

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: **Report of Faculty Retirement**

Action Requested: **Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

Edward D. Rothman, Ph.D., professor of statistics in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2016.

Professor Rothman received his B.Sc. degree from McGill University in 1965 and his Ph.D. degree from The Johns Hopkins University in 1969. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1969, and was promoted to associate professor in 1974, and professor in 1979.

An exceptional scholar, teacher, and mentor, Professor Rothman played an instrumental role in the development and success of the Department of Statistics. Establishing his research reputation with statistical theory and methods for population genetics, Professor Rothman went on to make important research contributions to the interface of statistics with geology and a variety of medical fields. He authored or co-authored over 100 scientific publications and two textbooks. Professor Rothman taught introductory statistical methods, developed a number of core undergraduate statistics major courses, and founded the Applied Master's Program in Statistics. A bellwether of statistical pedagogy trends, Professor Rothman foresaw the coming shifts toward data analysis over mathematical derivations and concepts of modeling over specific methods. A past protégé of W. Edwards Deming, the mid-century visionary who profoundly influenced post-war manufacturing in Japan, Professor Rothman introduced system thinking to a new generation of students through his popular course "Problem Solving: A Systems Approach." He held a number of key leadership roles, including chair of the Department of Statistics, director of the Center for Statistical Consultation and Research, and chair of the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs. Professor Rothman received three LSA Distinguished Teaching Awards in 1991, 1992, and 1994.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Edward D. Rothman, professor emeritus of statistics**.

Requested by:


Sally J. Churchill, J.D.
Vice President and Secretary of the University

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