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Press Release

International Advisory Board appointed at the University of Tübingen

Board of international experts set to advise the President's Office in strategic affairs

Tübingen, 6/3/2015

The University of Tübingen has appointed a board of international experts to advise the University in strategic matters. The International Advisory Board held its inaugural session in Tübingen this week. It is primarily concerned with all matters relating to University strategy and its members include prominent research leaders from high ranking international universities. The Board members bring expertise from a broad range of disciplines and are considered as leading experts at their home universities and national research organisations.

With the appointment of international experts to the IAB, the President's Office is seeking to draw on a wealth of international perspectives and experience from different university systems in the strategic development of the University of Tübingen. The International Advisory Board was established as part of the Excellence Initiative 2014 and is due to meet every two years in future.

International Advisory Board – Members



Prof. Dr. Pamela Schirmeister, Prof. Dr. Christopher F. Higgins, Prof. Dr. Carol L. Folt, Prof. Dr. Sijbolt Noorda, Prof. Dr. Masashi Haneda, Prof. Dr. Eva Åkeson (nicht auf dem Foto: Prof. Dr. Antonio Loprieno) Photo: Mira Keßler/Tübingen University

Professor Dr. Eva Åkesson

Professor Eva Åkesson has been Vice-Chancellor of the University of Uppsala, Sweden, since 1 January 2012. She is a professor of chemical physics and has previously been Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lund with special responsibility for basic and advanced level studies issues, quality work, and related internationalization matters.

Her research has focused on femtochemistry – a field that makes use of ultrafast spectroscopy to follow chemical reactions and dynamics on a time scale of chemical bond making and breaking. She has also served on various boards, including the CSN (Central Board for Student Aid), Kristianstad University College, SI (Swedish Institute), and the National Committee for Chemistry.

Professor Dr. Carol L. Folt

Professor Carol L. Folt was installed as 11th Chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) in October 2013 and is the first woman to hold this position. She is an environmental scientist with a Ph.D. in ecology and has worked on the effects of dietary mercury and arsenic on human and ecosystem health, salmonid fisheries management and restoration, and global climate change.

Folt came to Carolina from Dartmouth College, where she was interim president in 2012-2013, Dartmouth Professor of Biological Sciences, and a faculty member and administrator for 30 years. She is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Professor Dr. Masashi Haneda

Professor Masashi Haneda was Vice-President for International Affairs of the University of Tokyo from 2012-2015. He is an historian and has been Director of the University of Tokyo's Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia since 2010.

His current research focuses on new perceptions of World History and he has previously worked on securalisation, religion, and the State, as well as comparative studies of Asian maritime worlds. Haneda has been an Associate Member for the Humanities of the Science Council of Japan since 2006 and has won numerous awards for his work.

Professor Dr. Christopher F. Higgins

Professor Chris Higgins was Vice-Chancellor at the University of Durham, UK, from 2007-2014. His research has focused on molecular biology. With his team, he carried out the first clinical trials for cystic fibrosis gene therapy in the UK.

Before coming to Duram, he was Nuffield Professor and Head of the Department of Clinical Biochemistry at the University of Oxford, and Director of the Medical Research Council as well as Head of Division at Imperial College.

Higgins has served on numerous committees, including as scientific advisor to the 2001-02 House of Lords Select Committee on stem cells.

Professor Dr. Antonio Loprieno

Professor Antonio Loprieno has been President of the University of Basel, Switzerland, since 2006. He has been full Professor of Egyptology at Basel since 2000, and was previously full professor of Egyptology at the University of California, Los Angeles. Loprieno's research interests include Near Eastern languages and Egyptian cultural history and religion.

Prior to his appointment as Rector of the University of Basel, he served as Dean of Studies of the University's Faculty of Humanities, as president of the Planning Committee, and as president of the Library Committee. He heads the Conference of Swiss University Rectors (CRUS).

Professor Dr. Sijbolt Noorda

Professor Sijbolt Noorda is President Emeritus of the University of Amsterdam and former President of the Association of Dutch Research Universities. He is currently President of the Academic Cooperation Association, a Brussels-based think tank that seeks to promote international cooperation in the field of higher education.

He has served or serves on various executive and non-executive boards in the domains of Higher Education & Research, Public Radio & Television, Performing Arts & Moving Image, Health Service, High Performance Computing, Not-for-profit Publishing and Social Services.

Noorda is a theologian focusing on the cultural history of religions in Europe.

Professor Dr. Pamela Schirmeister

Professor Pamela Schirmeister serves as both Dean of Strategic Initiatives for Yale College, The Graduate School, and the FAS Dean's office and as Sr. Associate Dean of the Graduate School. Her academic training is in nineteenth-century American literature. Her research interests also include the relation between philosophy and literature, psychoanalytic theory, and biography, and she has published several books and many articles in these areas.

She received from Yale both her B.A.(BK) and Ph.D. in English and has taught courses in Yale College in English, Comparative Literature and the Humanities. Before returning to Yale, Schirmeister worked as a reporter for Time magazine and taught at Middlebury, NYU and at the University of Konstanz.

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