

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

James P. Walsh, Ph.D., Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, Gerald and Esther Carey Professor of Business Administration, and professor of organizational behavior, human resource management, corporate strategy and international business, Stephen M. Ross School of Business, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2025.

Professor Walsh earned his B.A. from the State University of New York at Albany in 1975, followed by M.A. degrees from Columbia University (1977) and the University of Chicago (1980). Completing his Ph.D. at Northwestern University in 1985, he began his academic career at Dartmouth College, where he earned tenure in 1991. Deeply grateful to his colleagues for teaching him how to be a professor, he moved that same year to Michigan as a tenured associate professor.

Teaching, research, and service: these are the pillars of academic life. Professor Walsh saw them not as separate workstreams, but as parts of a larger calling. Believing teaching to be an act of love, he was especially devoted to action-based learning—the idea that education must be embodied, not simply received. The Ross School and the University of Michigan both honored him for teaching excellence. Named a Distinguished Scholar by the Academy of Management (AOM), his research culminated with an effort to articulate a normative theory of business—one that views business as a vital institution working in and for society. Professor Walsh also embraced the call to service. On campus, he chaired the Management and Organizations Department and the Strategy Department, and contributed to countless committees and task forces. His impact reached well beyond Ann Arbor. A devoted member of the AOM, he served on the editorial boards of a number of its journals, including as an associate editor of one and co-founder of another, helped found two new Interest Groups, chaired a major division, served as dean of its Fellows Group, and was elected the association’s 65th president. Imagining and leading the Academy’s Africa Strategy, he helped to create the Africa Academy of Management, and later joined South Africa’s University of Pretoria as a pro bono “Extraordinary Professor.” Professor Walsh often remarked that most societies ask their professors, clerics, and justices to don robes, as a reminder that their work is to serve the world, not themselves. He wore his robe with gratitude, humility, and honor.

The Regents now salute our distinguished colleague by naming **James P. Walsh, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus, Gerald and Esther Carey Professor Emeritus of Business Administration, and professor emeritus of organizational behavior, human resource management, corporate strategy and international business.**

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2025