

Mung Chiang
John A. Edwardson Dean of the College of Engineering

To: Jay T. Akridge, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity
From: Mung Chiang ^{MC}
Date: May 14, 2019
Subj: Recommendation for Named Professorship

I am pleased to recommend that Dr. Antonio Bobet be appointed Edgar B. and Hedwig M. Olson Professor in Civil Engineering. Dr. Bobet's case has unanimous support of Civil Engineering's nominating committee as well as of the Engineering Named Professorship Committee.

Dr. Antonio Bobet is a leading authority in the area of rock mechanics and rock engineering in the world, with major contributions in hydraulic fracturing and induced seismicity, seismic design of tunnels, risk evaluation and mitigation of geostructures, and the stability of lunar lava flows. Dr. Bobet's research has been supported by industry and by state and federal agencies, with a total of 61 funded projects, of which the majority has come from industry and federal sources (12.3 M total funding, 64% industry and federal). Dr. Bobet's research has resulted in about 150 peer-reviewed technical publications and four edited books. He is a good teacher at both graduate and undergraduate levels with his Professor Evaluation Score of 4.4 (average for the past 10 years; values range from 3.6 to 5.0). He has graduated 14 PhDs (9 co-advised), with 8 (1 co-advised) more in the pipeline; 13 master's students (7 co-advised) have completed their degrees with him, with one more expected to graduate in 2019; and he has involved over 20 undergraduate students in research. Three of his students hold positions in academia - University of Texas at Austin, Colorado School of Mines and University de Chile in Santiago. Dr. Bobet was the past chair of the ASCE Rock Mechanics committee. He is the Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Underground Space Journal. He was an elected member of the Board of Directors of ARMA where he served as its President from 2013 to 2015. One of his lasting contributions is his work as a member of the international geotechnical advisory board for the Panama Canal. Dr. Bobet's awards include the 2011 ASCE Ralph B. Peck Award, the 2012 National Award for Significant Contributions in Science and Technology – SENACYT Panama, and the 2012 ARMA Applied Research Award. He held the Visiting Chair Professor of the Innovation Center for Disaster Prevention in the School of Civil Engineering, at Tongji University, China, for his expertise in the seismic behavior of tunnels (2014-2018).

Approval Recommended:



Jay T. Akridge, Provost and Executive
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity

5/20/19

Date



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
President

5/29/19

Date

Enclosures

Cc: G.S. Govindaraju
A. Raman
J. Dietz



COLLEGE OF
ENGINEERING

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John A. Edwardson Dean of the College of
Engineering

To: Jay T. Akridge, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic
Affairs and Diversity

From: Engineering Named Professorships Committee:
James Braun, Paul Griffin, Ed Delp, Stephen Heister, Michael Loui, Kumares
Sinha, Haiyan Wang, Linda Wang, Mung Chiang, Chair

Date: April 30, 2019

Subject: ***Recommendation of Antonio Bobet for Olson Professorship***

The Engineering Named Professorships Committee unanimously recommends Professor Antonio Bobet for appointment as the Edgar B. and Hedwig M. Olson Professor in Civil Engineering. This recommendation is based on his research in rock mechanics and rock engineering. To date, he has made major contributions to the understanding of the mechanisms of damage of brittle materials, the interplay that exists between subsurface hydraulic and mechanical processes, and the performance of underground structure during earthquakes.

Comments from letter writers and some of the committee members below are indicative of the level of enthusiasm for this candidate:

- "...In relation to our attempts to re-invigorate sub-surface science and engineering in the US, he contributed substantially to the potential \$1B effort to build an underground research laboratory for (principally) particle astrophysics but also to address pressing issues of sub-surface science and engineering. He served as a group leader in this regard, coordinating an effort on subsurface characterization and construction design, and successfully competing for an NSF grant to fund these coordinating activities...I think him a highly deserving candidate for a Named Professorship..."
- "Professor Bobet is an internationally known expert in rock mechanics and engineering. His is a member of the international geotechnical advisory board for the Panama Canal. He has received many national and international awards and his work was featured in more than 280 press stories. He deserves this named professorship."

Please let us know if we can provide any additional information.