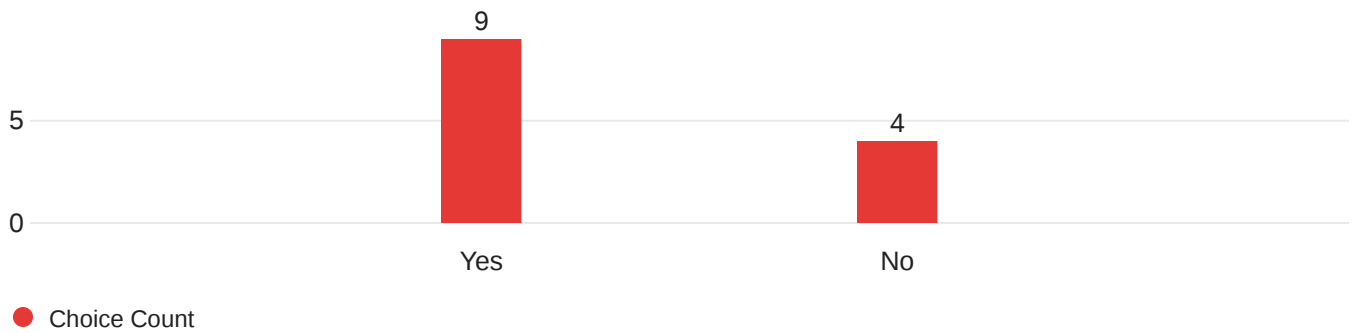
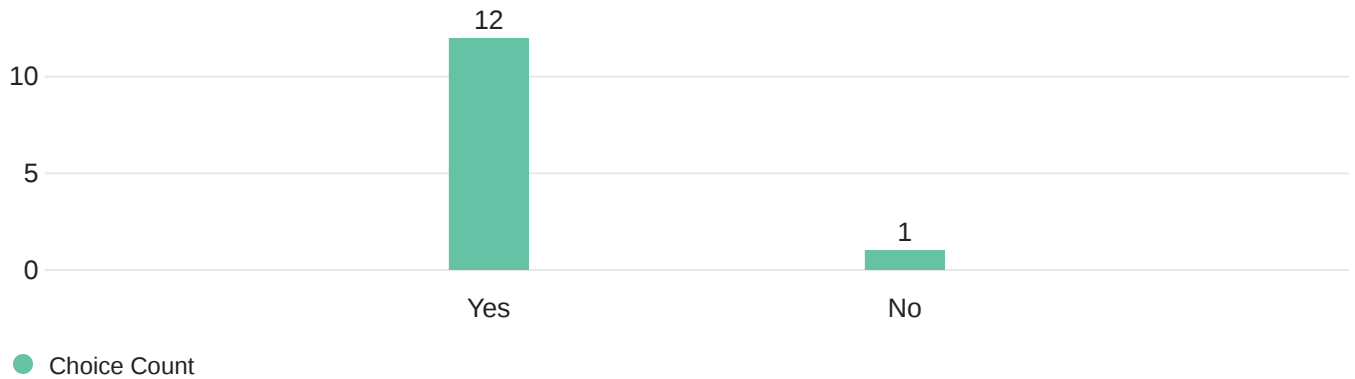


Distinguished & Named Professors Committee Straw Poll Results January 11, 2024

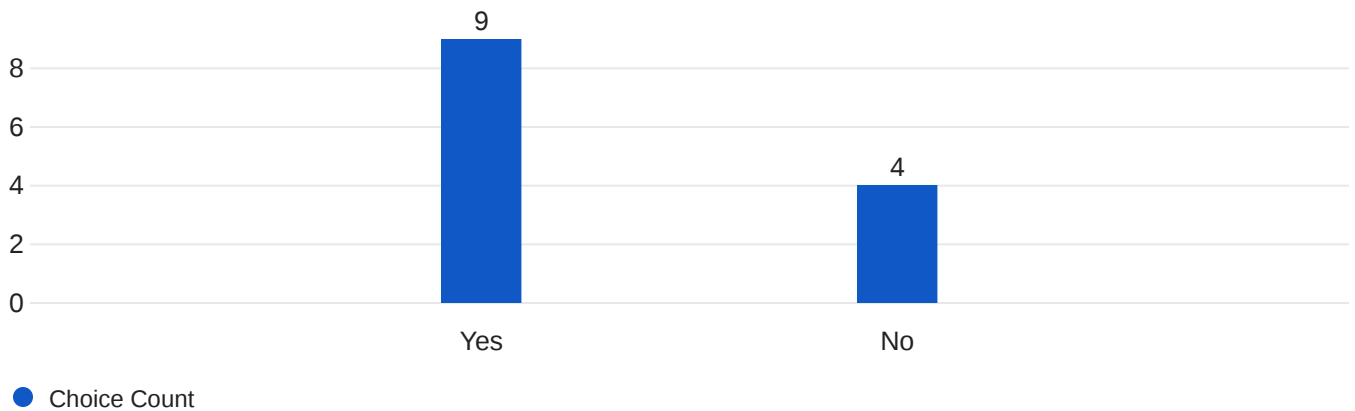
1. Do you support Steve Beaudoin for a limited-term Ziek Professorship?



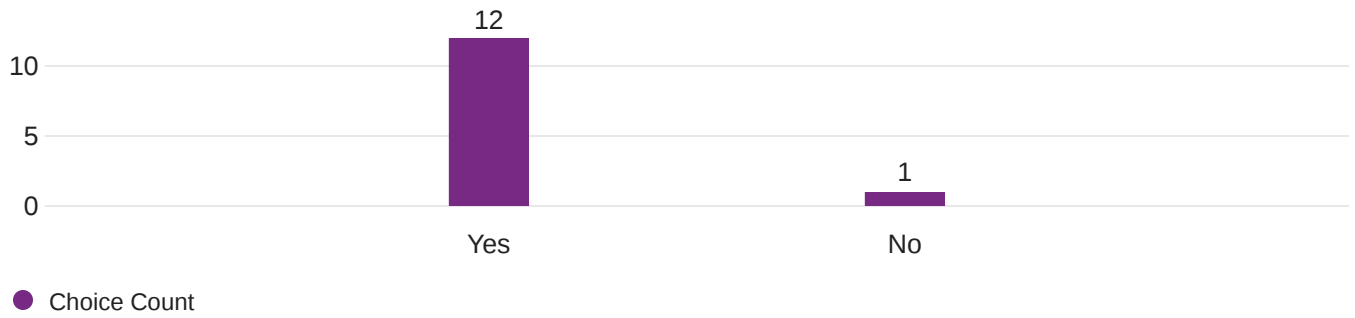
Q2. Do you support John Morgan for the Swanson Professorship?



3. Do you support Vilas Pol for the Jaker Advanced Energy Storage Professorship?



4. Do you support Elizabeth Topp for the Nichols Professorship?



5. Comments in bold font followed by their votes cast:

I look forward to the quality of support letters for the nominees.

Support Steve Beaudoin?	Support John Morgan?	Support Vilas Pol?	Support Elizabeth Topp?
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

It seems that the donors should allocate the part of the gift sufficient to endow the Jaker chair and then allocate the rest to directly support the research. Otherwise, the funds could be expended over some time period and the chair no longer have the endowment to back it up. Does one then eliminate the chair?

Support Steve Beaudoin?	Support John Morgan?	Support Vilas Pol?	Support Elizabeth Topp?
Yes	Yes	No	Yes

Elizabeth Topp is certainly qualified to receive the Nichols Professorship, but if she receives this honor, then I would hope that she could engage with the School on a more regular basis. To date, I have not seen her attend any School activities.

Support Steve Beaudoin?	Support John Morgan?	Support Vilas Pol?	Support Elizabeth Topp?
Yes	Yes	No	Yes

Steve Beaudoin is not sufficiently scholarly to deserve this recognition. I became even less inclined to support Steve receiving this recognition when I learned that he was not the main driver behind the Energetics Center. Although I am sharing my opinion with the rest of the committee with considerable reluctance, I must also add that his research on adhesion is not stellar.

Vilas Pol brings good recognition to our School because of his work on batteries and energy storage, and also on account of recognitions that he receives in areas where many of us are not players and/or would normally not be recognized.

John Morgan is certainly an order of magnitude more scholarly than Steve Beaudoin and also champions excellence in research and rigorous teaching.

I believe it is too soon to recognize Elizabeth Topp in this manner. From the way people had talked about her prior to her hiring, I was sure she had an H-index of 100 and had accumulated over 30,000 citations. However, the evidence provided tells a different story. Her H-index is very modest and she has accumulated few citations to date. However, my opinion would definitely change if she proves me wrong in a couple of years, e.g. her H-index becomes ~45 and the total number of citations reaches ~10,000.

Support Steve Beaudoin?	Support John Morgan?	Support Vilas Pol?	Support Elizabeth Topp?
No	Yes	Yes	No

Sang, I deliberated whether my limited knowledge of their contributions beyond research of most of these individuals would qualify me to comment on their overall contributions to teaching, mentoring, and to more generally to the School life. But I did try to overcome my hesitation by reviewing their CV's and web pages carefully.

I find that the Pol case would set a precedent that I would prefer to avoid. I have read a couple of his most recent papers in areas that I am somewhat familiar with and I do not find them close to threshold of quality and scholarship and I feel that it would not be well-received by the community as a message about how we value quality. In addition, the suggested letter writers are not appropriate as representative of those leading the field. Should we decide to seek letters, I would ask for more appropriate letter writers and I am happy to provide you with some suggestions about those leading the field.

In the case of Steve, his work tends to be quite applied and often not visible from the outside because of its nature, but I think that he has contributed significantly to the life and teaching of the department. My concerns about Steve are more related as how his contributions to research may decrease the numerical measures of productivity of the School because of what and where he publishes.

In the case of Liz, it is quite well outside my area of knowledge, but she seems to be accomplished and influential and a good way for the School to diversify into an area now more firmly within the Lilly endowment.

John is the only one for whom I can provide my unqualified support. Although his productivity seems somewhat constrained by funding, the quality of his reserach and mentoring seems well beyond the threshold.

In providing these comments, I have assumed that these are "regular" and not "distinguished" Professorships

Support Steve Beaudoin?	Support John Morgan?	Support Vilas Pol?	Support Elizabeth Topp?
Yes	Yes	No	Yes