

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION
Item for Information**

**Received by the
Regents
September 17, 2015**

Subject: Faculty Governance Update

The University of Michigan celebrates the 25th anniversary of the University Senate's Annual Davis, Markert, Nickerson Lecture on Academic and Intellectual Freedom on October 8, 2015, with a major symposium entitled "Fragility of Our Freedoms". Two internationally recognized scholars will deliver addresses. Princeton University professor emerita Natalie Zemon Davis will deliver a lecture entitled "Experiencing Exclusion: Scholarship in the Wake of Inquisition" and Institute for Advanced Study professor emerita Joan Wallach Scott will deliver a lecture entitled "Civility and Academic Freedom."

Professor Davis is a social and cultural historian of early modern times. She is the recipient of various international prizes including the 2010 Ludwig Holberg International Prize from the government of Norway and the 2012 National Humanities Medal from President Obama in addition to honorary degrees from many universities. Professor Scott's work has challenged the foundations of conventional historical practice, including the nature of historical evidence and historical experience and has contributed to the formulation of a field of critical history. She has been recognized with honorary degrees from a number of academic institutions and her books have been awarded numerous prizes. The annual lectures make up the longest, continuous series of lectures on academic freedom at any institution of higher learning in the United States.

The University's Senate Assembly established the annual lecture in 1990 and named it after three former faculty members with a resolution that expressed deep regret for "the failure of the University Community to protect the values of intellectual freedom" in 1954 when the three experienced persecution after appearing before a subcommittee of the House Committee on Un-American Activities. The Senate's resolution stated that "The protection of academic and intellectual freedoms requires a constant reminder of their value and vulnerability. To provide for that reminder, the Faculty of the University of Michigan hereby resolves to establish an Annual Senate Lecture on Academic and on Intellectual Freedom". Each year for the past twenty-four years a distinguished scholar has delivered the annual lecture. The first lecture was delivered in 1991 by Robert M. O'Neil, Professor of Law and Founding Director of the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression at the University of Virginia and recent

lecturers have included Vartan Gregorian (2001), President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Cass R. Sunstein (2008), Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law at the Harvard Law School, Michael A. Olivas (2010), William B. Bates Distinguished Chair in Law and Director of the Institute for Higher Education Law and Governance at the University of Houston Law Center, Ellen W. Schrecker (2011), Professor of History at Yeshiva University, Robert C. Post (2012), Dean and Sol & Lillian Goldman Professor of Law at the Yale Law School, and Douglas Laycock (2014), the Robert E. Scott Distinguished Professor of Law and Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Virginia School of Law.

Submitted: September 2015

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T E Schneider", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

(T E Schneider on behalf of SACUA)