

The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Stefan Szymanski, Ph.D., professor of sport management in the School of Kinesiology, retired from active faculty status on May 24, 2026.

Professor Szymanski earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Oxford in 1983 and completed his M.Sc. and Ph.D. in economics at Birkbeck College, University of London in 1985 and 1988, respectively. Before joining the University of Michigan in 2011 as a professor of sport management, he held academic appointments at London Business School, Imperial Business School, Imperial College London, and Cass Business School - City, University of London.

Professor Stefan Szymanski is a distinguished scholar of sport management in the University of Michigan School of Kinesiology whose internationally recognized career has helped shape the modern field of sports economics. Over the course of his career, Professor Szymanski established himself as one of the leading authorities on the economics and history of sport, particularly soccer. He has authored more than one hundred scholarly articles and several influential books, including *The New York Times* bestseller *Soccernomics* (with Simon Kuper), translated into fifteen languages. His expertise has also been widely recognized in public policy and legal settings involving the economics of sport, including matters related to broadcast rights, club valuation, and corruption in international athletics.

Throughout his career, Professor Szymanski has combined intellectual rigor with an engaging and accessible approach to teaching, scholarship, and public commentary. His work challenged conventional thinking and brought clarity to complex issues surrounding competition, labor markets, and the global structure of sport, helping establish sports economics as a respected and influential academic discipline. At the University of Michigan, he has been admired as a thoughtful colleague and inspiring teacher whose curiosity, humor, and openness to debate fostered a vibrant learning environment for students and peers alike. Through his scholarship, mentorship, and public engagement, Professor Szymanski has left a lasting impact on the university and on the broader academic and sporting communities.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Stefan Szymanski, professor emeritus of sport management**.

Requested by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Kinsey', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

June 2026