

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Paul N. Courant, Ph.D., Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, Edward M. Gramlich Distinguished University Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Harold T. Shapiro Collegiate Professor of Public Policy, and professor of public policy in the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy; professor of economics in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; professor of information in the School of Information; and faculty associate in the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research within the Institute for Social Research, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2020.

Professor Courant received his B.A. (1968) degree from Swarthmore College and his M.A. (1973) and Ph.D. (1974) degrees from Princeton University. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1973, and was promoted to associate professor in 1978, and professor in 1984. He served as director of the Institute for Public Policy Studies (now the Ford School) from 1983-87 and 1989-90, and as chair of the Department of Economics from 1995-97. He was named an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor in 1996, the Harold T. Shapiro Collegiate Professor of Public Policy in 2006, a Presidential Bicentennial Professor in 2016, and the Edward M. Gramlich Distinguished University Professor of Economics and Public Policy in 2019.

Professor Courant has made major contributions to U-M and higher education nationally, holding several key administrative positions, including associate provost for academic and budgetary affairs (1997-2001), provost and executive vice president for academic affairs (2002-05, interim in 2017), and university librarian and dean of libraries (2007-13). Professor Courant guided the design and implementation of U-M's budget model, the development of the digital library, the creation of HathiTrust, and the approval of the Go Blue Guarantee in the FY18 budget. He was an expert in public goods who has authored six books, and more than 70 papers covering a range of topics, including tax policy, local economic development, gender differences in pay, housing, radon and public health, and university budgeting systems. A dedicated teacher and mentor, Professor Courant served on 56 doctoral dissertation committees and informally mentored several generations of graduate and undergraduate students.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher, researcher, and administrator by naming **Paul N. Courant, provost emeritus and executive vice president emeritus for academic affairs, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus, Edward M. Gramlich Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Economics and Public Policy, Harold T. Shapiro Collegiate Professor Emeritus of Public Policy, professor emeritus of public policy, professor emeritus of economics, and professor emeritus of information.**

Requested by:



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

May 2020