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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

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Professor Finn Kydland, Director

Santa Barbara, February 9th, 2023

Rector search committee,
Universite du Quebec a Montreal

Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to support Stephane Pallage's application to the position of Rector at UQAM, a University I know quite well as I had the chance to be recipient of one of its honorary degrees.

I first met Stephane in the Autumn of 1991, when he arrived at Carnegie Mellon University. He started his PhD in Finance, but soon realized his research interests lay in Economics. In his first year, he came to see me with a project on global warming and game theory. The question he wanted to answer was rather important: How could countries agree on reductions of CO2 emissions? The question was a difficult one. The first climate summit in Rio de Janeiro turned out to be a political failure. The solution to the dilemma implied complex dynamic game modelling, which Stephane dove into with a lot of energy. He managed to quantify the yearly international transfers needed to reach an agreement. They amounted to 2% of the United States gross domestic product, a very large sum which was not at the time politically feasible. Together with my colleague Victor Rios, I advised Stephane throughout the writing of his thesis.

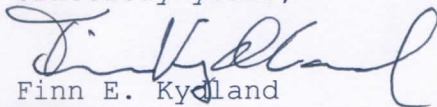
After his graduation in 1995, Stephane was hired by UQAM and moved to Montreal. His research across the years focused on finding ways to improve the economic prospects of developing countries, move away from poverty traps through social mobility, questions I consider of high importance.

Stephane was involved in administrative duties very early in his career. Head of Department at 40, Dean at 44, Rector at 49. I have heard good things from his tenure in these different positions. As Head of the Department of Economics at UQAM, he was instrumental in the hiring of 15 new professors in four years, among the top candidates on the job market in those years. That made the Department one of the best in Quebec and internationally recognized. As Dean, he

tackled with talent and success the difficult task of making your business school stand out internationally in order to attract top faculty members and top students. ESG under his tenure was recognized as the largest French-speaking business school in the world. As Rector of the University of Luxembourg, he has left an important mark, by introducing medicine and space studies on campus. The University grew substantially during his five-year mandate and attracted top researchers from across the world. It is seen internationally as the rising star among European universities.

It's with great enthusiasm that I recommend Stephane to you in your search for an excellent Rector. His human qualities, together with his academic background and expertise, are truly outstanding.

Sincerely yours,



Finn E. Kydland

Nobel Laureate in Economics 2004