June 27, 2014

TO: Provost’s Council

FROM: Dr. Joanne C. Keselman, Vice-President (Academic) and Provost

RE: Recommendation on the Appointment of a Dean of Science

I am pleased to advise you that, at its June 24, 2014 meeting, the Board of Governors approved the appointment of Dr. Stefi Baum as Dean, Faculty of Science for a five year period, effective October 1, 2014.

Dr. Baum is currently Professor, and Director and School Head at the Chester F. Carlson Centre for Imaging Science at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York. From 2007 to 2010, she also held the position of Endowed Xerox Chair. The Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science is a unique interdisciplinary school, which is home to 90 faculty, research and administrative staff offering undergraduate and graduate programs and research training in a diverse range of imaging related fields. For 13 years prior to joining Rochester Institute of Technology, Dr. Baum was with the Space Telescope Science Institute where from 1999-2002, she held the position of Head of the Engineering and Software Services Division. From 2002 to 2004, she was a Senior Science Diplomacy Fellow with the U.S. Department of State where she worked at the interface of science, technology, public policy and world affairs.

In these leadership roles, Dr. Baum has been an active participant on various committees including an Advisory Board member of the Rochester Regional Optics, Photonics and Imaging Accelerator Consortium, Executive Committee member of the Women in Science, Engineering, Technology and Entrepreneurship Regional Association and as an Executive Team Member of the Advancing Women Faculty in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. She has also just completed a six-year term as a Trustee at the Universities Space Research Association where she served as a member of the Board Compensation and Strategic Planning Committees and also as a member of the USRA Homeland and National Security Committee.

Dr. Baum received her doctorate in astronomy in 1987 from the University of Maryland and her bachelor of arts in physics from Harvard University in 1980. In 2012, Dr. Baum attended the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University to study Performance Assessment in Higher Education and in 2013, she studied Fundraising and Development for Non-Profits at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Fluno Centre.
Dr. Baum's research expertise spans astrophysics, and imaging science and astrophysics. She specializes in understanding the origin and nature of galaxies, clusters of galaxies and black holes at their centres. She has disseminated her work in over 200 publications, articles, technical reports and book chapters and has mentored 15 PhD and Masters students and numerous undergraduate and high school students. Her research has been well supported by national agencies including NASA and the National Science Foundation. Dr. Baum's commitment to students is demonstrated through her work on the development of innovative STEM K-12, undergraduate and graduate education programs focusing on interdisciplinary approaches that merge science, engineering and innovation.

Given Dr. Baum's demonstrated accomplishments in administrative leadership, her highly collaborative approach, and her achievements in teaching, research and public service, I believe that the Faculty of Science can look forward to a very promising future under her leadership.

Please join me in extending congratulations to her on her appointment as dean. I look forward to welcoming Dr. Baum as a member of Provost's Council, and to working with her to advance the interests of the Faculty of Science and the University.

cc: Executive Council
    Dr. S. Baum