

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: May 01, 2024

Subject: **Recommendation of Zhihong Chen to Named Professorship, Reilly Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering**

I am writing to strongly endorse Dr. Zhihong Chen for the Reilly Professorship in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Dr. Chen's distinguished career and groundbreaking contributions in nanoelectronics make her the ideal choice for a named professorship.

Dr. Chen's research has had a significant impact in the field of nanoelectronics, especially in understanding and manipulating the properties of low-dimensional nanomaterials for various technological applications. Her research is comprehensive, covering the development, characterization, and exploration of the electronic and optical properties of these novel materials. She focuses on their practical applications in creating functional devices, demonstrating their potential to revolutionize various technological sectors.

Her extensive body of work is highly acclaimed, earning her publications in top-tier journals within the field and an impressive citation count exceeding 18,000 on Google Scholar. Dr. Chen has received widespread recognition through numerous prestigious awards and honors for her contributions to the field of 2D semiconductors. Her accolades include being elected an IEEE Fellow (2022) for "Contributions to the understanding and applications of low-dimensional nanomaterials," a true testament to her innovative work. She has also held the title of University Faculty Scholar (2017-2022) and was honored with a Purdue Excellence in Research Award (2013) and the Joel and Ruth Spira Excellence in Teaching Award (2013). Additionally, her early career achievements were acknowledged with the Intel Early Career Faculty Award (2012), IBM Research Achievement Award (2006), Forbes' Top 5 Nanotech Breakthroughs of 2006, and Industry Week's Technologies of the Year (2006).

She has successfully secured approximately \$45 million to support her research initiatives, with her direct share amounting to \$13.7 million. This funding has been sourced from respected institutions such as the NSF and DOD, as well as numerous semiconductor companies. Dr. Chen's mentorship has also been impactful, having guided 10 PhD students who now hold positions at leading semiconductor firms including Intel, Apple, ASML, and TSMC, underscoring her influence in shaping the next generation of engineers in the semiconductor industry.

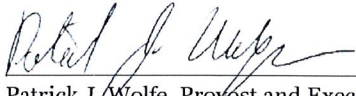
Dr. Chen has demonstrated exemplary leadership and service throughout her career. As the current director of the Birck Nanotechnology Center, she plays a pivotal role in steering advanced research and development. Her previous contributions include over a decade (2011-2022) on the graduate admission committee for the Materials and Nanotechnology area, evidencing her commitment to academic excellence. Additionally, her involvement in external roles is notable; she has served on major IEEE Award selection committees and held leadership positions at prominent conferences in her field, such as VLSI, DRC, and IIIT.

The Engineering Named Professors Committee (ENPC) has expressed support for Dr. Chen's nomination for a named professorship, with a decisive vote of 6-0 in her favor. The majority praised her for her remarkable industry contributions, robust research achievements, and effective leadership at Purdue's Birck Nanotechnology Center.

I wholeheartedly endorse Dr. Chen's candidacy for the Reilly Professor of Electrical Engineering without reservation.

Approval Recommended:

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

07/24/2024

Date

Approved:



Mung Chiang, President
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7.24.2024

Date

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