June 30, 2021

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

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

RE: Appointment of Jiong Tang, PhD, to the United Technologies Corporation Professor of Advanced Materials and Processing in the School of Engineering

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Dr. Jiong Tang to the United Technologies Corporation Professor of Advanced Materials and Processing in the School of Engineering

BACKGROUND:

The United Technologies Corporation Professor of Advanced Materials and Processing was established in February 2006 by agreement of the Provost’s Office, the School of Engineering and the Institute of Material Science. The UTC Professorship of Advanced Materials and Processing is reserved for a renowned researcher and teacher in an area of materials science and engineering who will provide leadership and vision toward the development of advanced technologies and processes, the enhancement of graduate and undergraduate education, and the elevation of UConn’s reputation for excellence in materials science and allied areas.

Dr. Jiong Tang is a Professor of Mechanical Engineering at UConn, and has established himself as an international leader in system dynamics, sensing, control and specifically in piezoelectric-based smart structures. He is the co-director of the Management and Engineering of Manufacturing program, a growing field within engineering, and led the program through curriculum restructuring, a reformat of the senior design courses, and a successful ABET accreditation process. Dr. Tang devotes tremendous energy to advising graduate and undergraduate students, including successfully guiding 14 Ph.D. students to completion, advising the undergraduate students in the Management and Engineering for Manufacturing program annually, and serving as advisor to 60 undergraduate honors students in the Mechanical Engineering department. Professionally, Dr. Tang has served as associate and technical editor for leading journals in his areas of expertise, and has served as general chair or program chair of multiple conferences and symposia. Dr. Tang has an outstanding record of research funding, serving as PI or co-PI for over 35 externally funded research projects totaling more than $20M, with $6M as his share. Dr. Tang is an elected member of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering, and is a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Dr. Tang was nominated for this appointment by the department, received unanimous support from the Dean’s Council for PT&R, and is fully supported by Dean Kazem Kazerounian. Dr. Tang’s outstanding record of scholarship, leadership and accomplishments make him an excellent choice for appointment to the UTC Professor of Advanced Materials and Processing.