

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Item Name:**           **Appointment of Regents' Professors for Northern Arizona University**

Action Item

**Requested Action:** Northern Arizona University asks the board to approve the appointment of seven Regents' Professors effective July 1, 2021: Scott Goetz (School of Informatics, Computing and Cyber Systems), Jani Ingram (Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry), Bjorn Krondorfer (Department of Comparative Cultural Studies), Yiqi Luo (Department of Biological Sciences), Michelle Mack (Department of Biological Sciences), Edward Schuur (Department of Biological Sciences), Miguel Yacamán (Department of Applied Physics and Materials Sciences)

### Background/History of Previous Board Action

- ABOR Policy 6-208 permits the rank of Regents' Professor to be awarded only to full professors with exceptional achievements which have brought them national or international distinction. This highest of faculty ranks may be awarded to no more than three percent of the total tenured and tenure-track faculty members.
- Northern Arizona University requires all nominations for Regents' Professor to come from tenured faculty members. Nominations are submitted to a nominating committee for the evaluation of nominations. The President considers the review from the committee and decides which names should go forward for the Board's consideration.
- On this occasion, seven names are recommended by President Cheng.

### Discussion

#### Scott Goetz, PhD

Professor Goetz is a member of the School of Informatics, Computing and Cyber Systems and the Center for Ecosystem Science and Society (EcoSS). Dr. Goetz has an international reputation as a distinguished scholar in environmental remote sensing and its applications to global climate change research. His accomplishments include leading NASA's \$100M, 10-year Arctic Boreal Vulnerability Experiment (ABOVE), which supported participation of 781 scientists and stakeholders for interdisciplinary research on climate-ecosystem interactions. He is the Deputy Principal Investigator for Science for NASA's \$94M Global Ecosystem Dynamics Investigation (GEDI) project, which sent a high-resolution laser system to the International Space Station to better understand earth deforestation, forest and water resource management, carbon cycle science, and

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weather prediction. He is mentoring our next generation of NAU students to participate in this world-class research.

### **Jani Ingram, PhD**

Professor Ingram is a member of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. She is also the NAU lead principal investigator for the NIH-funded Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention, which is a collaboration between NAU and the Arizona Cancer Center that dates back to 2002. She has built a national and international reputation in community-engaged research with indigenous communities, with expertise in the environmental impacts of uranium mining on Navajo Nation. Dr. Ingram has the exceptional accomplishment of mentoring 131 students in her research lab, many of whom are Indigenous. This achievement was recently recognized through the American Chemical Society's Award for Encouraging Disadvantaged Students into Careers in the Chemical Sciences.

### **Bjorn Krondorfer, PhD**

Professor Krondorfer is the Endowed Professor of Religious Studies in the Department of Comparative Cultural Studies, and the Director of the Martin-Springer Institute. Has developed a world-wide influence through his work in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Critical Men's Studies, and Memory Studies, and has applied his scholarship to current conflicts such as the treatment of refugees, mass violence, and genocide, as well as to peace-building work and issues of social justice and change. He has a reputation for fostering deep student engagement and empathy through his teaching on topics that lead to an enhanced understanding of moral courage, tolerance, reconciliation, and justice.

### **Yiqi Luo, PhD**

Professor Luo is a member of the Department of Biological Sciences and the Center for Ecosystem Science and Society (EcoSS). Dr. Luo is a prolific and highly respected, internationally known scientist with expertise in ecology and large-scale quantitative modeling, with a focus on global environmental change. He has published over 461 peer-reviewed publications, and has been cited more than almost 45,000 times. He is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). He is also a dedicated teacher who has authored two textbooks, and recently converted a carbon cycle modeling course to a virtual format that attracted students from 6 continents.

### **Michelle Mack, PhD**

Professor Mack is a member of the Department of Biological Sciences and the Center for Ecosystem Science and Society (EcoSS). Dr. Mack is a globally distinguished leader in the field of ecosystem ecology, with expertise in carbon and nitrogen cycle dynamics of fire and thawing in boreal and tundra landscapes in the Arctic. She has multiple highly cited publications in *Science* and *Nature*, and she was selected as a Kavli Frontiers of Science Fellow by the National Academy of Sciences, and is a Fellow of the

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Ecological Society of America. Dr. Mack is a committed teacher and mentor to undergraduate and graduate students, and has launched many successful student careers in academia, as well as government and management agencies.

### **Edward (Ted) Schuur, PhD**

Professor Schuur is a member of the Department of Biological Sciences and the Center for Ecosystem Science and Society (EcoSS). He has provided international scientific leadership through development of the Arctic Carbon and Climate (ACCLIMATE) observatory in Alaska and the Permafrost Carbon Network that has contributed a unified and collaborative scientific framework for how to consider threats emanating from release of permafrost carbon under rapid climate change. He has multiple highly cited publications in *Science* and *Nature*, and he is an American Geophysical Union Fellow, and a Leopold Leadership Fellow in the Stanford Woods Institute of the Environment. He teaches classes that explain the links between ecosystems and the Earth system, and is a lead author on a textbook on *Radiocarbon and Climate Change*.

### **Miguel José Yacamán, PhD**

Professor Yacamán is a member of the Department of Applied Physics and Materials Sciences and a member of the Center for Materials Interfaces in Research and Applications (¡MIRA!). Dr. Yacamán is an internationally recognized scholar in the areas of Nanomaterials and Electron Microscopy. He has published over 465 peer-reviewed publications, and has been cited more almost 34,000 times, and still takes time to teach 100-level Physics classes. Dr. Yacamán has received numerous honors, including being elected a Fellow of the Materials Research Society, the American Vacuum Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the Microscopy Society of America, and the American Physical Society. He was recognized by the Metals and Materials Society as the Robert Franklin Mehl Awardee and Distinguished Lecturer, and was named a Distinguished Scientist for the Society for the Advance of the Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS). He also received the Mexico National Prize of Sciences, which is equivalent to the Medal of Science in the United States.