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: Appointment of Jinbo Bi, PhD, to the Frederick H. Leonhardt Computer Science Chair in the School of Engineering

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Jinbo Bi, PhD, to the Frederick H. Leonhardt Computer Science Chair in the School of Engineering.

BACKGROUND:

The Frederick H. Leonhardt Computer Science Chair was established in November, 1983 with a generous grant by the Fairfield County Community Foundation to endow a chair in Computer Science at the UConn Stamford Campus. Given the evolving needs of the University, in November 2015 the University was given consent by the Fairfield County Community Foundation to relocate the Chair to the Storrs Campus in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering.

Dr. Jinbo Bi is a Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at UConn, and has established a research program of international prominence in the areas of machine learning and artificial intelligence and their application to medical diagnosis and treatment. Dr. Bi’s many professional leadership roles include serving as the General Chair of the 2019 IEE International Conference on Bioinformatics and Biomedicine. She has advised the NIH’s Institute for Alcohol Abuse and Addiction (NIAAA) on their strategic planning for innovation in machine learning and big data analytics, and was a highlighted speaker at the International Behavioral and Neural Genetics Society. Dr. Bi has an outstanding record of funding, being awarded over $7 million in competitive federal funding as sole or co-PI. She is the recipient of a highly competitive Mid-Career Independent Scientist Award from the National Institute on Drug Abuse and National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, received the 2019 Women Innovators and Leaders Award from the Connecticut Technology Council, and received the 2019 Distinguished Woman in STEM Award from Bay Path University. Dr. Bi’s outstanding scholarship, leadership, and accomplishments make her an excellent choice for appointment to the Frederick H. Leonhardt Computer Science Chair.