

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Piotr Michalowski, Ph.D., George G. Cameron Professor of Ancient Near Eastern Civilization and Languages and professor of Near Eastern studies in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2016.

Professor Michalowski received both his M.A. (Department of Mediterranean Archeology) and M.A. (Department of Near Eastern Philology) degrees from the University of Warsaw in 1968. He received his M.Phil. (1972) and Ph.D. (1976) degrees from Yale University. Professor Michalowski joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor in 1981, and was promoted to professor in 1987. He served as chair (1987-93) and acting chair (1995-96) of the Department of Near Eastern Studies.

In four monographs, five edited volumes, and more than one hundred articles, Professor Michalowski comprehensively addressed ancient Mesopotamian history, exploring topics ranging from political history and religion to language and literature, with a philological meticulousness and deeply emphatic engagement with the textual legacy of Sumer and Akkad. His most sustained interest was, and continues to be, devoted to the origins of writing as a technological and cognitive innovation, and to the evolution (or revolution) leading from informational notation to narrative, and to literature. His insights build on multiple disciplines and comparative approaches far beyond his field, and have made him one of the most innovative and influential scholars in his field, recognized by a number of prestigious grants and awards. Professor Michalowski was president of the International Association for Assyriologists (2009-14), and president of the American Oriental Society (2013-2014). Since 1991, he has served as the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Cuneiform Studies*, and remains active on numerous editorial and advisory boards nationally and internationally. Professor Michalowski is also an important member of the cultural scene of Ann Arbor as a jazz musician and ardent promoter of jazz in all its facets.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Piotr Michalowski, George G. Cameron Professor Emeritus of Ancient Near Eastern Civilization and Languages and professor emeritus of Near Eastern studies.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2016