

June 23, 2020

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Carl W. Lejuez, Ph.D. 
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Reappointment of Steven Wilf, JD, PhD, as the Anthony J. Smits Professor of Global Commerce

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the reappointment of Steven Wilf, JD, PhD, as the Anthony J. Smits Professor of Global Commerce for a five-year term.

BACKGROUND:

The Anthony Smits Professorship was established by his friends and colleagues after his untimely death early in his career. Earning his LLM from UConn in 1997 Anthony Smits was considered one of the 25 best insolvency lawyers in the world before turning 40. His compassion, integrity, loyalty and good humor inspired others who joined in endowing this professorship to be awarded to a nationally or internationally recognized research who has made significant contributions to the field of global commerce. Based on the criteria included in the Endowed Chair Appointment and Renewal Process, Dean Timothy Fisher has presented the recommendation from a committee in the School of Law that Steven Wilf be reappointed as the Anthony J. Smits Professor of Global Commerce for a further five-year term.

During the past term of his appointment as Anthony J. Smits Professor of Global Commerce, Professor Wilf has actively published and engaged in public service. He has written approximately two dozen articles and book chapters, and published a book, *Patent Cultures: Diversity and Harmonization in Historical Perspective* (with Graeme Gooday, Cambridge University Press, 2020). He has also held various visiting professorships and fellowships. These include: a Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies Fellowship at Harvard University (one of 15 scholars selected from around the globe in every academic discipline). He has made numerous scholarly presentations in the United States, Israel, and Europe, including the Sorbonne Faculty of Law and Harvard Law School's Institute for Global Law and Policy.

As much as to scholarship, Professor Wilf been dedicated as Anthony J. Smits Chair to teaching and service. He was twice appointed visiting professor at Yale Law School and delivered various lecture series abroad such as those at Tel Aviv University. Introducing new classes, he has taught a voluntary overload at our Law School virtually every year of his endowed professorship. Professor Wilf has served as chair of two major School of Law elected committees, Faculty

Appointments (FAC) and Tenure and Renewal (PAC). Working under a special appointment that spanned the Obama and Trump administrations, he held a one-year position in the Copyright Office on Capitol Hill. He has also received a Fulbright-Schuman Innovation Award for next year, a jointly funded United States-European Union appointment intended to address shared policy concerns relating to new technologies. In this capacity, he will be a fellow at one of the world's leading intellectual property research institutes, the Centre d'Etudes Internationales de la Propriété Intellectuelle (CEIPI) in Strasbourg. Such involvements in framing global intellectual property policy—in government service at the Copyright Office, as a Fulbright, and next year in France at CEIPI—are critical for furthering the Law School's commitment towards scholarly engagement.