THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

ACTIONS REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Karl E. Weick, Ph.D., Rensis Likert Distinguished University Professor of Organizational Behavior and Psychology and professor of organizational behavior in the Stephen M. Ross School of Business, and professor of psychology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2012.

Professor Weick received his A.B. degree from Wittenberg University in 1958, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from The Ohio State University in 1960 and 1962, respectively. From 1962-88, he held faculty positions at Purdue University, the University of Minnesota, Cornell University, Seattle University, and the University of Texas. He joined the University of Michigan faculty in 1988 as professor of organizational behavior and industrial relations, professor of psychology, and Rensis Likert Collegiate Professor of Organizational Behavior and Psychology. He was appointed Rensis Likert Distinguished University Professor of Organizational Behavior and Psychology in 2001.

Professor Weick is a leading international scholar, writing on such aspects of organizational behavior as collective sense-making under pressure, medical errors, handoff in extreme events, high reliability performance, improvisation, and continuous change. In 1990, Professor Weick received both the Irwin Award for Distinguished Scholarly Contributions from the Academy of Management and the Best Article of the Year Award from the Academy of Management Review for his article, “Theory Construction as Disciplined Imagination.” In 1996, his book, The Social Psychology of Organizing (1969), was named one of the nine best business books ever written by Inc. Magazine and was translated into several languages. Professor Weick’s book, Managing the Unexpected: Assuring High Performance in an Age of Complexity (2001), co-authored by Kathleen M. Sutcliffe, received the Best Book of the Year Award from HR.Com in 2002. Professor Weick is an excellent teacher and has served on the most prestigious editorial boards and top professional organizations in his field.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming Karl E. Weick Rensis Likert Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Organizational Behavior and Psychology, professor emeritus of organizational behavior, and professor emeritus of psychology.

Requested by:

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

May 2012