December 11, 2019

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees
FROM: Thomas Katsouleas
RE: Naming Recommendation for the Prospero Chair in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees authorizes the naming of a faculty position the Prospero Chair in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

BACKGROUND:

The donors have requested the Chair be named after a Shakespearean character, Prospero. The donors would like to remain anonymous.

The donors are non-alumni residents of Connecticut whose primary interest is supporting faculty in the area of Ecology and Marine Biology. This marks their first philanthropic gift to the University. The donors also have named funds at Yale and the University of Cincinnati. They are active philanthropists in the arts and sciences.

The donors have given an amount consistent with the amounts recommended to establish a chair position in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology under the University’s Named Gift Guidelines. The donation will be used to support faculty recruitment, retention, research, graduate student support and similar activities.

At its November 19, 2019, meeting, the Institutional Advancement Committee recommended approval to the full Board.