

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Adopted by the Regents

May 14, 2009

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Gernot Windfuhr, Ph.D., professor of Iranian studies in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2009.

A native of Germany, Professor Windfuhr studied at the Universität Hamburg, the University of Teheran, and the University of Cologne and received his Ph.D. degree from the Universität Hamburg in 1965. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1966 and was promoted to associate professor in 1969 and professor in 1973.

Professor Windfuhr's research focuses on the fields of Iranian languages and linguistics, Iranian dialectology and Zoroastrian studies. His innovative research has centered on the metaphysical dimensions of Zoroastrian thought, exploring the social and cosmic settings of Zoroastrian texts. His studies on Zoroastrian ritual, calendar, and astrology have provided an important window on how ancient Iranians saw and experienced their world. He is the author of a pioneering textbook for the teaching of modern Persian language, which is used widely throughout the academy in the United States. He has written extensively on the ancient Iranian language of Avestan and on the Iranian dialects of Behdinan, Boir-Ahmadi, Luri and Talyshi, and his research has been funded by awards from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation (1974-75) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (1985-88).

Professor Windfuhr taught undergraduate and graduate courses in Zoroastrian religion, Avestan, Pahlavi, and modern Persian language and literatures, and served as chair of the Department of Near Eastern Studies for a decade (1977-87). He was an academic advisor to undergraduate students concentrating in AAPTIS (Arabic, Armenian, Persian, Turkish, Islamic Studies), and supervised a number of doctoral students.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and researcher by naming **Gernot Windfuhr professor emeritus of Iranian studies**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2009