RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York appoint Stephanie Woolhandler as Distinguished Professor of Urban Public Health at Hunter College effective March 1, 2017, with compensation of $28,594 per annum in addition to her regular academic salary, subject to financial ability.

EXPLANATION: Professor Woolhandler is an internationally recognized expert in health care policy who served as senior health advisor to Senator Bernie Sanders during his 2016 presidential campaign. She is a scholar of remarkable productivity whose widely-cited and influential work has been published in over 100 journal articles and seven monographs and books. Her reviewers point out that she is “amongst the most influential health systems researchers in the United States” and a “creative and rigorous researcher whose scholarly output includes many studies that might be considered groundbreaking.” “Most researchers and scholars crave to have the impact of Dr. Woolhandler’s work,” which “has been the single most important scholarly contribution to the movement for a single-payer health care system.”

Professor Woolhandler’s research with long-time collaborator Professor David Himmelstein has had a significant impact on health care policy in the United States and abroad. Their study of patients who were refused emergency care because they were uninsured triggered a national debate that eventually led to the passage of the Emergency Treatment and Active Labor Act, which requires hospitals to examine and stabilize patients before transferring them to another institution. Their research on the high administrative costs of medical care and the possible mechanisms to reduce them have entered national health policy debates in the U.S. and elsewhere. They are leading scholars on the effects of for-profit ownership of HMOs, insurance firms and medical providers. Their research on medical bankruptcy, which found that medical bills and illness were common causes of financial insolvency, was cited by President Obama as he worked to pass the Affordable Care Act. Together, Professors Woolhandler and Himmelstein founded and continue to lead the non-profit education and advocacy group Physicians for a National Health Program, which was recently cited in the New England Journal of Medicine as a leading progressive health policy organization that has grown to include more than 20,000 members nationwide and has active chapters in more than 40 cities.

Hunter College and The City University of New York will be well-served by Professor Woolhandler’s appointment as Distinguished Professor.