sustainability. Behind them is a revolutionary approach to overcome the notorious combinatorial complexity of mixed-integer optimization problems. The keys include an innovative way to formulate problems in a "separable" and "tightened" form, and an advanced price-based decomposition and coordination methodology. He received the IEEE RAS Pioneering Award in 2013 for his groundbreaking contributions to the development of near-optimal and efficient planning, scheduling, and coordination methodologies for manufacturing and power systems. He has published 150 scientific journal articles and 320 conference papers, and delivered 130 invited presentations around the world. His work is currently supported by grants from the NSF, United Technologies Corporation, ISO-New England, MISO, and ABB.

Professor Luh is an accomplished teacher who regularly teaches Systems related courses with excellent student feedback. He has graduated 34 Ph.D. students, and among them, three received School of Engineering's Distinguished Engineering Alumni Award. Professor Luh also participated many times in the School of Engineering's week-long daVinci Projects designed for high school mathematics and science teachers and counselors.

Professor Luh has been actively serving the University, the community, and his profession. At the University, he served as the Director of BECAT (1997-2004), and the Head of the Electrical and Computer Engineering (2006-09). He served on the Faculty Review Board (1997-99); Research Advisory Council (1998-99); the University Academic Vision Committee (2013-14); and the Center and Institute Review Committee (2017-19). Community-wise, he was the founding VP of the Asian Faculty and Staff Association (1988-90), and the President (1990-91). During his presidency, he proposed to establish the Asian American Studies Institute and the Asian American Cultural Center. These two organizations were thus created and have been serving the UConn community and beyond. He served as the Advisor to UConn Chinese Bible Study Group for many years. He has been with Storrs Chinese Christian Church since its inception in 2003 and is now the Chair of the Board of Deacons, serving many from the UConn community as related to their faith. Professor Luh has been playing a vital role in IEEE. He served as the Editor-in-Chief of IEEE Transactions on Robotics and Automation (99-03); the founding EiC of IEEE Trans. on Automation Science and Engineering (03-07); RAS Vice President for Publications (2008-11) and is now the Chair of IEEE Technical Activities Board Periodicals Committee for the 2018-19 term, overseeing 190 IEEE journals and magazines.