THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement
Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Robert L. Smith, Ph.D., Altarum/ERIM Russell D. O’Neal Professor of Engineering and professor of industrial and operations engineering in the College of Engineering, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2012.

Professor Smith received his B.S. degree from Harvey Mudd College in 1966, and his M.B.A., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California, Berkeley in 1968, 1971, and 1971, respectively. From 1971-80, he served as a lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley (1971-72), a member of the technical staff at Bell Laboratories, New Jersey (1972-76), a visiting assistant professor at Twente Institute of Technology in The Netherlands (1974-75), and an assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh (1976-80). He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor in 1980, was promoted to professor in 1986, and was named the first Altarum/ERIM Russell D. O’Neal Professor of Engineering in 2003. From 2008-10 he was also a program director for the National Science Foundation.

Professor Smith’s research focuses on the modeling, analysis, and optimization of dynamic systems over time. His main research contributions have been in areas of global optimization, infinite horizon optimization, and intelligent transportation systems. He has published over 100 papers in peer-reviewed journals and has advised 28 Ph.D. students. In recognition of his teaching and research achievements he received the Michigan Student Assembly’s Outstanding Teacher Award (1989), the College of Engineering’s Research Excellence Award (1999-2000), the University’s Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award (2002-03), the Department of Industrial and Operations Engineering’s Award for Outstanding Accomplishments (2004-05), and numerous Research Excellence Awards from the Department of Industrial and Operations Engineering. In 2003 he was elected a Fellow of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences.

The Regents now salute this distinguished professor for his dedicated service by naming Robert L. Smith Altarum/ERIM Russell D. O’Neal Professor Emeritus of Engineering and professor emeritus of industrial and operations engineering.

Requested by:

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

May 2012