

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

ACTION REQUEST

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

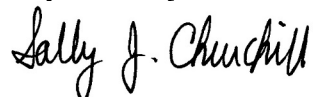
**Laura Friesen, M.L.S., M.F.A.**, librarian in the Frances Willson Thompson Library, University of Michigan-Flint, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2018.

Ms. Friesen received her M.L.S. degree (1991) from the University of California, Los Angeles. After working as a medical librarian at the Hurley Medical Center in Flint, she joined the University of Michigan-Flint faculty as an assistant librarian in 2001, was promoted to associate librarian in 2007, senior associate librarian in 2010, and librarian in 2016.

Ms. Friesen was a dedicated librarian from the outset of her career and took on her roles as health sciences librarian and instruction librarian with enthusiasm and an innovative spirit. She was well liked and much appreciated by faculty and students alike. Shortly after joining the Thompson Library faculty, she took the lead on the library's research instruction program. She planned, coordinated, and taught many of the research instruction classes. Under her lead, the library converted its instruction program from librarian-led to hands-on, a change for which she wrote grants to acquire the necessary equipment for the labs that were created. She continuously worked at improving the effectiveness of the research instruction she and her colleagues presented at UM-Flint, and to this end, solicited the input of the faculty whose students were directly affected. She worked very closely with the health care academic departments, particularly the School of Nursing, where she also served on the editorial board of its journal, the *Online Journal of Cultural Competence in Nursing and Healthcare*. She worked on campus-wide initiatives such as the General Education reform and the Higher Learning Commission accreditation review processes, and was the first librarian on the Flint campus to serve as the chair of the Faculty Council. She served on national committees for the American Library Association, with committee work including the development of standards for virtual reference, which was, at the time, an up-and-coming method of reference service delivery, and has since matured into a primary service mechanism for libraries around the world.

The Regents now salute this distinguished librarian by naming **Laura Friesen, librarian emerita**.

**Requested by:**



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

February 2023