

**SUMMARY OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS  
SUPPLEMENTAL - REGENTS AGENDA  
July 2015**

**ANN ARBOR CAMPUS – Recommendations for approval**

**1. Joint or additional appointments or transfers of regular associate or full professors and selected academic and administrative staff.**

- (1) Finholt, Thomas A., interim dean, School of Information, effective August 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 (also professor of information, with tenure.)

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**

*Regents Communication*

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Recommendations for approval of joint or additional appointments  
or transfers of regular associate or full professors and selected  
academic and administrative staff

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST: Academic Administrative Appointment for a Faculty Member

NAME: Thomas A. Finholt

CURRENT TITLES: Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and Professor of Information, with tenure, School of Information

RECOMMENDED TITLES: Interim Dean, and Professor of Information, with tenure, School of Information

EFFECTIVE DATES: August 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

I am pleased to recommend the appointment of Thomas A. Finholt as interim dean, School of Information, effective August 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

Professor Finholt received a B.A. degree with high honors in history from Swarthmore College in 1983 and a Ph.D. degree in social and decision sciences from Carnegie Mellon University in 1993. Prior to completing the Ph.D. degree, he held a graduate research fellowship at the National Science Foundation (NSF) from 1985-1989. He joined the University of Michigan in 1991 as an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology and held that appointment until 1997. From 1997-2009, his appointments from assistant research scientist to research professor resided in the School of Information. In 2009, he was appointed as a professor in the School of Information. Professor Finholt served as the director of the Collaboratory for Research on Electronic Work from 1997-2010, and the director of the Center for Information Technology Integration from 2006-2008. His service to the School of Information is reflected in his multiple administrative appointments in the school: associate dean for research and innovation (2006-2010), senior associate dean for faculty (2010-2012), senior associate dean for academic affairs (2012-present) and acting dean (2013).

Professor Finholt's research focuses on the energy costs of forming and maintaining social ties, the computational mediation of trust in virtual organizations, and the use of ultra-resolution collaboration environments. A National Science Foundation EAGER grant funded his research on how different communication technologies are used in social networks and how energy use accumulates in technical networks that support relationships. Another project focused on the benefits of cyberinfrastructure (CI) within scientific and engineering research. This CI-TEAM implementation project used top CI practices and technology to bring an international community of researchers together to focus on the design and development of "next generation civil infrastructure." As science continues to become more data-driven, collaborative and interdisciplinary, demand increases for interoperability among data, tools and services. Metadata serve key roles in interoperability. Another of Professor Finholt's projects examined what is called "science friction," which occurs when scientists from two or more disciplines work

together on related problems, and found that metadata may be a source of friction between scientific collaborators, impeding data sharing. Since 1992, he has been the principal investigator on grants totaling over \$8 million, and a co-principal investigator on grants totaling over \$9 million, predominantly from the NSF. Professor Finholt has co-authored over 50 refereed articles, chapters and conference proceedings. He co-edited Social issues in computing: Putting computing in its place, (1994) New York: McGraw Hill.

He is currently a reviewer for over 20 scientific publications in his field, including *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, *Journal of Management Studies* and *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*. He has served as a reviewer and panelist for NSF, CISE since 1992, and for the National Center for Research Resources, NIH since 1998. In 2008, he co-founded and directed the Summer Research Institute for the Science of Socio-Technical Systems. Over the past decade, Professor Finholt has served as a chair or co-chair of numerous conferences in his field, including as co-chair of the Technical Program at iConference in 2015. He has also served as a dissertation committee chair and committee member, as well as supervising post-doctoral fellows.

I am pleased that Professor Finholt has agreed to serve the School of Information as interim dean. He is a distinguished scholar and educator. With his years of experience as a faculty member and his knowledge of the School of Information gained through a number of administrative appointments including acting dean, I am confident that the school will maintain its momentum during this interim period. I enthusiastically recommend this appointment, effective August 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,



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

July 2015