June 4, 2015

To: Debasish Dutta, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

From: Jeff Roberts, Frederick L. Hovde Dean

Re: Nomination of Dr. Christopher Staiger for a Distinguished Professor of Biological Sciences

I forward to you the nomination of Dr. Christopher Staiger for a Distinguished Professor of Biological Sciences. Dr. Staiger’s nomination has been endorsed by the Biology Department, the College of Science’s Area Promotion Committee and a university committee of distinguished professors. A report from the university committee is attached, along with both an abbreviated vita and bio sketch plus letters from external referees.

Dr. Staiger is a preeminent plant biologist, who is recognized internationally for his work on how plants grow and how they react to external stimuli. He made a critically important discovery that plants differ from animals in the mechanism for actin dynamics. These results were surprising, novel, and fundamental to the field. Dr. Staiger’s work has been published in top scientific journals, including The Plant Cell, Plant Physiology, Current Biology, Molecular and Cellular Biology, and the Journal of Cell Biology. He has been an invited author of numerous review articles in prestigious journals such as Current Opinion in Cell Biology, Current Opinion in Plant Biology, and Annual Review of Plant Physiology. He is a prolific scholar, whose career trajectory continues only to grow. Dr. Staiger is well recognized by his peers as being among “the best of the best.” He recently was elected Fellow of the American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB). Fellows in ASPB are limited to no more than 0.2% of the current society membership each year (over 6,000). Thus, Chris is considered to be among the best of the best in the worlds’ largest society devoted to plant sciences and was elected as part of a class of only 7 fellows.

I most strongly endorse the nomination of Dr. Christopher Staiger as a Distinguished Professor of Biological Sciences.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL:

Debasish Dutta
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Date: 9/1/15

APPROVED:

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
President

Date: 9/15/15

College of Science
May 13, 2015

To: Jeffrey T. Roberts, Frederick L. Hovde Dean of the College of Science

From: Ad hoc Committee of Distinguished Professors

We are pleased to strongly endorse the candidacy of Dr. Christopher J. Staiger for the distinction of Distinguished Professor. Dr. Staiger is internationally known for his work on the plant actin cytoskeleton. Dr. Staiger has developed cutting-edge imaging technology to view the dynamics of cytoskeleton behavior. From these data, he has developed an entirely new model of how the actin cytoskeleton is constructed and maintained. This work is now well-accepted in the field, and has led to numerous new research directions, including how cytoskeletal dynamics are affected during pathogen attack on cells. Dr. Staiger is a Fellow of the American Association of Plant Biologists and has been Associate Editor of the journal The Plant Cell, the most prestigious journal in the plant field, for more than 10 years. His reference letters are outstanding, and attest to the high regard with which he is held in his field. For example, Dr. Daniel Cosgrove (Penn State University), writes that “he is clearly the international leader in the actin field.” We strongly recommend that Dr. Staiger be granted the distinction of Distinguished Professor.

Mikhail Atallah – Distinguished Professor of Computer Science

Jean Chmielewski – Alice Watson Kramer Distinguished Professor of Organic Chemistry/Chemical Biology

Stan Gelvin – Edwin Umbarger Distinguished Professor of Biology

Chris Greene – Albert Overhauser Distinguished Professor of Physics

Michael Ladisch – Distinguished Professor Agricultural & Biological Engineering