

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

**Adopted by the
Regents
May 21, 2015**

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Howard A. Kimeldorf, Ph.D., professor of sociology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2015.

Professor Kimeldorf received his B.S. degree from the University of Oregon in 1976, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1978 and 1985, respectively. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1985, and was promoted to associate professor in 1991, and professor in 1999. He served as associate chair (1993-94 and 1998-2000), acting chair (1994-95), and chair (2000-10) of the Department of Sociology.

A leading sociologist of twentieth century American labor, Professor Kimeldorf utilized a powerful combination of painstaking archival research, theoretical synthesis, and methodological inventiveness to study the relationship between patterned inequality and social change. Much of his research has focused on inequalities rooted in class, with the goal of examining how historical processes of working class formation have shaped the possibilities for collective action and protest. Professor Kimeldorf's books investigated the sources of radical and conservative political cultures in the American longshore industry, and the role of syndicalist practices in shaping the national labor movement. His work has not only cast a fresh light on the perennial problem of labor's "exceptional" conservatism in the United States, it has also advanced our theoretical understanding of class formation and served as an exemplar of the "second wave" of historical sociology in which the Department of Sociology has become a leader. Professor Kimeldorf's scholarship has been recognized by numerous honors and awards including the Society for the Study of Social Problems' Outstanding Book Award (2000) for *Battling for American Labor: Wobblies, Craft Workers and the Making of the Union Movement* (1999).

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher, scholar, and administrator by naming **Howard A. Kimeldorf, professor emeritus of sociology.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2015