



College of Engineering

BOARD APPROVED
October 9, 2026
Cindy Ream
Corporate Secretary

To: Patrick Wolfe, Provost

From: Mark Lundstrom, John A. Edwardson Dean of Engineering *Mark Lundstrom*

Date: August 27, 2026

Subject: Recommendation for a Named Professorship, Dr. Xiulin Ruan for Reilly Professor of Mechanical Engineering

I am pleased to recommend Dr. Xiulin Ruan as the Reilly Professor of Mechanical Engineering.

Dr. Ruan's case has received outstanding support from the Engineering Named Professorship Committee, largely for his research focused on innovative energy solutions and creation and control of materials with novel thermal properties.

Dr. Ruan is well regarded in his professional community. The external community has recognized his stature, having been named a Fellow of ASME, having an NSF CAREER award, and winning the International Phononics Society Brillouin Medal in addition to other research and mentoring awards. Prof. Ruan and has held leadership positions in the field, such as serving as Committee Chair of the ASME K-8 Committee: Theory and Fundamental Research in Heat Transfer. Dr. Ruan has been a longtime editorial board member for *Scientific Reports* since 2012 and served 6 years as Associate Editor for the Journal of Heat Transfer.

All the external letters speak highly of Prof. Ruan's contributions to the field. Examples of recommendations include notes such as that from:

Alan McGaughey, PhD of Carnegie Mellon University, "His papers have received more than 17,000 citations and he has an h-index of 71 (Google Scholar, April 20, 2026). These publication and citation numbers are among the best of any researcher at a comparable career stage in the international nanoscale thermal transport community." Also, "[Four-Phonon scattering...] was important because an earlier theoretical paper had predicted that BAs would have a room-temperature thermal conductivity higher than that of diamond. A year after the publication of this paper, three independent experimental papers were published in Science that all validated Xiulin's prediction. It is one of the top five demonstrations of the power of theory in the thermal transport community that I have seen in the last twenty years."

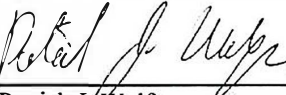
Junichiro Shiomi, PhD of The University of Tokyo writes, "Professor Ruan is among the most accomplished and influential researchers of his generation in the fields of nanoscale thermal transport and radiative heat transfer. His career reflects a rare combination of fundamental scientific depth and exceptional translational impact: he has pioneered entirely new research directions, produced inventions that have captured broad public attention, and mentored an outstanding generation of junior academic leaders from whom the international scientific community has benefited tremendously. By any meaningful measure, his achievements and stature already far exceed the standard ordinarily associated with a chaired professorship."

Zhuomin Zhang, PhD of Georgia Institute of Technology states, "Professor Ruan has been invited to give numerous seminars, short course lectures, and invited speeches at national/international conferences,

workshops, and many institutes. He has been invited to give nearly 100 keynote, plenary, and seminars around the world." and "Professor Ruan has published over 180 archival journal papers and garnered over 17000 citations according to Google Scholar. He has mentored a large number of Ph.D. and postdoctoral students, many of them have become faculty members in the US and worldwide at prestigious universities."

In summary, the ENPC committee determined that Dr. Ruan's impressive contributions to research and his leadership in heat transfer make him an ideal candidate for the Reilly Professor of Mechanical Engineering and I agree with this designation.

Approval Recommended:



Patrick J. Wolfe Date
Provost
Miller Family Professor of Statistics
And Computer Science

Approved:



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. Date
Interim President

Cc: Dave Bahr
 Brittany Vestal
 Eckhard Groll