

**Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
February 13, 2026**

**APPOINTMENT OF JAMES T. HANSEN TO THE RANK
OF DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR
A Recommendation**

1. **Division and Department:** Office of the Executive 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.
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.
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** A selection committee of his peers recommended James Hansen of the School of Education and Human Services for approval to Dr. Amy Thompson, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, for the appointment of Distinguished Professor.

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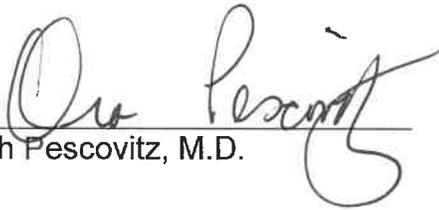
8. **Recommendation:** RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the appointment of James Hansen, Professor of Counseling, to the rank of Distinguished Professor, effective August 15, 2026.

9. **Attachment:** Biography of James Hansen.

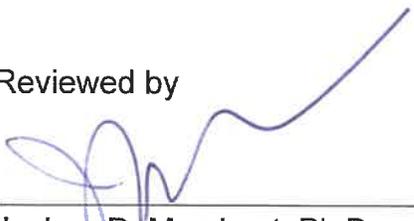
Submitted to the President
on January 27, 2026 by


Amy Thompson, Ph.D., FESG, CHES
Executive Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost

Recommendation on 1/27, 2026
to the Board for Approval by


Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.
President

Reviewed by


Joshua D. Merchant, Ph.D.
Chief of Staff and
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Biography

James T. Hansen, Ph.D.

Oakland University
Professor of Education, Counseling
School of Education and Human Services
450 E Pawley Hall/456 Pioneer Dr.; (248) 370-4482

Professor Hansen's record of scholarship, teaching, and service exemplifies the highest standards of academic excellence in the counseling profession. His innovative research, influential publications, and sustained commitment to advancing the field have established him as a preeminent scholar nationally and internationally.

Professor Hansen's research has profoundly shaped contemporary understanding of philosophical issues in counseling and pioneered the exploration of mental health culture. His work is interdisciplinary, bridging counseling, philosophy, history, and cultural anthropology, and addressing some of the most pressing issues facing counselors and the clients they serve. Over the course of his career, Professor Hansen has published more than 50 single-author peer-reviewed articles, authored or edited four books, and contributed book chapters to leading texts in the counseling field.

The impact of Professor Hansen's scholarly acumen reverberates throughout his field. One such example is a special issue of the *Journal of Humanistic Counseling* devoted to his article, "Extending the humanistic vision: Toward a humanities foundation for the counseling profession." This special issue included his article and six other articles he wrote in response to other scholars in the field. Additionally, his research has been cited over 2000 times by scholars nationally and internationally. Beyond quantity, his work is notable for its theoretical depth, inquiry, and translational impact on clinical practice and counselor education. Professor Hansen is frequently invited to present keynote addresses, deliver workshops, and consult on best practices in philosophical issues in counseling and mental health culture. His contributions have helped set the research agenda for the counseling profession, influencing national standards and promoting discourse on philosophy, counseling, and mental health culture.

Professor Hansen is a leader in the counseling field and has received national recognition. Most notably, he received the Psyche Award for "Most Valuable Paper of General Interest to the Field of Mental Health Care" from the *Journal of Contemporary Psychotherapy*. Additionally, his 2005 article was selected as one of ten exemplary articles from the past 100 volumes of the *Journal of Counseling & Development* and was re-published in 2022 in a special issue.

Professor Hansen's dedication to advancing counseling students' knowledge and curiosity, both at Oakland University and beyond the university community, is exemplary. Professor Hansen's passion for teaching extends to mentoring countless doctoral students as dissertation chair and committee member. Many of Professor Hansen's doctoral mentees have gone on to successful faculty and leadership positions

across the country, a testament to his dedication to mentoring the next generation of scholars.

During his service, Professor Hansen has advanced the profession through thoughtful scholarship and ethical leadership. In every dimension of academic life—research, teaching, and service—Professor Hansen embodies the distinction, integrity, and vision that define a Distinguished Professor. His scholarship has transformed the counseling field, his teaching has inspired generations of students, and his leadership continues to elevate our university's reputation for excellence. Oakland University honors him with the title of Distinguished Professor.