

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Gregory Poggi, Ph.D., professor of theatre and drama in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, retired from active faculty status on June 30, 2020.

Professor Poggi received his B.A. (1968) degree from Iona College and his M.A. (1969) and Ph.D. (1977) degrees from Indiana University. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as a professor in 2005.

Professor Poggi successfully led resident professional theatres in the United States and Canada for over 22 years. He was a founder of the Indiana Repertory Theatre, Indianapolis, which is now in its 47th season. He served as managing director of the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, Winnipeg, one of Canada's premier companies, and was the founding chair of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT), Toronto. He next became the artistic and producing director of the Philadelphia Drama Guild at the Annenberg Center of the University of Pennsylvania. His production history spans over 120 works, ranging from Shakespeare, Ibsen, Miller, Hansberry, and Beckett to new works and several American premieres, such as Graham Greene and Dennis Canaan's *The Power and the Glory* and Michael Frayn's *Clouds*. Over the years, Professor Poggi has collaborated with many Tony Award-winning actors, directors, and designers. Professor Poggi was also chair of the Division of Arts Administration in the Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University, Dallas for 15 years, a program that awards both an M.A. degree in arts administration and an M.B.A degree. He also chaired three other divisions: theatre, dance, and corporate communications and public affairs. While at SMU, Professor Poggi served as the artistic consultant to the Dallas Theater Center during their search for a new artistic director. From 2005-10, Professor Poggi was chair of the U-M Department of Theatre & Drama. In 2011, he founded the minor in performing arts management, now established as the Department of Performing Arts Management and Entrepreneurship. He also founded MPulse Theatre, a summer program for high school students. Professor Poggi was a "rock star" to SMTD students, teaching very popular classes, such as Legal Issues in the Arts, Fundraising and the Arts, and Producing in American Theatre.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Gregory Poggi, professor emeritus of theatre and drama**.

Requested by:



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

June 2020