

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Frederic J. Svoboda, Ph.D., professor of English in the University of Michigan-Flint College of Arts and Sciences, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2021.

Professor Svoboda received his B.A. (1971), M.A. (1973), and Ph.D. (1978) degrees from Michigan State University. He served as an assistant professor of American thought and language at Michigan State University from 1978 until joining the University of Michigan-Flint faculty as an adjunct lecturer in 1980. He became an assistant professor in 1984, and was promoted to associate professor in 1985, and professor in 1997.

A specialist in American literature, Professor Svoboda authored or edited six books on Ernest Hemingway's work, most recently co-editing *Hemingway's The Garden of Eden: 25 Years of Criticism* (2012). He also published dozens of articles on Hemingway and other American writers. He was a founding member of both the Ernest Hemingway Foundation (where he served as director and treasurer) and the Michigan Hemingway Society (where he served as president and continues to serve as vice-president). He wrote the museum catalog for an exhibit on Hemingway's experiences in Michigan, and has given numerous conference papers, panel discussions, interviews, and other presentations as well. Most recently, his research took him in a different direction, resulting in the 2018 publication of *Understanding John Updike*, of which James Plath, President of the John Updike Society, said, "Frederic Svoboda brings a fresh perspective to Updike studies, zeroing in on what's most important." Professor Svoboda chaired the Department of English during a period of rapid growth and also served as director of the department's M.A. program. He was a dedicated and sought-after teacher, mentoring generations of students in American literature, and one of the department's earliest adopters of online instruction. Through his American film courses, he also played a vital pioneering role in the development of that curriculum.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Frederic J. Svoboda, professor emeritus of English**.

Requested by:



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

May 2021