Subject: Center for Chinese Studies Naming

Action Requested: Authorization to name the Center for Chinese Studies in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts the Kenneth G. Lieberthal and Richard H. Rogel Center for Chinese Studies

Background:

Richard H. Rogel (BA ’70, HLLD 2009), alumnus and recipient of an honorary degree from the U-M has been an exceptionally generous donor and one of the most active and dedicated volunteers to the university. In 2000, with his wife, Susan, he created a $22 million scholarship fund for students who, like Mr. Rogel, come to the U-M from out of state. About 500 students have received support. The Rogels have also given to many areas of the Health System. In November 2013, they made a gift of $50 million -- $30 million for scholarships at the Medical School, $10 million for future university initiatives, and $10 million in support for faculty, students, and programs at the Center for Chinese Studies in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. With his wife, Susan, Mr. Rogel’s lifetime gifts now total about $83 million, placing him among the university’s top donors.

The gift for the Center for Chinese Studies will bolster a strong program that spans studies of China’s history, literature, religion, art history, politics, economics, law and public health. The funds will infuse the center with resources required to lead the nation in teaching, research, and service to enhance the understanding of China and to train major scholars and leaders of the future. With this gift, the center will be able to deepen scholarly exchanges with colleagues in China to develop richer understandings and collaborations for faculty and students.

In addition to his exemplary generosity, Mr. Rogel’s volunteer leadership roles are extensive. He was chair of the Michigan Difference Campaign which raised $3.2 billion for the U-M. He is a member of the Health System Advisory Group and serves on the National Advisory Board of the Frankel Cardiovascular Center, and the Comprehensive Cancer Center’s Pancreatic Cancer Board of Directors. He serves on the President’s Advisory Group, the University Musical Society Senate, the Social Work Development Committee Campaign Taskforce, and the Advisory Board of the Samuel Zell and Robert H. Lurie Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies.

He serves as vice chair of the $4 billion Victors for Michigan Campaign and chair of the Health System’s $1 billion component of the campaign. In recognition of his ongoing commitment to student support, he chairs the effort to raise $1 billion for the campaign’s highest priority, student support.

In recognition of his extraordinary level of commitment to the U-M he was awarded the 2011 Ernest T. Stewart Award for Alumni Volunteer Involvement from CASE, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. He was awarded the U-M’s inaugural David B. Hermelin Award for Fundraising Volunteer Leadership in 2004, the university’s highest award for volunteers.
In making his gift to the Center for Chinese Studies, Mr. Rogel wanted to honor the Center’s director from 1986-1989, the distinguished scholar of Chinese politics, Kenneth G. Lieberthal. Dr. Lieberthal is a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, an emeritus professor of the University of Michigan, and former special assistant to President Clinton for National Security Affairs and former senior director for Asia on the National Security Council.

In recognition of Richard H. Rogel’s exceptional generosity to the University of Michigan College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Center for Chinese Studies, we recommend that the Board of Regents formally designate the center as the Kenneth G. Lieberthal and Richard H. Rogel Center for Chinese Studies.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gelman
Interim Dean
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Martha Pollack
Provost and Executive Vice President
President of Academic Affairs

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