THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement
Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Maris A. Vinovskis, Ph.D., A.M. and H.P. Bentley Professor of History and professor of history in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, professor of public policy in the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, and research professor in the Center for Political Studies in the Institute for Social Research, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2019.

Professor Vinovskis received his B.A. (1965) degree from Wesleyan University and his A.M. (1966) and Ph.D. (1975) degrees from Harvard University. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1974, and was promoted to associate professor in 1977, and professor in 1981. He served as chair of the Department of History from 1993-96. He was named the A.M. and H.P. Bentley Professor of History in 1997.

Professor Vinovskis was a specialist in the social history of the United States and a leader in the study of family and population, education and social change, and the social history of the Civil War. A distinguished pioneer of quantitative social historical research, he served as a professor of public policy in the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy and as a research professor in the Institute for Social Research. He authored many articles and numerous books on subjects ranging from the history of literacy to K-12 education to recent educational polices. His notable publications include Education, Society, and Economic Opportunity: A Historical Perspective on Persistent Problems (1995), The Birth of Head Start: Preschool Education Policies in the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations (2005), and From a Nation at Risk to No Child Left Behind: National Education Goals and the Creation of Federal Education Policy (2009). Professor Vinovskis is widely respected for his innovative scholarship and received a number of grants and fellowships from the Ford, Guggenheim, Rockefeller, and Spencer foundations. He served as a deputy staff director of the U.S. House Select Committee on Population under the Carter administration and was a consultant on policy-related work during the Reagan, Bush, and Clinton administrations. He was a successful teacher, of both undergraduate and graduate courses, and showed his commitment to undergraduates through his dedication to mentoring and advising.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar and teacher by naming Maris A. Vinovskis, professor emeritus of history, professor emeritus of public policy, and research professor emeritus.

Requested by:

Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2019