

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

Adopted by the Regents

May 20, 2010

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Thomas E. Weisskopf, Ph.D., professor of economics and professor of Residential College in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2010.

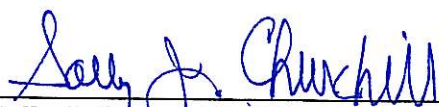
Professor Weisskopf received his A.B. degree from Harvard University in 1961, and his Ph.D. degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1966. From 1968-72, he was an assistant professor at Harvard University. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor in 1972, and was promoted to professor in 1979. He was appointed professor of Residential College in 2005.

In his research, Professor Weisskopf addressed three fundamental questions of economic transformation: How does a poor country become rich, how does a command economy become a market economy, and how does a rich market economy become just. Professor Weisskopf brought to these questions an exceptionally rich array of resources, including linguistic expertise, contextual knowledge, and quantitative technique. During the 1970s, with a handful of others, he founded the school of radical political economy. His *Beyond the Wasteland: A Democratic Alternative to Economic Decline* (1983), coauthored with Samuel Bowles and David Gordon, offered a timely diagnosis of American economic problems and an enduring blueprint for American economic renewal. It is one of the two or three most important books ever published by members of his school. Translated into French, Japanese, and Spanish, it led to *After the Waste Land: A Democratic Economics for the Year 2000* (1991). The maturity and breadth of Professor Weisskopf's insights are on full display in his *Affirmative Action in the United States and India: A Comparative Perspective* (2004).

Professor Weisskopf served for eight years as director of the Residential College, where he was much admired for his calm and fair-minded leadership, his wit, and his dedication to undergraduate learning. He served on numerous major committees throughout the university and was resident director of the study-abroad program in Aix-en-Provence. He held visiting lectureships at institutions in Ukraine and Moscow. Everywhere he went, Professor Weisskopf was admired for his commitment to academic values and for his personal integrity.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Thomas E. Weisskopf professor emeritus of economics and professor emeritus of Residential College.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2010