

April 28, 2021

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

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

RE: Reappointment of Professor Robert Bird, PhD to the Eversource Chair in Business Ethics in the School of Business

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees reappoint Robert Bird, PhD to the Eversource Energy Chair in Business Ethics in the School of Business for August 23, 2021 through August 22, 2024.

BACKGROUND:

Established in 2000, this Chair is supported by an endowment from the Northeast Utilities Corporation to recognize a researcher, and teacher having made significant contributions to business ethics. The Chair will provide intellectual leadership for existing courses, offer specific dedicated classes, conduct and oversee faculty research, as well as publish in business ethic.

The decision to reappoint was made following the school of business policy; Dean Elliott is making his recommendation based on consultation with the associate deans and the relevant department head in the School of Business.

Professor Bird (J.D. Boston University) is a tenured Professor who is nationally recognized within his profession as a leader in the field and a very accomplished scholar with 10 publications since 2018 (66 total to date). Professor Bird's research examines business ethics on a global scale including; the impact of compulsory licensing laws on the availability of pharmaceutical drugs in developing countries; the obligation and opportunity in global human rights; and the procedural and substantive justice issues underlying fair and unfair termination of employees in the workplace arena.

Professor Bird currently serves as the President of the Academy of Legal Studies in Business. While holding this chair he has hosted the *Summit on the Academic Profession of Business Law* (2019) and developed the '*Equity Now*' speaker series (2020) focused on underrepresented groups, and how law and policy can facilitate equality, fairness, and inclusion in organizations. In addition he has used his chair to support undergraduate students in summer internships in values-driven organizations, and attend the Conference of the Parties (COP25) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Professor Bird continues to teach Business, Law, and Ethics at the undergraduate and graduate levels receiving high student evaluations of teaching.