

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

RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors ratify a personnel action approved by the Board of Governors since the Board's last public meeting. The action is as follows:

- Approval of the appointment of Dr. Ramona Benkert as Dean of the College of Nursing, approved by the Board of Governors in Executive Committee on May 20, 2024, with a vote of 7-0. The effective date of this appointment is May 24, 2024.

Background

The background documentation for this action was provided to the Board under separate cover, with copy attached for the record.

RECOMMENDATION FOR SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT

Recommendation

President Kimberly Espy and Provost Laurie Lauzon Clabo recommend the appointment of Dr. Ramona Benkert as Dean of the College of Nursing, Wayne State University, for a fixed-term appointment concluding on July 31, 2026. The appointment is effective May 24, 2024.

Background

Dr. Ramona Benkert is an exceptional leader, who has served the College of Nursing in senior leadership roles for more than 10 years. She has served as associate dean for academic and clinical affairs since 2014, and has served twice during this period as Interim Dean of the College, answering the call to service without hesitation.

Dr. Benkert has 29 years of clinical experience as an adult nurse practitioner. Her research interests focus on clarifying the role of medical mistrust, racial identity and cultural competence in primary care and quality of care recommendations.

Over the same period, she has been the PI or Co PI on multiple research projects, laying the groundwork for these initiatives by measuring clinical outcomes, evaluating patient trust of health professionals and studying other psychosocial factors relevant to the outcomes of chronic conditions, the main focus of her research. She has also received numerous training grants from HRSA, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and currently serves as the co-principal investigator for the Michigan Area Health Education Center, the only AHEC in the country jointly awarded to a medical school and a college of nursing. Her research has been widely published in premier professional journals in her field.

Dr. Benkert is deeply committed to student success, and has mentored more than 70 nursing students from all levels of education, from pre-nursing to Ph.D. Her dedication to these students goes beyond their time at Wayne State, as she continues to work with many trainees after graduation.

Dr. Benkert is widely known and respected across the university, and throughout her field, for her collaborative and interprofessional approach to leadership. She will serve the College of Nursing, and Wayne State University, with commitment, and a passion for excellence.