

Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
February 7, 2019

**APPOINTMENT OF JOHN PAUL WHITE TO THE RANK
OF DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR**

A Recommendation

1. **Division and Department:** Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

2. **Introduction:** In 1988 the Board of Trustees (Board) created the faculty rank of Distinguished Professor. Upon recommendation of the President and Provost, the Board may appoint individuals to the rank of Distinguished Professor for the duration of the individual's active service at Oakland University. Appointments to distinguished professorships are based on the candidate's efforts and accomplishments in the areas of teaching, intellectual contributions and service, giving consideration to the programmatic and institutional setting of the candidate's work at Oakland and the nature of the candidate's assignments and responsibilities, the quality of the candidate's accomplishments and the relation of all the foregoing factors to the objectives of the area or departments, the goals of the college or school, and the mission and long-range vision of the University.

A selection committee of his peers recommended the following faculty member, John Paul White, for approval to Dr. James P. Lentini, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, to the appointment of Distinguished Professor.

3. **Previous Board Action:** The Board has periodically appointed individuals to the rank of Distinguished Professor at Formal Sessions of the Board.

4. **Budget Implications:** A one-time salary stipend of \$2,500 plus an annual supplies and services allocation of \$1,500, up to five years, for the Distinguished Professor will be paid from the Provost's Discretionary Fund.

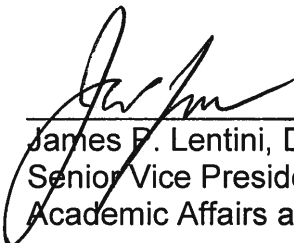
5. **Educational Implications:** Recognition of a distinguished faculty member's long-standing dedication to the mission of the institution reinforces a culture that is devoted to excellence in teaching, research, creative endeavor, and service.

6. **Personnel Implications:** None.

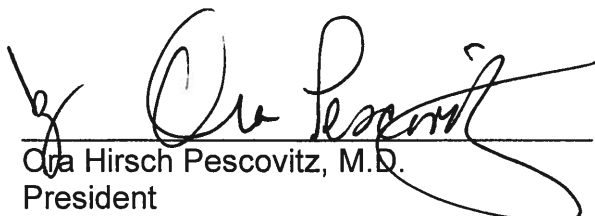
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7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** A selection committee of his peers recommended John Paul White, Professor of Music in the School of Music, Theatre and Dance in the College of Arts and Sciences, for approval to Dr. James P. Lentini, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, to the appointment of Distinguished Professor.
8. **Recommendation:** RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the appointment of John Paul White, Professor of Music, to the rank of Distinguished Professor, effective August 15, 2019.
9. **Attachment:** John Paul White.

Submitted to the President
on 2/5, 2019 by


James P. Lentini, D.M.A.
Senior Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost

Recommendation on 2/5, 2019
to the Board for Approval by


Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.
President

Attachment A

John Paul White, joined the faculty of Oakland University in 1984. His singing career has spanned five decades and well over 1000 performances of operatic roles and bass solo roles in the major oratorios at venues from Baroque theatres in Germany to Carnegie Hall in New York City.

John Paul White's primary scholarship area is vocal performance. Before arriving at Oakland University, he performed on stages across Europe and the United States, including the Frankfurt Alte Oper, the Kassel Staatstheater, the Santa Fe Opera, the San Francisco Opera, the New Orleans Opera Theater and the Michigan Opera Theatre. He also performed as the bass soloist for a Beethoven Mass and the Mozart Requiem at Carnegie Hall. He has performed with Placido Domingo in Carmen with the New Orleans Opera, was bass soloist in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony at a Gala honoring Marian Anderson, and has performed under Leonard Bernstein and Robert Shaw. At Oakland University, he has performed operatic roles in 49 performances, as a bass soloist in 124 concerts, and as a soloist in more than 50 Oakland University performances. His longevity as a performing artist is of note and has been likened to Nolan Ryan's final no-hitter at the age of 44; it is an indication that his knowledge of the mechanics of and care for the voice is not something he has simply taught, but has also emulated for his students as a professional. Since his promotion to full professor in 1997, he has performed on stage in 70 performances, including appearances with major regional opera companies and symphony orchestras, many of those as a result of being selected from highly competitive auditions. His voice has been described as a rich, resonant bass and as a performer he has been described as riveting, steeped in musicianship, with masterful technique. His preparation is impeccable, thoughtful, careful, and passionate leading to high quality performances and distinguish him among his peers. A co-star in a 2016 performance stated that he is "a role model in not only professionalism, artistry, and stage presence, but also through his generosity of spirit and true kindness to each member of the cast and crew."

Professor White is preeminent in teaching as well. Upon his arrival at Oakland University in 1984, Professor White began what became the establishment of the current music program. Through his skill and dedication, he has built and maintained one of the most successful voice programs in the country. His teaching philosophy is rooted in vocal health and teaching techniques that enable a singer to sing successfully and healthfully across styles and genres. He is known for teaching students both the anatomy and psychology associated with vocal production, so they know what muscles to move to create the best technique and does so with warmth, humor and kindness. He has been instrumental in building a voice faculty that share his philosophy and approach creating a program unified in approach and success with students. The collegiality he has sought and fosters has benefited voice students who are able to join their peers and the entire voice faculty for additional learning opportunities, such as Thursday afternoon master classes and Voice Day. Described as a master teacher who is committed to the success of his students, Professor White motivates students to set and strive for the highest expectations of themselves and creates an environment in his classrooms that promotes positive, productive learning and fosters and maintains the respect of his students. A measure of his success as a teacher is the fact that many of his students have gone on to have successful careers on Broadway, in Broadway touring companies, Chicago theaters, London's West

End, and in Europe. His commitment to all young singers was evident in his response to the expansion of the musical theatre program at OU. He spent his sabbatical interviewing experts on the BELT voice to understand the mechanics of how to sing in this style without damaging the voice greatly benefitting students seeking careers in musical theatre. Professor White is also the consummate mentor of other teachers of music and of his students.

Professor White's service record is deep at Oakland University, in the profession and the community. His strong leadership in curriculum development, and mentorship of faculty has inspired his colleagues. He has served on numerous faculty search and review committees often in leadership roles and he has served in an administrative capacity as the music area head. In all that he has done, he has consistently served SMTD in the core areas of the greatest importance to the success and forward motion of the unit. He helped develop the Arts at Noon program giving students additional chances to perform for an audience and providing Oakland University faculty, staff and students an opportunity to enjoy the many talented artists studying here. He is considered an expert on the medical side of voice disorders. He is active with the Voice Foundation, which is a multidisciplinary symposium bringing together singers, voice teachers, speech pathologists, and physicians. He has worked with medical professionals in laryngology at William Beaumont Hospital and Henry Ford Hospital who are impressed by his passion and care for his department, teachers and students, but who also appreciate the care he has given to the patients they have sent him. He is credited with being a great ambassador for the University.

Professor John Paul White's contributions to vocal scholarship, teaching and service have met the standard of preeminence and are worthy of the title of Distinguished Professor.