THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: **Report of Faculty Retirement**

Action Requested: **Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

Robert A. Bix, Ph.D., professor of mathematics in the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Michigan-Flint, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2017.

Professor Bix received his B.A. degree from the University of Chicago in 1973 and his Ph.D. degree from Yale University in 1977. He joined the University of Michigan-Flint faculty as an assistant professor in 1977, and was promoted to associate professor in 1981, and professor in 1994.

A dedicated teacher of mathematics, Professor Bix was notable for the time and energy he devoted to his courses. He had a special knack for making highly abstract mathematics concrete and therefore accessible to undergraduate students. This was most apparent in his widely praised textbooks *Topics in Geometry* (1994) and *Conics and Cubics* (2nd edition, 2006). His professional areas of expertise focused on algebra and geometry. In recognition of the depth and breadth of his contributions to mathematics, Professor Bix received the UM-Flint's Scholarly or Creative Achievement Award from 1984-85. He was actively involved in faculty governance and served in a number of key roles, including as chair of the College of Arts and Sciences' Curriculum Committee, chair of the Department of Mathematics, and chair of the Faculty Assembly. A tireless contributor, Professor Bix served for many years as the director, co-director, and contest coordinator of the successful Math Field Day program. This annual day of competition for Michigan high school students was one of the Department of Mathematics' signature outreach activities.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Robert A. Bix, professor emeritus of mathematics.**

Requested by:

Sally J. Churchill

Sally J. Churchill, J.D.
Vice President and Secretary of the University   **June 2017**