

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Death

Action Requested: Adoption of Memorial Statement

The Regents of the University of Michigan acknowledge with profound sadness the death of **Omry Ronen, Ph.D.**, professor of Slavic languages and literatures in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. Professor Ronen died suddenly on November 1, 2012, at the age of seventy-five.

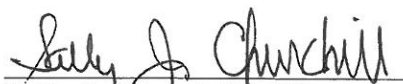
Born in Odessa, Ukraine, USSR, in 1937, Professor Ronen received his B.A. degree from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1966 and his Ph.D. degree from Harvard University in 1976. From 1982-85, he was a faculty member at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as associate professor of Slavic languages and literatures in 1984, and was promoted to professor in 1994.

Professor Ronen was a world-renowned scholar of Russian literature. His most influential scholarship ranged across many areas, including historical and descriptive poetics, metrics, structural analysis of verse and prose, Russian Silver Age poetry, and particularly the work of Osip Mandel'shtam. His erudition was legendary, and the energy and brilliance of his work were widely admired. The author of six books and 150 articles, his ground-breaking works include *An Approach to Mandel'shtam* (1983), *The Fallacy of the Silver Age in Twentieth-Century Russian Literature* (1997), *The Poetics of Osip Mandel'shtam* (2002), and three volumes of essays, *Iz goroda Enn* (From the City of NN) (2005, 2007, 2010). Professor Ronen was a member of the editorial boards of some of the field's most important journals, including *Elementa*, *Novoe Literaturnoe Obozrenie* (New Literature Review), and *Philologica*.

Professor Ronen taught courses in modern Russian poetry (Symbolism, Acmeism, Futurism), Silver Age Russian prose, Pushkin, the Russian picaresque, Russian social fiction, Nabokov, old Russian literature, and poetics and rhetoric. He was an inspiring teacher and a generous mentor, and many of his former students now teach at prominent universities in the field. Professor Ronen received the University of Michigan Excellence in Teaching Award in 1993 and the Excellence in Research Award in 1998. His current and former students and colleagues will greatly miss his inspiration as a teacher, mentor and interlocutor.

As we mourn the loss of our beloved colleague, we also extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Irena, his children Alexander, Anna, Daphna and Ariel, and his three grandchildren.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

December 2012