

The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Markus Nornes, Ph.D., professor of film, television and media and professor of Asian languages and cultures in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 24, 2026.

Professor Nornes received his Bachelor of Arts degree (1986) in cinema studies from St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN. He then earned both a Master of Arts degree (1990) and a Ph.D. (1996) from the USC School of Cinematic Arts. Professor Nornes joined the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures and the Program in Film and Video Studies in 1996. He also held an appointment at the Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design.

As a scholar, instructor, documentarian, and film festival programmer, Professor Nornes has been an instrumental figure in the study of Japanese and East Asian cinema. His impressive publication record, which includes three single-author books and over forty essays, has opened new avenues of inquiry in film theory, Japanese documentary, cinematic translation, and calligraphy in East Asian cinema. Professor Nornes's filmmaking credits include the 2018 feature *The Big House*, a documentary he co-directed about the University of Michigan football stadium that screened at the Berlin Film Festival. Active as a film programmer throughout his career, he has served multiple terms as the coordinator of the Yamagata International Film Festival since the 1990s, editing multiple publications and catalogs in this capacity. Jointly appointed in Film, Television, and Media, Asian Languages and Cultures, and the Penny Stamps School of Art and Design, Professor Nornes also served six years as chair of FTVM and one year as interim chair of ALC. He taught an impressive range of courses on Japanese cinema, anime, fascist cinema, documentary, and film theory. Through his mentorship, many of his students have gone on to have successful careers in cinema and media studies and Asian studies.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Markus Nornes, professor emeritus of film, television and media and professor emeritus of Asian languages and cultures.**

Requested by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Kinsey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2026