

April 29, 2026

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Pamir Alpay, Ph.D.
Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Appointment of Professor David L. Richards, Ph.D. to the Wiktor Osiatyński Chair
in Human Rights in the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute



RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Professor David L. Richards, Ph.D. to the Wiktor Osiatyński Chair in Human Rights in the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute for the period August 23, 2026, through August 22, 2029.

RESOLUTION:

“Be it resolved that the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees appoint Professor David L. Richards, Ph.D. to the Wiktor Osiatyński Chair in Human Rights in the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute for the period August 23, 2026, through August 22, 2029.”

BACKGROUND:

The Wiktor Osiatyński Chair in Human Rights supports distinguished scholarship, teaching, and public engagement in the field of human rights within the University of Connecticut’s Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute. The individual appointed to the Wiktor Osiatyński Chair will be a nationally or internationally recognized researcher, scholar, and teacher who has made significant contributions to the study and advancement of human rights.

The appointment of Professor David L. Richards follows the recommendation of a three-person committee of tenured faculty affiliated with the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute, as well as the recommendation of the Acting Director of the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute, James Waller and the Vice President for Global Affairs, Dan Weiner. Professor Richards is an Associate Professor at the University of Connecticut, with appointments in both the Department of Political Science and the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute, where he serves as Director of Graduate Studies.

Professor Richards earned his Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Binghamton. He is a leading scholar in the field of human rights, with an extensive body of research addressing topics such as gender-based violence, torture, and the measurement of government respect for human rights. His work has contributed to numerous scholarly studies and has informed research, policy, and practice globally.

Professor Richards is co-founder and co-director of the Cingranelli-Richards (CIRI) Human Rights Data Project and a co-director of the CIRIGHTS Human Rights Data Project, which provide widely used data on government respect for human rights across countries. These datasets have been utilized by international organizations, governments, scholars, and practitioners around the world.

His scholarship has been widely cited and published in leading journals, with significant contributions to understanding patterns of human rights practices, including physical integrity rights, globalization, and legal protections against violence. He has also authored reports and consulted for governments and international organizations on human rights issues.

Professor Richards' research, teaching, and service reflect a sustained commitment to advancing the study and practice of human rights, making him exceptionally well qualified to hold the Wiktor Osiatyński Chair in Human Rights.