

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

Adopted by the Regents

ACTION REQUEST

September 17, 2009

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Kenneth G. Lieberthal, Ph.D., Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, professor of political science, College of Literature, Science and the Arts, William Davidson Professor of Business Administration, and professor of business administration, Stephen M. Ross School of Business, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2009.

Professor Lieberthal received his B.A. degree from Dartmouth College in 1965, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Columbia University in 1968 and 1972, respectively. From 1972-83 he was on the faculty of Swarthmore College. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as a professor of political science in 1983 and was appointed William Davidson Professor of Business Administration and professor of business administration in 1995.

Professor Lieberthal's main research contributions have been in the area of bureaucratic politics, Chinese politics, and U.S.-China relations. As part of an extensive research project in the 1980s, Professor Lieberthal developed a system of analysis for China's political system, the largest unified bureaucratic structure in the world. This analysis contributed to a deeper and more nuanced understanding of central-local relations, bureaucratic decision-making, and elite level policy choices. Professor Lieberthal's research also drew attention to the fragmented nature of the Chinese political system, a key explanatory factor for weak policy implementation of the Chinese central state. His commitment to public service and his wide engagement on U.S.-China relations have extended the impact of his research to U.S. policymaking toward China. He has served as an advisor to the White House, the U.S. Department of State, the United Nations Association, and other bodies.

Professor Lieberthal taught undergraduate and graduate courses in comparative politics, with a special emphasis on the politics of China. He was a faculty associate and director (1986-89) of the Center for Chinese Studies, and was a fellow and director of the William Davidson Institute from 2001-09. His excellence as a teacher was recognized by his appointment as an Arthur F. Thurnau professor in 1995, and he received the University's Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award in 2004.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Kenneth G. Lieberthal Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus, professor emeritus of political science, William Davidson Professor Emeritus of Business Administration, and professor emeritus of business administration.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

September 2009