

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

Adopted by the Regents
February 14, 2008

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

George E. Johnson, Ph.D., professor of economics in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2007.

Professor Johnson received his B.S. degree from Babson College in 1960, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1966. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor of economics in 1966, and was promoted to associate professor in 1970 and professor in 1976. From 1976-91, he held an additional appointment as a research scientist in the Institute of Public Policy Studies.

Professor Johnson has written on a wide range of policy-related topics. His earliest work focused on labor unions, including strikes and the effects of unions on the wages of both union members and other workers. He then studied returns to schooling, emphasizing school quality as well as number of years completed. Another series of studies looked at lifetime earnings among academics and promotion patterns of female faculty. In other work, he assessed the potential impact of affirmative action proposals and cautioned that standard estimates of the effects of job-retraining may overstate their true benefits. More recently, he turned his attention to the growing wage inequality and declining real wages of those at the bottom of the wage distribution, studying the consequences of both technical change and increased international trade. In recognition of his many contributions to the field of labor economics, Professor Johnson was elected a fellow of the Society of Labor Economists in 2006.

Within the Department of Economics, Professor Johnson taught courses in macroeconomics, human resource policy, benefit-cost analysis, and policy modeling, along with graduate courses in labor economics and human capital. Thousands of undergraduate students took his introductory course in macroeconomics, and many went on to major in economics. He was director of the Master of Arts in Applied Economics Program from 1988-99 and 2001-03.

The Regents salute this distinguished scholar by naming **George E. Johnson professor emeritus of economics**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill
Vice President and Secretary of the University

February 2008