To: Timothy D. Sands, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

From: Leah H. Jamieson

Date: April 15, 2014

Subj: Recommendation for Distinguished Professorship

I am pleased to recommend that Farshid Sadeghi receive the designation of Distinguished Professor in Mechanical Engineering.

A special augmented panel of distinguished colleagues has reviewed his case and recommend this action. The special panel recommendation, as well as Professor Sadeghi's CV and recommendation letters, are enclosed.

This memo is to request your approval, the approval of President Daniels, and of the Board of Trustees to name Farshid Sadeghi a Distinguished Professor in Mechanical Engineering.

Thank you.

Approval Recommended:

Timothy D. Sands, Executive Vice
for Academic Affairs and Provost

Approved:

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., President

Date: 4/29/14

Enclosures

Cc: A. Bajaj
    K. Kokini
    J. Dietz

Office of the Dean

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To: Timothy D. Sands, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

From: Leah H. Jamieson, The John A. Edwardson Dean of Engineering

Date: March 4, 2014

Subject: Candidate for a Distinguished Professorship

The Primary Committees of the School of Mechanical Engineering as well as the Engineering Area Promotion Committee have endorsed Farshid Sadeghi as a Distinguished Professor in Mechanical Engineering.

The purpose of this memo is to request your approval to establish a special panel to evaluate Professor Sadeghi’s suitability for a distinguished professorship. The proposed committee includes:

Michael Ladisch, Distinguished Professor of Agricultural and Biological Engineering-Chair of Committee
Sanford Fleeter, McAllister Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering
Byron Pipes, John L. Bray Distinguished Professor of Engineering
Chin-Teh Sun, Neil A. Armstrong Distinguished Professor of Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering
Rex Rekaitis, Burton and Kathryn Gedge Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering
Richard Mattes, Distinguished Professor, Nutrition Science

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

APPROVED:

Timothy D. Sands, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Date: 03/11/14

pc: A. Bajaj
K. Kokini
April 11, 2014

Dean Leah Jamieson
The John A. Edwardson Dean of Engineering
Ransburg Distinguished Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Professor of Engineering Education (courtesy appointment)
Past Director, EPICS: Engineering Projects in Community Service
Purdue University
701 West Stadium Avenue
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2045

Dear Dean Jamieson:

The panel of Distinguished Professors has reviewed the nomination of Farshid Sadeghi, Cummins Professor of Mechanical Engineering for Cummins Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering. We would advise that Professor Sadeghi’s case meets the criteria for Distinguished Professor based on his outstanding accomplishments that have resulted in national and international prominence, as well as a major impact in the field to tribology. Our advice is based on the academic review carried out by the Primary Committee of the Mechanical Engineering Department; the nominating statement provided by Professor Anil Bajaj, Head of the Department; letters from reviewers external to Purdue University; and the nominee’s curriculum vita. We, as panel members, considered Dr. Sadeghi’s contributions to scholarship and discovery, teaching and mentoring, and service to the college and profession.

Professor Sadeghi’s research is in tribology which relates to the science of friction, wear, and lubrication. This field has a long history with Leonardo da Vinci being among the first to propose laws of friction. The term, tribology, apparently emerged about 50 years ago. Unlike other areas of science where discovery of new phenomena is a goal, tribology is defined by problem solving at a molecular and nanoscale level where lubrication has a huge impact on smooth and sustainable operation of both small and large machines, and where failures may have catastrophic consequences.

Professor Sadeghi has been extremely successful in identifying and mitigating challenges associated with lubricating moving surfaces. His analysis and modeling of dry and lubricated fretting phenomena (the cyclical rubbing between two surfaces) has been at the forefront of his field. Given the very specialized nature of this field, discussions with various panel members addressed impact, and the unique attributes of studies in tribology, as well as how Professor Sadeghi’s contributions to it. The panel felt that his work merits recognition.

His publications, principally in the ASME Journal of Tribology, and letters of reference confirm the impact he has made on the field. The usual metrics of the ISI h-index (measure of how many times an author’s paper is cited) does not reflect his impact on the industry, nor the $24.5 million in grant funding that he has initiated or has been part of since coming to Purdue University. Citations, while important and present are less meaningful in a very specialized field defined by a small cadre of engineers. Conversely, examples of impact are key to evaluating Dr. Sadeghi’s contributions in this area. In the case of Professor Sadeghi, the indicators assessed by our panel are the ingenuity of his research, the
Committee, member of the University Senate, and member of various search committees. He has provided service to his profession through activity on various professional committees and as Editor of Tribology Transactions. Professor Khansari, currently Editor of the ASME Journal of Tribology, states that Professor Sagdehi’s appointment to editor of STLE Transactions speaks “highly of Professor Sagdehi’s scholarly recognition among his peers in both academia and industry.”

The panel believes that Professor Sagdehi is qualified to be considered for the Cummins Distinguished Professorship based on his impact in discovery, teaching, and engagement in the field of Tribology.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Michael Ladisch
Panel Chair
Distinguished Professor, Agricultural and Biological Engineering; Weldon School of Biomedical Engineering, and Director, Laboratory of Renewable Resources Engineering

[Signature]
Sanford Fleeter, McAllister Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering

[Signature]
Richard Mattes, Distinguished Professor of Nutrition Science

[Signature]
Byron Pipes, John L. Bray Distinguished Professor of Engineering

[Signature]
Rex Rekaitis, Burton and Kathryn Gedge Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering

[Signature]
Chin Teh Sun, Neil A. Armstrong Distinguished Professor of Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering