

March 19, 2019

To: Barbara Spackman, Chair  
Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate

From: Francine Masiello, Chair, Faculty Research Lecture Committee

Re: Nomination of Martin Meyerson Faculty Research Lecturers for 2020

The Faculty Research Lecture Committee met on February 6, 2019 with the objective of identifying two distinguished scholars among nominees from across the disciplines whose research has opened new fields of inquiry and whose international prominence has been assured. We looked for candidates in the Humanities/Social Sciences and the Sciences whose research carried wide recognition and whose excellence as teachers has been acclaimed at Berkeley. We also considered the ability of candidates to deliver a lively lecture to a wide audience.

The committee enthusiastically recommends that the 2020 Meyerson Faculty Research Lectures be delivered by Professors David Card from the Department of Economics and Steven E. Lindow of Plant and Microbial Biology. Of a very convincing field of nominees, Professors Card and Lindow impressed us both for the quality of their scholarship and their timely and innovative contributions. They carry our unanimous endorsement.

### **David Card**

The Class of 1950 Professor of Economics David Card is considered one of the most prominent labor economists in the world. For his important work as an empirical social scientist, he has been honored many times over. Among his awards, the Clark Medal in 1995, the IZA prize in 2006, the Frisch Medal of the Econometric Society in 2007, his election as Galbraith Fellow from the American Academy of Political and Social Science in 2013, and the BBVA Frontiers of Economics Prize in 2015. With innovative work for over three decades, Card has been considered a necessary reference in the area of labor economics. His scope is broad enough to address many fields such as minimum wage, the relation between earnings and training, the effects of unions and inflation on wages, the effects of immigration on labor markets, and health insurance. Not only has he brought empirical evidence to his topics, but the issues that he addresses carry a certain urgency in current times. His reviewers consider him an intellectual prime mover in economics and the social sciences as whole and regard him as the best empirical economist of his generation.

Card is the co-author or co-editor of nine books and about 150 articles. His landmark *Myth and Measurement: The New Economics of the Minimum Wage* (Princeton 1995), co-authored with Alan Krueger, was republished in 2016. Another influential work is his *Immigration, Poverty, and Socioeconomic Inequality*, co-authored with Stephen Rafael in 2013. These books upset the views of politically conservative scholars by exposing myths about a “dangerous” immigrant presence that would upset the stability of the US work force. Similarly, his research challenges the idea that minimum wage restrictions would result in larger unemployment figures. Card enters in controversy with common political and economic opinion, and, as his reviewers have noted, he calls into question core economic

principles through his empirical trials. His work is sustained by what has been described as a natural experiment regarding the different factors that randomly affect populations. Too, his adherence to empirical economics is significant for the kinds of transformations that Card has brought about in labor policy and economic theory. Card has a reputation as an engaging and effective lecturer.

### **Steven E. Lindow**

Professor Lindow is a renowned expert on microbial epiphytes in plants. He studies plant-microbe interaction and ecological microbiology and is concerned with plant survival in stressed conditions, a topic that is extremely important in an age of global disease and climate change that threatens, among other areas, the productivity of California agriculture. His work has focused on two major issues: ice-nucleating bacteria on leaves and the ways in which quorum sensing can deter the bacterial threat to grape production in California and citrus production in South America. As Associate Dean of the College of Natural Resources, he has also worked in Berkeley's Sloan Foundation with Engineers and Architects to study the microbial components of indoor air. He is the author of close to 200 peer-reviewed papers, 72 book chapters and reviews, and 10 patents. Throughout the overarching concern that drives Professor Lindow's work is the damage that plants withstand due to certain bacteria. He developed technology to comprehend how bacteria interact, and he has traced the lifestyle requirements for plant associated bacteria. This research has been regarded as the foundation for understanding the plant microbiome and the various dependencies between plants and microbes. The implications for his different projects provide a rationale to develop biological control strategies to displace toxic chemicals that would cause serious damage to plants. These bio-control microbes were developed by Professor Lindow and now are used in agricultural settings; they are especially important to mitigate the effects of cold temperatures and frost damage on crops world-wide. Also important to his research is the study of those bacteria and plant blight that are injurious to human health. As one reviewer put it, "Lindow's research stands as one of the great examples of how fundamental science can lead to practical, commercial, society-benefitting progress."

In recognition of his work, Lindow was appointed a member of the National Academy of Sciences (1999) and received the Academy's prize for Initiatives in Research (1985); he has also received various awards for advancement in microbiology. Finally, Professor Lindow has been celebrated as a superb public speaker who can speak across disciplinary boundaries. His colleagues praise him as a brilliant teacher and lecturer for both undergraduates and graduate students.