



SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Department of Urban and
Environmental Policy and Planning

James Glaser
Dean of Academic Affairs for Arts and Sciences

February 11, 2014

We enthusiastically recommend that Professor James Jennings, who will retire on 31 August 2015, be granted the honor and title of Professor of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning Emeritus. This recommendation has received unanimously affirmative votes from tenured members of the UEP faculty, including Professors Agyeman, Bratt, Davis, Hollander, Hollister, Jacobs, and Krimsky.

James joined UEP in 2001 as a full professor amid a successful career in higher education, as both a faculty and administrator. Between 1979 and 1983, he served on the faculty of Harvard University as Assistant Professor of Afro American Studies. In 1983 he was appointed Dean of the College of Public and Community Service at the University of Massachusetts Boston. After serving five years in this position he was appointed Director of the William Monroe Trotter Institute and then Senior Fellow at The Trotter Institute and Professor of Political Science in the Africana Studies Department until he came to Tufts. At UEP, James has taught a number of core and elective courses, and is the go-to person for students interested in social policy and community development.

Trained as a political scientist, James has had a prolific record of scholarship on urban and neighborhood politics, social welfare, and community development. Author and editor of 14 books, he is the author of *The Politics of Black Empowerment: Transformation of Black Activism in Urban America* (1992 and winner of the Gustavus Myers Award for the Best Book on Human Rights in 1993). Another of his influence books is *Welfare Reform and the Revitalization of Inner City Neighborhoods* (Michigan State University Press 2003). In addition to another long list journal articles, he has also provided technical assistance and conducted research evaluations for foundations and government bodies in the area of employment and training, housing and economic development, and urban education. He is a member of several editorial boards.

Widely recognized for his extensive work with planning projects in various neighborhoods in Boston and other local communities, James was a major player in the design of the Roxbury Master Plan. Since his days as the director of the William Monroe Trotter Institute, James has worked with more than 50 organizations in Black, Latino, and Asian neighborhoods. His community connections have been a valuable asset for UEP, attracting a large student following from diverse backgrounds. James also has been instrumental in managing and nurturing UEP's Master of Public Policy program, from recruitment, securing financial assistance, curriculum development, to student mentoring. This is on top of the regular share of academic and thesis advising of UEP students in the MA program.



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While saddened to learn about James' decision to retire, we are comforted by his willingness to continue sharing his wisdom and expertise with UEP students and faculty in different ways. We appreciate your support of our recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Weiping Wu".

Weiping Wu
Professor and Chair