THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Kathleen M. Sutcliffe, Ph.D., Gilbert and Ruth Whitaker Professor of Business Administration and professor of organizational behavior and human resource management in the Stephen M. Ross School of Business, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2014.

Professor Sutcliffe received her A.B. degree from the University of Michigan in 1971, her B.S. degree from the University of Alaska in 1978, her M.N. degree from the University of Washington in 1981, and her Ph.D. degree from the University of Texas in 1991. From 1991-94, she served on the faculty of the University of Minnesota. Professor Sutcliffe joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1994, and was promoted to associate professor in 2001, and professor in 2005. She was named the Gilbert and Ruth Whitaker Professor of Business Administration in 2006. Professor Sutcliffe served as associate dean for faculty development and research from 2006-10.

An internationally recognized scholar, Professor Sutcliffe is best known for her research on strategic management and organizational theory. She conducted pioneering research on cognitive and experiential diversity in executive teams, how organizations cope with uncertainty, team and organizational learning, and organizational reliability and resiliency. More recently, Professor Sutcliffe has investigated practices within a diverse group of fields including healthcare, oil exploration and production, and wildland firefighting. She is the author of numerous books, book chapters, and articles in the leading scholarly journals. Her book, co-authored with Karl E. Weick, Managing the Unexpected: Assuring High Performance in an Age of Complexity (2001) won the Best Book of the Year Award from HR.Com in 2002. An excellent teacher and devoted mentor, Professor Sutcliffe taught a variety of undergraduate and graduate students, advised and jointly published with numerous doctoral students, and served on countless doctoral dissertation committees. She received the School’s Researcher of the Year Award in 2006.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming Kathleen M. Sutcliffe Gilbert and Ruth Whitaker Professor Emerita of Business Administration and professor emerita of organizational behavior and human resource management.

Requested by:

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

May 2014