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OASA Memo to Deans April 26, 2016 (Professorship Awards 2016-2017)

UNO Office of Academic and Student Affairs
University of Nebraska at Omaha

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DATE: Tuesday, April 26, 2016

TO: Deans Ali, Baker, Bartle, Boocker, Edick, and Pol

FROM: Candice Batton, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs

CC: B. J. Reed, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Deb Smith-Howell, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, and Dean, Graduate Studies

RE: Campus-wide Professorships for 2016-17

The following recommendations, made by the University Professorship Committee to SVC Reed for campus-wide professorships, have been approved:

Professorships recognizing research excellence, starting in 2016-17:

- Kayser Chair: Bruce Johansen, Communication
- Isaacson Professorship: Yong Shi, Information Systems and Quantitative Analysis

Professorships recognizing research and teaching excellence, starting in 2016-17:

- Kiewit Professorship: Bill Blezik, Philosophy
- Kiewit Professorship: Elliott Ostler, Educational Leadership

Review Process

The Professorship Committee is made up of 3 full Professors, all of whom have previously held a campus-wide named chair or professorship. Applicant files were evaluated according to criteria posted on the Academic Affairs – Honors and Awards website last fall. Though all 8 applicants provided evidence of outstanding research and/or teaching accomplishments, exceptional records tended to be distinguished as follows:

Research excellence:

- Quantity/volume of the record, sustained activity over time
- Impact of the record both nationally/internationally (e.g., impact on policy, people's lives, practical applications and how work is done) and in the discipline (e.g., research directions in the field)
- Recognitions of excellence, emphasis on campus and system honors and awards
- External funding for research

Teaching and research excellence:

- Strong classroom teaching and an active record of mentoring students outside the classroom
- Impact of research and a sustained record of research activity
- Clear synergy or connection between teaching and research (i.e., research informs teaching, teaching informs research)