ACTION REQUEST: Endowment and Naming of a Head Coach Position

PROPOSED NAME: The J. Ira and Nicki Harris Family Head Football Coach

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 1, 2014

Ira and Nicki Harris, through the J. Ira and Nicki Harris Foundation, have made a generous commitment of $10 million for the naming and endowment of the head football coach position. Upon acceptance of this gift, the head football coach will be known as the J. Ira and Nicki Harris Family Head Football Coach.

Ira (BBA '59, LLD Hon '12) and Nicki Harris are long time, loyal supporters of many areas of the University of Michigan including Intercollegiate Athletics where they established the J. Ira and Nicki Harris Family Football Locker Room. In addition, Ira Harris has been a dedicated volunteer providing expert advice as a member of the Investment Advisory Committee, the President’s Advisory Group, the leadership committee of the Michigan Difference Campaign Steering Committee, and now on the Campaign Leadership Board of the Victors for Michigan. They have created scholarships, endowed professorships, and provided support to the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, the Stephen M. Ross School of Business, and the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.

This is the first endowed coach position at the University of Michigan. The head football coach is responsible for preserving, enhancing and passing along the rich history and tradition of Michigan football to the next generation of student-athletes on the team. This endowed position will strengthen the program for years to come and ensure that future generations of student-athletes will continue to benefit from outstanding coaching and leadership.

We are pleased to recommend the establishment of an endowed coach position as the J. Ira and Nicki Harris Family Head Football Coach in the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, effective March 1, 2014.

Recommended By:

David A. Brandon
Donna R. Shepherd Director of Intercollegiate Athletics

Jerry A. May
Vice President for Development

February, 2014