THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement
Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Donald Scavia, Ph.D., professor of environment and sustainability in the School for Environment and Sustainability, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2017.

Professor Scavia received his B.S. (1973) and M.S. (1974) degrees from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and his Ph.D. (1980) degree from the University of Michigan. He held a number of important positions at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) from 1975-2003. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as a professor in 2004.

Professor Scavia studied the effects of natural and anthropogenic stresses on Great Lakes and marine ecosystems. His work explored how models and integrated assessments can be used to transfer knowledge to the decision-making process. Professor Scavia’s research supported the development and application of integrated assessment, a tool that brings together natural science, social science, engineering, and environmental policy making. The impact of his work is extensive, having led to the development of methods for predicting and managing the size of dead zones in the Great Lakes, the Chesapeake Bay, and the Gulf of Mexico as well as toxic algae in Lake Erie. A prolific researcher and mentor, Professor Scavia published over 200 papers in refereed journals, many with his students, edited two books, and contributed chapters to twenty-eight others. During his thirteen years at Michigan, he mentored fourteen post-doctoral fellows, chaired or served on eleven doctoral committees, and advised more than twenty master's students and seven undergraduate students. Professor Scavia held a number of leadership roles in the School of Natural Resources and Environment, including director of the Michigan Sea Grant (2004-09); director of the NOAA Cooperative Institute for Limnology and Ecosystems Research (2005-07); and associate dean for research (2004-06). He also served as the director of the Graham Sustainability Institute, the Graham Family Professor, and the special counsel to the president for sustainability from 2009-16.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming Donald Scavia, professor emeritus of environment and sustainability.

Requested by:

Sally J. Churchill, J.D.
Vice President and Secretary of the University

December 2017