

To: Patrick J. Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity

From: Arvind Raman, John A. Edwardson Dean of the College of Engineering *Arvind Raman*

Date: June 20, 2023

Subject: **Recommendation of Fabio Ribeiro to William Nicholas and Elizabeth Holstein Delgass Distinguished Professor in Chemical Engineering**

Dr. Fabio Ribeiro has been recommended by the school committee to be recognized as the William Nicholas and Elizabeth Holstein Delgass Distinguished Professor in Chemical Engineering. This recommendation comes with unanimous support from the committee, highlighting Dr. Ribeiro's distinguished career in catalysis science and technology. Additionally, the Ad Hoc Committee also recommended Dr. Ribeiro's recommendation with unanimous support.

Dr. Ribeiro's contributions to the field of catalysis are highly regarded, particularly in the development of in situ spectroscopies for studying catalyst structures under reaction conditions. He has also demonstrated exceptional leadership in forming world-class teams to address the challenges of transitioning our energy infrastructure to a renewable energy platform. This is exemplified by his establishment of CISTAR, a National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center focused on the transformation of alkane resources.

External letter writers, including esteemed members of national academies and catalysis experts, praise Dr. Ribeiro's meticulous work and creativity in experimental design. His research has encompassed a range of areas, from tungsten carbides to hydrodechlorination, water-gas shift, NO<sub>x</sub> removal, and biomass and shale gas conversion.

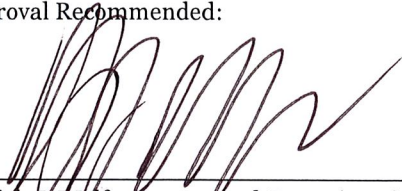
Dr. Ribeiro's impact extends beyond his research achievements. He has published numerous papers, filed patents, and received prestigious awards, including Fellowships from the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Additionally, he has actively engaged in technology commercialization, earning recognition as one of the most impactful inventors at his institution.

In recent years, Dr. Ribeiro has shifted his focus to address the pressing issue of sustainable energy transition and has dedicated his efforts to leading large interdisciplinary teams. His leadership has resulted in the establishment of CISTAR and ongoing efforts to establish a Clean Energy Manufacturing Innovation Institute at Purdue. Through these endeavors, he has expanded his service, education, and diversity efforts, reaching out to K-12 education and underrepresented populations in STEM fields.

Dr. Ribeiro's commitment to teaching and education has been further amplified through CISTAR, where he has contributed to national and international educational initiatives, including research experience programs and the development of courses on energy and industrial reaction engineering. His efforts in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion are also noteworthy, particularly through partnerships with organizations such as the National Society of Black Engineers.

Considering Dr. Ribeiro's outstanding contributions to catalysis research, leadership in energy transition initiatives, dedication to teaching and education, and commitment to diversity and inclusion, the recommendation for his recognition as the William Nicholas and Elizabeth Holstein Delgass Distinguished Professor in Chemical Engineering is highly justified.

Approval Recommended:



Patrick J. Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President  
For Academic Affairs and Diversity

Approved:

7/17/23

Date



Mung Chiang, President  
Roscoe H George Distinguished Professor of  
Electrical and Computer Engineering

7.18.2023

Date

Cc  
Luna Lu  
Brittany Vestal  
Milind Kulkarni  
Amanda Van Meter