

September 27, 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 Dr. Liang Zhang to the Pratt & Whitney Associate Professorship in Advanced Systems Engineering in the School of Engineering

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees appoint Associate Professor Liang Zhang to the Pratt & Whitney Associate Professorship in Advanced Systems Engineering in the School of Engineering.

BACKGROUND:

The Pratt & Whitney Associate Professorship in Advanced Systems Engineering in the School of Engineering was established by an endowment from Raytheon Technologies Corporation (formerly known as United Technologies Corporation) on November 19, 2013, and subsequently amended on August 29, 2022, as part of a major investment at UConn to advanced systems engineering. This Professorship supports multiple Associate Professors who are nationally or internationally recognized researchers, scholars, and teachers, and who will have made significant contributions to the field of advanced systems engineering. This appointment will be effective August 23, 2023 through August 22, 2028.

The appointment of Dr. Liang Zhang follows the unanimous recommendations of Dean Kazem Kazerounian, the School of Engineering's Executive Council, and the Selection Committee of the Pratt & Whitney Institute for Advanced Systems Engineering (P&W-IASE).

Dr. Zhang received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 2009. He joined UConn in 2009 as an Assistant Professor and was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2018. Dr. Zhang is an accomplished researcher with more than 50 journal publications in the areas of smart manufacturing, advanced energy storage systems, and cyber-security of power systems. Dr. Zhang's work appears in high-impact journals, and he has a Google Scholar h-index of 28 and i10-index of 52. Dr. Zhang is the PI and Director of the Southern New England Industrial Assessment Center, funded by the Department of Energy, a \$3.37M center with partners like Eversource/Avangrid, the CT Department of Economic Community Development, the CT Department of Energy and Environmental

Protection, and the Connecticut Manufacturers' Collaborative. Since July 2022, Dr. Zhang's team has performed a total of 13 energy assessments (two in NY and 11 in CT), resulting in 700+ pages of technical assessment reports. Dr. Zhang has been the recipient of multiple prominent best paper awards from international organizations over the past 10 years. As an IASE citizen, Dr. Zhang served as the chair of the IASE-hosted Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) International Conference on Complex Systems Engineering, in Storrs, CT. Dr. Zhang's has served as a Co-PI in IASE collaborative research projects with the Department of Energy and the Air Force Research Lab (AFRL), among others. Dr. Zhang's hosted multiple IASE events with participants from state government (including CT Chief Manufacturing Officer, Paul Lavoie), local companies, leadership of industrial organizations, and representatives from utility providers. Dr. Zhang has participated in industrial outreach events at the Innovation Partnership Building (IPB) and outreach trips to promote collaboration opportunities between UConn School of Engineering and local manufacturers. Dr. Zhang is the coordinator for joint senior design projects with Systems Engineering of the IASE and the UConn Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.