

June 28, 2023

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Anne D'Alleva, Ph.D.  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs



RE: Appointment of Professor James Waller to the Christopher J. Dodd Chair in Human Rights Practice in the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute, Office of Global Affairs

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees appoint Professor James Waller to the Christopher J. Dodd Chair in Human Rights Practice in the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute effective August 23, 2023 through August 22, 2028.

BACKGROUND:

The Christopher J. Dodd Chair in Human Rights Practice (Dodd Chair) is awarded to a tenured associate or full professor who is appointed to serve as the Director of the Dodd Human Rights Impact programs. The Dodd Chair is linked to the directorship, and is eligible for renewal every five years, as long as the appointee continues to serve in the Director role. Jointly appointed to the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute (HRI), and a tenure home department, the Dodd Chair directs HRI's Dodd Human Rights Impact Programs and advances the mission of The Dodd Center for Human Rights, in which HRI is housed. The Dodd Chair will help address the urgent need to protect human rights and preserve human dignity. The decision to recommend this appointment was made following an international search and in consultation with Provost Anne D'Alleva and Vice President for Global Affairs Dan Weiner.

Jointly appointed to the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute, and the department of Literatures, Cultures and Languages in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Dr. Waller is a world-renowned scholar of Holocaust and genocide studies. Most recently he was the Cohen Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College where he developed and led the nation's first undergraduate department and major in Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Dr. Waller also served as the Director of Academic Programs for the Auschwitz Institute for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities, through which he forged relationships with government policymakers worldwide, with seminars reaching nearly 9,000 government officials and security sector personnel from 90 countries. Dr. Waller is the author of nearly 50 articles and book chapters, and six books. The latter includes his award-winning *Becoming Evil: How Ordinary People Commit Genocide and Mass Killing* (Oxford University Press, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2007) and *A Troubled Sleep: Risk and Resilience in Contemporary Northern Ireland* (Oxford University Press, 2021). His public writing includes pieces for *The Washington Post*, *The Irish News*, and *The Conversation*.