

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Adopted by the Regents

May 17, 2007

Subject: Report of Faculty Death

Action Requested: Adoption of Memorial Statement

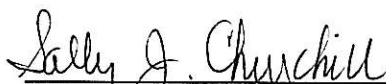
The Regents of the University of Michigan acknowledge with profound sadness the death of **Barbra Morris**, senior lecturer in English, Residential College, and senior lecturer in English, Sweetland Writing Center, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, on April 5, 2007, after a courageous battle with cancer. She was 72.

Dr. Morris received her B.A. degree from the University of Delaware in 1956, and her M.A. and D.A. degrees from the University of Michigan in 1970 and 1974, respectively. She taught in the Department of English Language and Literature and the Residential College for thirty-two years. She was among the founding faculty of the English Composition Board and helped build programs in writing across the curriculum as the ECB became the Sweetland Writing Center. She was the longest-serving instructor in the Residential College's First Year Writing Seminar and led the development of a second-semester intensive writing course for students experiencing difficulties with prose in their first year. She also taught courses in her field of specialization, the analysis of television news, in the Department of Communications and the Residential College. She was an exemplary classroom teacher, much beloved by her students. She received the LSA Excellence in Education Award (1994) and the Matthews Underclass Teaching Award (1999), and was honored with an appointment as senior lecturer in 2002.

Throughout her career, Dr. Morris was an active scholar in the areas of writing and the analysis of television. Her books include a study of disciplinary perspectives on thinking and writing, and a handbook for teaching writing in the disciplines. She published forty articles, mainly on the analysis of television news, and gave more than eighty conference papers--on four continents--on the media, television news, and writing. She was a fellow at the East/West Center of the University of Hawaii and director of the University of Michigan's Study Abroad Program in Dublin. She was active in the development of writing programs for secondary education, working for many years on a Ponting Foundation grant with English and journalism teachers at Mackenzie High School in Detroit.

Dr. Morris's deep commitment to her students, her cheerful good humor, her spirited love of travel, and her determined defense of principle were contagious. Her courage and abiding love of life had a profound effect upon her wide circle of friends and colleagues, who join with her three sons Kevin, Kyle, and Keith in thanking her for teaching us so much for so many years.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2007