Subject: Faculty Governance Update

With the retirement of two outstanding members of the Board of Regents, we take this opportunity to thank them for their many years of service to the University of Michigan and for their collegial interactions with SACUA and the faculty of the university during their tenure as Regents.

Olivia Procter Maynard and S. Martin Taylor, An On-going Appreciation

Olivia Procter Maynard is well known on the University of Michigan’s campus for her outstanding service to citizens of the State of Michigan and her all-inclusive encouragement of students, faculty, staff and administration—particularly for under-represented groups and for women here at the University of Michigan. Her support for women in all academic contexts on campus has been strong and exemplary. She herself is an outstanding role model for women’s accomplishments in many different arenas. She received a Bachelor's degree in political science from George Washington University in 1958 and a Master's Degree in social work from the University of Michigan in 1971, which became the foundation for her work in the community, in politics, in academe and in government. She was the first woman to chair the Michigan Democratic Party (1979-1983). She was also was the first woman nominated for the office of Michigan’s lieutenant governor, in 1978. She ran for Lieutenant Governor for a second time in 1990. In 1983, Olivia Maynard became the head of the Office of Services to the Aging. She worked to keep senior citizens in their own homes, to provide prescription drug reimbursement for low-income residents ineligible for Medicaid, and to develop a national model for guardianship standards. Maynard left the office in 1990 to become adjunct professor and instructor of aging policy at the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and the Lansing Community College Center for Aging Education. She is also the founder and president of Michigan Prospect, a progressive public policy institute, and she served on the Federal Council on Aging during the Clinton administration. She has been a Regent at the University of Michigan since 1996. She was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 2005. Her support of the Sarah Goddard Power Awards for women faculty and administrators, her thoughtful commentaries at the awards ceremonies about the many-faceted roles of women in academe and the world beyond have been much sought-after over the years for their insight, wit and grace. She is a problem solver, a consensus-builder, a supporter of those whose voices—political and social—would be overlooked without her, a person of great energies, deep commitments, a thought-provoking educator and a woman of enormous integrity. Our debt to Olivia Maynard extends far beyond the many years of devoted service she gave to the University of Michigan as Regent. It extends to our lives as citizens, both young and old, and as admiring friends, with deep appreciation.
S. Martin Taylor, who has given tireless service to the University of Michigan, its students, staff, faculty and administration during his 16 years as Regent, received a B.S. from Western Michigan University in 1964 and a J.D. degree from the Detroit College of Law in 1967. He recently retired as an executive vice president of DTE Energy Company and also served as interim president of Detroit Renaissance. Regent Taylor’s sphere of active service extends beyond the U of M to his work in numerous community, civic, and business organizations. He currently serves as chair of The Arts League of Michigan and the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation. He is a board trustee and executive committee member of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and a director of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. He is past chair of the Citizens Research Council of Michigan, the Council of Michigan Foundations, and the Detroit Urban League and former president of the Detroit Zoological Institute and New Detroit, Inc. He previously served as director for both the State of Michigan Department of Labor and the Michigan Employment Security Commission. Since his graduation from law school in 1967, Regent Taylor has been in continuous public service to the citizens of the State of Michigan. Many times, Regent Taylor’s public service has involved concurrent public service positions. Faculty governance has appreciated and will miss Regent Taylor’s professionalism, consensus-building, and complete dedication to the betterment of the University.

Submitted: December 2012

(On behalf of SACUA)