

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 George Bollas, PhD, to the United Technologies Corp. Chair in Advanced Systems Engineering in the School of Engineering

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of George Bollas, PhD, to the United Technologies Corp. Chair in Advanced Systems Engineering in the School of Engineering.

BACKGROUND:

The United Technologies Corporation Chair in Advanced Systems Engineering was established with a generous grant by the United Technologies Corporation as part of a major investing at UConn to advance systems engineering at UTC and UConn.

Dr. George Bollas is a Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and is the Director of the UTC Institute for Systems Engineering (UTC-IASE) at UConn. Dr. Bollas has established a research program of excellence in systems engineering, obtaining over \$7M in research funding from federal agencies and industry for fundamental and applied research, with \$1.8M in matching fellowships. His scholarly publications include five book chapters, 56 refereed journal articles in well recognized journals in his field, over 140 conference proceedings and presentations, three patents filed and two additional provisional patents applied. Dr. Bollas has received national research awards and is a member of Frontiers of Engineering Education - National Academy of Engineering (2016).

Dr. Bollas' leadership of the UTC Institute for Advanced Systems Engineering has been outstanding. He oversees a group of 10 core faculty and 40 affiliated faculty from all departments in the School of Engineering who collaborate with numerous UTC engineers and scientists on cutting edge research projects. Under his leadership, a Masters of Engineering degree in Systems Engineering was created, and fellowships for graduate students pursuing systems engineering have supported almost 30 students. He has established connections with local industry, following the states mandate for job creation and education of the workforce. Dr. George Bollas' accomplishments in research, outreach to industry and leadership in the area of systems engineering make him an outstanding choice for appointment as the UTC Chair in Advanced Systems Engineering.