

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Cynthia Sowers, Ph.D., Senior Lecturer and lecturer IV in the Residential College in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active status on May 31, 2019.

Dr. Sowers received her B.A. degree from Oakland University in 1967, followed by a M.A. degree and Ph.D. degree from the University of Michigan in 1975 and 1978, respectively. In 1973, Dr. Sowers was hired as a lecturer in the Residential College (RC) to initially teach in the First-year Seminar and the French Language programs. From 1975-79, she participated in an interdisciplinary group composed of humanities and fine arts faculty who together founded the Arts and Ideas in the Humanities Program at the RC. She served as program head and advisor to that program for several years.

Within the Arts and Ideas in the Humanities program, Dr. Sowers' courses featured critical analyses of arts and ideas in various forms, most often in literature and visual arts within the context of the history of ideas. Dr. Sowers' courses have included introductions to the literature and visual arts of Classical Antiquity, both Greek and Roman, and the subsequent medieval and renaissance encounters with this tradition via complex pathways of transmission. Her courses in the modern period included critical approaches to classic modernism, postmodernism, psychoanalytic interpretation, and the ideologies of revolution. Dr. Sowers highlighted the creativity of cultures and artists in their own time periods to generations of students and taught students rigorous analysis of texts, artworks, and ideologies. Dr. Sowers engaged in scholarship by presenting for colloquia on campus, participating in the round table discussions of visiting artists, including two of the Royal Shakespeare Company's U-M residencies (2003 and 2006); and the Colloquium on Critical Theory sponsored by the Department of English Language and Literature. Finally, she gave a lecture at the RC's 50th anniversary celebration. She received the Ford Foundation Fellowship, the Rackham Prize twice, two U-M Excellence in Teaching Awards (in 1992 and 1998), and was a recipient of the Matthews Underclass Teaching Award (1993). Dr. Sowers is the first RC faculty member to be recognized as a senior lecturer, and served in the Residential College for 46 years.

The Regents now salute this distinguished instructor and scholar by naming **Cynthia Sowers, Senior Lecturer Emerita and lecturer IV emerita in the Residential College.**

Requested by:



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

May 2021