THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Item for Information

Subject: Henry Russel Lecturer for 2015

I am pleased to inform you that the Russel Awards Faculty Advisory Committee, chaired by Dean Janet A. Weiss, has selected Homer A. Neal, Interim President Emeritus, Vice President Emeritus for Research, Director of the University of Michigan's Project Atlas, Samuel A. Goudsmit Distinguished University Professor of Physics and Professor of Physics, College of Literature, Science and the Arts, as the Henry Russel Lecturer for 2015. The Russel Lecture will be delivered by Professor Neal on March 10, 2015.

The Henry Russel Lectureship is the highest honor that the University bestows upon a senior member of its faculty. A description of the contributions of this extraordinary faculty member is attached.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Sue Coleman
President

June 2014

Homer A. Neal

Homer A. Neal is currently Interim President Emeritus, Vice President Emeritus for Research, Director of the University of Michigan's Project Atlas, Samuel A. Goudsmit Distinguished University Professor of Physics and Professor of Physics, College of Literature, Science and the Arts. He earned his B.S. at Indiana University (1961) and then an M.S. (1962) and Ph.D. (1966) in physics at the University of Michigan. Professor Neal's remarkable record of accomplishment in research, education, university administration, and national policy formation has earned for him the University's highest faculty honor.

Professor Neal is currently conducting his research at CERN, the European Laboratory for Particle Physics, in experimental high energy physics, where his research group is part of the ATLAS Experiment. Neal also participated in the DZERO collaboration that in 1995 announced the discovery of the top quark. Within the early phase of DZERO the Michigan group had particular responsibility for designing, implementing, and analyzing data from the Intercryostat Detector that was built by the team at University of Michigan. His technical research expertise includes the design of particle detectors, particle event reconstruction and analysis, large-scale database management and particle physics phenomenology. He has led many experiments that have elucidated the nature of spin effects in high energy particle interactions, including proton-proton elastic scattering, electron-positron scattering and in various inclusive hadronic reactions.

Professor Neal also has distinguished himself as an innovator in undergraduate science education, at both the University and national level. While on the National Science Board in 1986, Neal chaired the committee that produced the Board's first comprehensive report on undergraduate science education. This study resulted in the Research Experience for Undergraduates Program (REU), and the Research Experience for Teachers Program (RET); both are still flourishing today. When he came to Michigan in 1987, he established a special REU program at CERN, which has benefited hundreds of University of Michigan students, as well as undergraduates from around the nation.

Professor Neal has delivered testimony on numerous occasions to Congress, on matters ranging from the funding of national laboratories to the state of science education. He has extensive national policy engagement, having served on the National Science Board, the National Research Council, the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, and others. He is currently President-elect of the American Physical Society.

His achievements have been recognized by a Sloan Foundation Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Stony Brook Medal, and the Indiana University Distinguished Alumni Service Award. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.