

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST: Academic Administrative Appointment for a Faculty Member

NAME: David A. Lam

CURRENT TITLES: Chair, Department of Economics, and Professor of Economics, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

RECOMMENDED TITLES: Director, Institute for Social Research, and Professor of Economics, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

EFFECTIVE DATES: July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2020

I am pleased to recommend for Regental approval the appointment of David A. Lam as director, Institute for Social Research, for a five-year renewable term, effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2020. This recommendation follows a national search conducted by a search advisory committee.

Professor Lam earned a B.A. degree in Latin American studies in 1976 from Ft. Lewis College, Durango, CO; in 1978 he earned a M.A. degree in Latin American studies from the University of Texas, Austin, and in 1982 a M.A. degree in demography from the University of California, Berkeley. He earned a Ph.D. degree in economics from the University of California, Berkeley in 1983. He joined the Department of Economics at the University of Michigan as an assistant professor in 1983 and rose through the ranks to professor. He served as an associate chair of the department from 1991-1994, as director of graduate studies from 2007-2011, and from 2014 to the present as the department chair. In 1983, he also joined the Populations Studies Center, which was then a unit in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, as an assistant research scientist. He rose through the ranks to research professor. He has served as the director of the Population Studies Center during various periods: 1994-2003, 2008-2010, and in 2014. In addition, Professor Lam served as coordinator of the Program in Economic Demography in the Department of Economics and Population Studies Center from 1988-2003, and as director of the Michigan Center on the Demography of Aging from 1999-2003.

Professor Lam is one of the world's leading scholars in economic demography. His research focuses on the interaction of economics and demography in developing countries, including analysis of the economics of population growth, fertility, marriage, and aging. He has worked extensively in Brazil and South Africa, where his research analyzes links between education, labor markets, and income inequality. He was a Fulbright visiting researcher at the Institute for Applied Economic Research in Rio de Janeiro in 1989-90. He was a visiting professor in the School of Economics at the University of Cape Town in 1997-98, 2004-06, and 2013-14. His collaborations with researchers from the University of Cape Town include projects analyzing youth transitions in education, childbearing, and employment using the Cape Area Panel Study, a longitudinal survey supported by the U.S. National Institutes of Health. Professor Lam is a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research; a research fellow at the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), Bonn; and program director of the DFID/IZA Program on Growth and Labor Markets in Low-Income Countries (UK Department for International Development and Institute for the Study of Labor).

Professor Lam has published widely in the leading economics and demography journals. He has over 50 journal articles and book chapters, including "Effects of Family Background on Earnings and Returns to Schooling: Evidence from Brazil," *Journal of Political Economy*, 1993 (with Robert Schoeni); "Demographic Variable and Income Inequality," in *Handbook of Population and Family Economics*, 1997; "Schooling as a Lottery: Racial Differences in Progress through School in Urban South Africa," *Journal of Development Economics*, 2011 (with Cally Ardington and Murray Leibbrandt); "How the World Survived the Population Bomb: Lessons from Fifty Years of Extraordinary Demographic History," *Demography*, 2011 (presidential address to the Population Association of America). Professor Lam has been the principal investigator on numerous grants from the National Institutes of Health, National Institute for Child Health and Human Development, from 1986 through 2011. Recently, he has been a co-principal investigator on grants from the Hewlett Foundation. His other professional activities include elected member of council of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, 2014-2017; deputy editor, *Demography*, 2013-present; chair, National Science Foundation Oversight Board for Integrated Public Use Microdata Series International Project, 2010-present; he also serves as referee/reviewer for over 30 economics and demography journals. An internationally recognized scholar and researcher, Professor Lam has delivered over 100 addresses and presentations world-wide.

His honors and awards include service as president of the Population Association of America (2011); member of the Committee on Population, National Academy of Sciences (1997-2003); and Fulbright research scholar, award for research in South Africa (1997-1998) and award for research in Brazil (1989-1990). Professor Lam's administrative experience, reflected in his many years as the director of the Population Studies Center (PSC) at the University of Michigan, reveals that he develops a clear vision for the organizations that he leads and is strategic, yet open and sensitive to the views of others. Early in his career he worked with the director of the Institute for Social Research (ISR) to put in place the institutional merger of the PSC into ISR, which was successfully accomplished in 1998. This merger brought a strong international focus to ISR, and, with Professor Lam's leadership, the establishment of a number of international research and training programs. He is also a supporter and enhancer of diversity, especially in the field of economics.

As a distinguished social scientist and administrator, Professor Lam's experience has prepared him for the role of the director of the Institute for Social Research, which is among the world's largest and oldest academic survey research organizations and a preeminent leader in social science research and education. He will lead the ISR to work effectively in partnership with university administration and other units on campus, as well as synergistically amongst its own centers. This will be critical to attracting impressive researchers and launching new research projects that will address the important challenges facing society. I am pleased to recommend his appointment, effective July 1, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,



Martha E. Pollack
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

June 2015