


April 23, 2025

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Anne D'Alleva, Ph.D.   
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Appointment of Professor Virginia Hettinger to the Alan R. Bennett Honors  
Professorship in Political Science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Professor Virginia Hettinger to the Alan R. Bennett Honors Professorship in Political Science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

BACKGROUND:

The Alan R. Bennett Honors Professorship was endowed in 2010 by alumnus Alan Bennett, a member of the Board of Directors of the UConn Foundation and a regular contributor to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and to the Honors Program. The Honors Professorship recognizes and supports a distinguished faculty member to strengthen Honors opportunities in Political Science and support the University-wide Honors Program by working to enhance academic and professional opportunities for Political Science Honors majors through teaching, research, advising, mentoring, and special events.

The Alan R. Bennett Honors Professorship is held by the Director of the Political Science Honors Program on a term basis. The recommendation is made by Dean Ofer Harel along with the endorsement of the Department Head and Faculty of the Department of Political Science as well as the Executive Director of the Honors Program. The appointment will be effective for a three year term beginning August 23, 2025 through August 22, 2028.

Professor Hettinger joined the UConn faculty in 2001, earning tenure in 2007. Professor Hettinger has played a pivotal role in shaping the University's honors program through her service as an academic advisor, thesis supervisor, and leader in the university-wide Honors Board. Professor Hettinger's primary responsibility in this role will be to support and promote honors education in the Department of Political Science to create transformative experiences for students.