

Submitted by: Julie H. Miller, Secretary to the Board of Governors

## **RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS**

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors ratify two actions approved by the Board of Governors since the Board's last public meeting. Those two actions are:

1. Approval of the appointment of Melissa Smiley as Chief of Staff/University Relations Officer, approved by the Board of Governors by electronic vote, completed on February 17, 2024, with a vote of 8-0. The effective date of this appointment is March 4, 2024.
2. Approval of the appointment of Laurie Lauzon Clabo as Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, for a three-year term, approved by the Board of Governors by electronic vote, completed on February 29, 2024, with a vote of 8-0. The effective date of this appointment is March 4, 2024.

### **Background**

The background documentation for these two actions was provided to the Board under separate cover, with copies attached for the record.

**Submitted by: Dr. Kimberly Andrews Espy, President**

## RECOMMENDATION FOR SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT

### **Recommendation**

President Kimberly Andrews Espy recommends the appointment of Melissa J. Smiley as Chief of Staff and University Relations Officer. The effective date of this appointment is March 4, 2024.

### **Background**

Ms. Smiley comes to Wayne State University with extensive leadership and organizational experience in roles that include municipal, statewide and nonprofit experience. She is a seasoned professional, whose impact has been felt widely throughout the institutions she has served. Among her previous experience, she served as Deputy Chief of Staff to Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan during the nation's largest municipal bankruptcy, and for the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, first as Special Assistant and Chief Strategy Officer and then as Vice President. Building on that foundation, she was recruited to work with Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson as her Chief of Staff, and while there led teams that helped to dramatically improve the customer experience at the 130 branch offices of the SOS, and nearly eliminated wait times statewide. Her most recent experience as Chief of Staff to the founding CEO of WorkMoney has provided her with the opportunity to serve as a strategic thinker, in an organization that has experienced dramatic growth in their efforts to impact public policy.

Ms. Smiley's ability to think strategically, to lead and organize groups and teams for common goals, her communication and interpersonal skills, and her proven success in multiple leadership roles in a variety of organizational settings makes her an ideal selection for this position.

## RECOMMENDATION FOR SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT

### Recommendation

President Kimberly Andrews Espy recommends the appointment of Laurie Lauzon Clabo as Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs for a three-year term. The appointment term is for the period March 4, 2024 through July 31, 2027.

### Background

Laurie Lauzon Clabo has a strong background in academic leadership, including more than 14 years of experience as a successful dean. She is a nationally recognized expert in nursing and interprofessional education with a record of strong national leadership. During her time as dean of the Wayne State University College of Nursing, the College has grown in national prominence. Her achievements at the college include a significant growth in philanthropy, solid growth in research funding and graduate enrollment, and an extraordinary rise in national rankings that now place the college's graduate programs among the top 50 in the country, and the undergraduate program in the top 5% nationally.

Dr. Clabo has twice answered the call to service as the chief academic officer at Wayne State, stepping forward to serve when asked during times of institutional need. As interim Provost she led the university's successful response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and spearheaded the integration of student-facing health services on campus under a single umbrella, expanded clinical services providing by Counseling and Psychological Services, and established the Office for Sexual Violence Prevention and Education. In her most recent service, she has spearheaded a number of presidential initiatives and developed strong partnerships throughout both the academic and administrative leadership. She has developed strong and collaborative relationships with the Academic Senate, with the Deans of the university's schools and colleges and senior leadership, and with the Student Senate. Her knowledge, experience and insight provide the university with a thoughtful and confident leader as the university moves forward.