

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Kathleen V. Wider, Ph.D., professor of philosophy in the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, University of Michigan-Dearborn, will retire from active faculty status on June 30, 2016.

Professor Wider received her B.A. (1966) degree from Marygrove College, her M.A. (1968) degree from the University of Detroit, and her Ph.D. (1978) degree from Wayne State University. She joined the University of Michigan-Dearborn faculty as an assistant professor in 1988, and was promoted to associate professor in 1992, and professor in 2000.

Professor Wider is a leading scholar of the philosophy of mind, existentialism, and the history of philosophy. Her interdisciplinary work utilized a unique combination of philosophy, neuroscience, and psychology to bridge analytical and continental traditions. She is best known for her influential book on Jean-Paul Sartre entitled *The Bodily Nature of Consciousness: Sartre and Contemporary Philosophy of Mind* (1997). Her very first published article, on women philosophers in the ancient Greek world, appeared in the inaugural issue of *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy* and continues to be widely cited. Professor Wider taught undergraduate and graduate courses on a wide array of topics, including ancient and modern philosophy required of all philosophy majors, as well as courses on Kant, existentialism, Kierkegaard and Nietzsche, philosophy of mind, philosophy of art, and philosophy in literature. She developed and taught several interdisciplinary seminars for the Master of Arts in the Liberal Studies Program, a program with which she was deeply involved and which she directed in 2006-08 and co-directed in 2011-12. A superb teacher and dedicated mentor, Professor Wider championed the development of solid writing skills infused with style, clarity, and accuracy. Professor Wider's extensive service contributions were uniformly characterized by her thorough understanding of the issues at hand and her deep commitment to following the evidence.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Kathleen V. Wider, professor emerita of philosophy**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

June 2016