

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
UDC RESOLUTION NO. 2019-**

**SUBJECT: Appointment of Deborah L. Lyons, Ph.D., as Professor Emeritus**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to 8 DCMR § 1412.1, the title of Professor Emeritus may be conferred by the Board of Trustees upon a retired member of the faculty who has rendered distinguished service to the University of the District of Columbia (“University”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Dean of the School of Business & Public Administration (SBPA) recommended to the Chief Academic Officer that emeritus status be conferred upon Dr. Deborah Lyons in recognition of her range of contributions to the academic pursuits of the University, and to the community of the District of Columbia; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Lyons’ 43-year tenure on the faculty of the University and its predecessor institution, Federal City College, was marked by academic and scholarly achievement, including: having taught and developed both undergraduate and graduate courses in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning (previously in the College of Education and Human Ecology and School of Professional Studies) and the Department of Business Management (School of Business and Public Administration) in the areas of housing, transportation, supply chain management, planning, public policy, management, research methods, project management, and strategic management and business policy; having demonstrated a consistent level of scholarly productivity through research grant awards, authorship and co-authorship of numerous major research studies, articles and papers for professional conference presentations; having received faculty fellowship awards from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Urban Mass Transportation Administration, and the U.S. Department of Housing, and a Meritorious Service Award from the Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Department Housing; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to her work as a faculty member, Dr. Lyons served the University for periods of time as a department chair (the Department of Urban and Regional Planning in the College of Education and Human Ecology, and the Department of Business Management in SBPA); as the Coordinator of the MBA Program (2014-2018); and as the Director of the Center for Applied Research and Urban Policy (1997-2009), during which time she received more than \$12 million in external funding for research and evaluation projects and directed numerous multidisciplinary studies that provided financial support and research opportunities for 42 research associates (including 30 faculty members) and more than 200 undergraduate and graduate research assistants from five colleges/schools at the University; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has received and reviewed the attached **Appendix A** and agrees with the nomination of Dr. Lyons and commends Dr. Lyons for her distinguished service and professional excellence.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that in recognition of Dr. Lyons’ long and committed service to the University, the District of Columbia, and her profession, in the areas of teaching, research, and service, the Board of Trustees hereby confers upon **Deborah L. Lyons, Ph.D.**, the title and position of Professor Emeritus, with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities pertaining thereto.

Submitted by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee

April 18, 2019

Approved by the Board of Trustees:

April 30, 2019

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Christopher Bell, Esq.  
Chairperson of the Board

## **APPENDIX A**

March 4, 2019

TO: Dr. Lawrence Potter, CAO

FR: Mohamad Sepehri, Ph.D.  
Dean, SBPA

RE: Dr. Deborah Lyons  
Recommendation for the Professor Emeritus

Dear Dr. Potter,

I strongly support the recommendation submitted by Dr. Jian Hua, the Department Chair of Business Administration, to award the status of the Professor Emeritus to Dr. Deborah Lyons who retired in July 2018. Dr. Lyons served the UDC community for many years and she has been a leading pillar and advocate of the of the University. Her unselfish dedication to UDC and students is the hallmark of her legacy. Throughout her academic career Dr. Lyons personified the role of a mentor, counselor, and a great teacher.

Dr. Lyons conducted her career with the highest integrity and standards, and she remains an ideal role model for all faculty at UDC-SBPA.

Cordially,



Mo Sepehri

February 20, 2019

Dr. Mohamad Sepehri, Dean  
School of Business and Public Administration  
University of the District of Columbia

Dear Dr. Sepehri:

I am sending you my recommendation for awarding Dr. Deborah L. Lyons the status of Professor Emeritus. There are 5 parts to the recommendation process:

- Letter from the Department Chair to the Dean of the School or College– containing the recommendation and the justification. This serves as the source of accomplishments across teaching and academic leadership, professional productivity and service.
- Letter from the Dean to the Chief Academic Officer – affirms the Chair’s recommendation.
- Letter from the Chief Academic Officer to the appropriate Board of Trustee Committee.
- Letter from UDC Chief Financial Officer that contains a fiscal impact statement – affirming that the granting of emeritus status poses no monetary cost to the University.
- Board of Trustee Resolution – awards Emeritus status on the basis of enabling authority from the 8 DCMR / 1412.1.

My formal recommendation for Professor Emeritus status for Dr. Deborah L. Lyons accompanies this letter.

Sincerely,



Jian Hua, Ph.D.  
Chairperson

February 20, 2019

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Mohamad Sepehri, Ph.D., Dean  
School of Business and Public Administration

**FROM:** Jian Hua, Ph.D., Chairperson  
Department of Business Management 

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation of Dr. Deborah L. Lyons for Professor Emeritus Status

As Chairperson of the Department of Business Management, I am recommending that Dr. Deborah L. Lyons, who retired from the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) on August 15, 2018, be granted the status of Professor Emeritus. As you know, the title "Professor Emeritus" may be awarded by the University's Board of Trustees to a retired professor who has rendered distinguished service. The authority for the UDC Board of Trustees granting Professor Emeritus status derives from DC Municipal Regulations (DCMR8 - 1412.1).

Dr. Lyons has served the University of the District of Columbia and one of its predecessor institutions for 43 years. During this time, not only did she serve as a faculty member and department chairperson in two different schools/departments, she also served as Director of the University of the District of Columbia's Center for Applied Research and Urban Policy and as the MBA Program Coordinator. Her many contributions helped to create a culture that embraced students, faculty, staff, and the community and thus qualifies her to be eminently deserving of recognition as Professor Emeritus. The information that follows illustrates her accomplishments in the areas of teaching, academic leadership, professional productivity and service to the university and the community throughout her 43-year tenure with the University of the District of Columbia.

**Educational Background**

Dr. Lyons' educational background includes a Ph.D. in Business Management with specializations in Transportation, Logistics, and Business and Public Policy from the University

of Maryland at College Park, MD; a Master of City Planning (M.C.P.) in City and Regional Planning with a specialization in Economic Planning from Howard University in Washington, DC; a B.A. in Business Administration with a major in Accounting and a minor in Economics from Howard University; a Certificate in Global Operations and Supply Chain Management from the Moore School of Business, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC; a Certificate in Research Management from the US Department of Transportation, Washington, DC; and Certificates in Industrialized Housing and Environmental Planning from the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments in Washington, DC.

### **Teaching and Academic Leadership**

Dr. Lyons began her affiliation with the University of the District of Columbia in 1975 as an Assistant Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at Federal City College, one of the predecessor institutions. She was an Assistant Professor from 1975-1977, an Associate Professor from 1978-1984, and a Professor from 1985-1996. She transitioned to the Department of Business Management in 1996 as a Professor from 1996 until her recent retirement. Throughout her 43-year tenure, she taught and developed both undergraduate and graduate courses in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning (College of Education and Human Ecology and School of Professional Studies) and the Department of Business Management (School of Business and Public Administration) in the areas of housing, transportation, supply chain management, planning, public policy, management, research methods, project management, and strategic management and business policy.

### **Scholarly Productivity – Publications (Articles, Books, Conference Presentations)**

Throughout her career, Dr. Lyons demonstrated a consistent level of scholarly productivity as evidenced by research grant awards, authorship and co-authorship of numerous major research studies, articles and papers for professional conference presentations. Her research has impacted many areas of public policy in the District of Columbia. Topics that addressed professional, academic, and community issues included strategic management, community needs assessment, taxi regulation, transportation, performance measurement and evaluation, market rate and capacity utilization studies, development and permit processes, early care and education industry studies, poverty, health, children and families with special health care needs, teen pregnancy, and education reform.

Dr. Lyons engaged in collaborative research projects with researchers from the Urban Institute, the Brookings Institution, DC Agenda, Georgetown University, Howard University, George Washington University, Catholic University, Morgan State University, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, US Department of Transportation, US Department of Health and Human Services, DC Department of Human Services, DC Department of Health, DC Department of Transportation, DC Office of Planning, DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation, City Bridge Foundation, United Planning Organization, and numerous private and nonprofit organizations. She organized the Early Care and Education Research Consortium at UDC engaging more than 100 researchers from public, private, and nonprofit organizations in addressing education and economic concerns in the District of Columbia.

### **Educational Leadership and Honors**

Dr. Lyons served as chairperson of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning in the College of Education and Human Ecology from 1986-1988. Under her leadership, the department's undergraduate (Bachelor of Science in Community and Urban Planning) and graduate (Master of Urban and Regional Planning) planning programs achieved national accreditation from the American Planning Association.

Dr. Lyons served as Director of the Center for Applied Research and Urban Policy from 1997-2009. She received more than twelve (12) million dollars in external funding for research and evaluation projects and directed numerous multidisciplinary studies that provided financial support and research opportunities for 42 research associates (including 30 faculty members) and more than 200 undergraduate and graduate research assistants from five (5) colleges/schools at the university.

Dr. Lyons served as chairperson of the Department of Business Management from 2016-2018 and Coordinator of the MBA Program from 2014-2018. Under her leadership, the MBA program was revised to a two-tier admissions program; a new 8-week program was designed; the curriculum was updated; and all program changes were approved and implemented. The revised undergraduate program was also implemented.

Dr. Lyons also served on numerous University committees, including the University Assessment Committee, the University's Self Study for Middle States Accreditation Standards 2 and 3 Subcommittee, and the School of Business and Public Administration's Self Study for Accreditation and subsequent reaccreditation by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP).

She was an appointed member to the Mayor's Advisory Council on Early Childhood Development and the DC Developmental Disabilities State Planning. She chaired Task Forces for Rate Setting and the Data Subcommittees for both organizations. She also served as an appointed member of the Logistics Advisory Board at the Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland at College Park.

Dr. Lyons has been accorded professional, academic, and community honors such as the C.L.R. James Honors in recognition of a faculty member who demonstrated exemplary and outstanding service in a leadership capacity to the University and/or the community. Additionally she received Faculty Fellowship awards from the US Department of Transportation, Urban Mass Transportation Administration and the US Department of Housing, Meritorious Service Award from the Office of the Inspector General, US Department of Housing, Children's Champion Award from MAECD, Outstanding Chairperson Award, Student Planning Organization, and Outstanding Faculty Award, SBPA.

### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

In conclusion, Dr. Deborah Lyons, throughout her 43-year tenure at UDC, has demonstrated exemplary accomplishments in fulfilling her academic responsibilities of teaching, academic leadership, scholarly productivity, university and community service. I strongly recommend that she be accorded Professor Emeritus status. I have attached her curriculum vitae to enable you to undertake a detailed review of Dr. Lyons' accomplishments. I am confident that you will concur that her record makes her deserving of the Professor Emeritus status and will recommend her to the University's Chief Academic Officer accordingly.

cc: Dr. Deborah L. Lyons

**TO:** The Board of Trustees  
**FROM:** Managing Director of Finance *David A. Franklin*  
**DATE:** April 18, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** Professor Emerita Appointment for Deborah L. Lyons, Ph.D

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### **Conclusion**

The proposed resolution is for the title of Professor Emerita, which may be conferred by the Board of Trustees upon a retired member of the faculty who has rendered distinguished service to the University and the community of the District.

### **Background**

The Chief Academic Officer and the Dean of the School of Business & Public Administration have recommended that emerita status be conferred upon the noted faculty member, Deborah L. Lyons, Ph.D., in recognition of the professor's range of contributions to the academic pursuits of the University, and her service to the University community. The reasons for this recommendation are articulated in the accompanying Board Resolution, and are further detailed in formal recommendations from the Dean and Department Chair.

### **Financial Impact**

This request has been approved based upon the information provided. There are no anticipated risks at this time.