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Office of the President
September 11, 2015

Members, Board of Trustees:

<u>APPOINTMENT OF DEAN OF THE</u>
<u>COLLEGE OF DESIGN</u>

<u>Recommendation</u>: that Mitzi Vernon be appointed Dean of the College of Design, effective September 1, 2015.

<u>Background</u>: Ms. Vernon is currently Professor of Industrial Design at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.   She received a Master of Science in Engineering in Product Design from Stanford University (1995); a Master of Architecture from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (1986); and a Bachelor of Science in Housing and Interior Design from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro (1984).

Ms. Vernon has excelled in teaching, research, and service in her academic career. She is the recipient of three National Science Foundation Grant awards.   Two grants are focused on design of nontraditional books and exhibits for teaching science and mathematics to middle school students. The most recent grant, awarded in 2007, is a collaborative project examining the design studio as a model for teaching the design of software-intensive systems. Ms. Vernon's current scholarship on product form led to the development of a new studio model called "form studio" and the student design and fabrication of a traveling exhibition called *FORM: Line-Plane-Solid*. She has received multiple grants over the past several years to support this work.

Ms. Vernon is the primary inventor on three U.S. patents, and she has extensive experience with sponsored collaborative projects involving industrial design, architecture, physics, computer science, engineering, and education students.

As a professor of courses in industrial design, Ms. Vernon has received numerous teaching awards including the most prestigious teaching award at Virginia Tech (the William E. Wine Award for Excellence in Teaching (2012)) and was the inaugural awardee of the J. Stoeckel Design Studio Teaching Award in the School of Architecture + Design at Virginia Tech (2012) for outstanding studio teaching.

Action taken: ☑ Approved   ❑ Disapproved   ❑ Other _____