

October 25, 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 Xiao-Dong Zhou to the Nicholas E. Madonna Chair in Sustainability in the College of Engineering

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Professor Xiao-Dong Zhou to the Nicholas E. Madonna Chair in Sustainability in the College of Engineering.

BACKGROUND:

The Nicholas E. Madonna Professorship in Cyber-Physical Systems was created with a gift by Robert Madonna, the son of Nicholas E. Madonna, on June 30, 2011, and established by the Board of Trustees in December of 2015. The Professorship supports a nationally and internationally recognized researcher, scholar and educator. By mutual agreement between the donor and the College of Engineering, the name of the professorship has been changed to the Nicholas E. Madonna Chair in Sustainability.

Dr. Xiao-Dong Zhou is joining the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering in the College of Engineering on August 23, 2023, and will serve as the Director of the Center for Clean Energy Engineering, the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund Professor in Sustainable Energy, and Special Advisor on Sustainable Energies to UConn President Radenka Maric and Vice President for Research Pamir Alpay. The appointment to the Nicholas E. Madonna Chair in Sustainability will be through August 22, 2026.

Throughout his career, Dr. Zhou has made significant contributions to the field of clean energy engineering. His research interests span theoretical and experimental studies of materials and interfaces for energy systems, including batteries, fuel cells, and electrolyzers. His research focuses on developing sustainable energy technologies and addressing global challenges related to climate change and environmental sustainability. He currently serves as the Technical Editor of the Journal of The Electrochemical Society, an Associate Editor of the Journal of the American Ceramic Society, and the International Journal of Ceramic Engineering and Science of the American Ceramic Society. He is a Fellow of the Electrochemical Society. Dr. Zhou will provide invaluable guidance and contribute to the development of sustainable energy strategies and initiatives across the university.