

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Marianne P. McGrath, Ph.D., professor of psychology in the University of Michigan-Flint College of Arts and Sciences, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2020.

Professor McGrath received her B.S. (1980) degree from the University of Illinois and her M.A. (1984) and Ph.D. (1987) degrees from the University of Houston. She joined the University of Michigan-Flint faculty as an assistant professor in 1991, and was promoted to associate professor in 1996, and professor in 2012. Professor McGrath served as chair of the Department of Psychology from 2013-16.

Professor McGrath explored a variety of concepts related to developmental psychology and gender differences. Most recently, she assessed gender differences and adult appearance accuracy. Her earlier publications focused on developmental differences in empathy and prosocial behaviors as well as child abuse. Her work on child abuse earned her the Argus Award for Outstanding Effort in Working to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect in Genesee County in 1996. Professor McGrath's research was often collaborative and many of her publications included junior colleagues and students as co-authors. Professor McGrath was well known for her consistent kindness, patience, and compassion, as well as her integrity and high standards. Her tenure at the University of Michigan-Flint was marked by discipline and supportiveness. Her support was integral to the success of innumerable colleagues and students. She would reliably lend an ear and offer wise advice. Her colleagues further appreciate that she often skillfully used a well-timed, kind word or joke to help balance the many different situations that arise among faculty. Professor McGrath took on a variety of leadership roles. Importantly, she served as chair of the Institutional Review Board for 13 years. Her work led to improved objectivity and just oversight in providing protection for human participants across disciplines. Professor McGrath led streamlined processes, clear communication, and maintained a diligent work ethic that ensured researchers received timely responses. As chair of the Department of Psychology, Professor McGrath successfully advocated for additional faculty positions, improved faculty and student experiences, and ultimately helped to redirect and reinvigorate the program.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Marianne P. McGrath, professor emerita of psychology**.

Requested by:



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

May 2020