THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: **Report of Faculty Retirement**

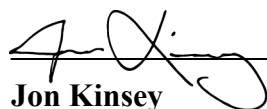**Action Requested:**   **Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

Daniel E. Little, Ph.D., professor of philosophy, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, University of Michigan-Dearborn, professor of sociology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and professor of public policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, retired from active faculty status on June 30, 2025.

Professor Little received his Ph.D. degree from Harvard University in 1977. Before joining the University of Michigan, he served as professor of philosophy at Colgate University (1979-1996) and vice president for academic affairs at Bucknell University (1996-2000). Professor Little joined the University of Michigan-Dearborn faculty as chancellor and professor of philosophy in 2000, and he was appointed professor of sociology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts in 2010 and professor of public policy in the Ford School of Public Policy in 2018. He stepped down as chancellor of the University of Michigan-Dearborn in July 2018.

Professor Little is a prolific and wide-ranging scholar whose interests fall at the intersection of philosophy and the social sciences. He has also written on the philosophy of history and the ethics of economic development policy. His first books included *The Scientific Marx* (1986), *Understanding Peasant China* (1989), *Varieties of Social Explanation* (1991), and *Microfoundations, Method, and Causation* (1998). Since 2000 he has published *The Paradox of Wealth and Poverty: Mapping the Ethical Dilemmas of Global Development* (2003), *New Contributions to the Philosophy of History* (2010), *New Directions in the Philosophy of Social Science* (2016), *A New Social Ontology of Government* (2020), *Confronting Evil in History* (2022), and *Rethinking Analytical Sociology* (2025). Recurring themes in these works include the contingency and heterogeneity of the social world, the centrality of agency in social processes, and the intertwining of issues of social justice with concrete social processes of change. Professor Little has published over 100 articles, chapters, and reviews and has presented invited papers in 20 countries and four continents. Through his frequent teaching in the University of Michigan-Dearborn's Honors Program, Professor Little has helped to bring important texts from the history of thought into dialogue with urgent contemporary issues.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Daniel E. Little, professor emeritus of philosophy, professor emeritus of sociology, professor emeritus of public policy, and chancellor emeritus of the University of Michigan-Dearborn.**

Requested by:

Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University   **June 2025**