

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Building Name Change

Action Requested: Authorization to change the name of the University Center,
UM-Dearborn Campus

Proposed Name: James C. Renick University Center

I am pleased to recommend renaming the University Center at UM-Dearborn in honor of James C. Renick, the fourth chancellor of UM-Dearborn.

James C. Renick served as chancellor from January 1993 to July 1999. During his tenure, he focused on positioning the campus to be more responsive to educational, cultural, economic and intellectual issues and the needs of southeast Michigan. Under his leadership, the university experienced record enrollment growth and completed its first capital campaign.

With a focus on building relationships with business, political leaders, local schools and social communities, he described Dearborn as an “interactive university.” He served on the boards of New Detroit and the Detroit Urban League. During his tenure, the Management, Engineering and the Center for Corporate and Professional Development buildings were completed. Construction on the Environmental Interpretive Center, the Wellness Center, and the new College of Arts, Sciences and Letters buildings were started. He also initiated a Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service at the university, now an annual campus tradition where students, faculty, staff and alumni work together to make an impact on our community in positive ways.

UM-Dearborn’s University Center (UC) is a central gathering place for the Dearborn campus community where students, faculty and staff can socialize. Built in 1980 and renovated in 2002, the 75,729 square foot building is primarily used for student services and events. It is also the home of the central Information Desk for campus.

UM-Dearborn currently has two named buildings: The Heinz Prechter Engineering Complex and the Mardigian Library. Both honor the generosity of donors to the university. However, the campus lacks honorific named buildings, nor do its buildings reflect the great diversity of our campus and our region. Honoring former Chancellor Renick fulfills these aims.

In recognition of his dedication to UM-Dearborn and to honor former Chancellor Renick's example of holding a strong commitment to student success while positioning the university to be more responsive to the cultural, social, economic and intellectual issues of the region, I

respectfully request the proposed name change of the University Center to the James C. Renick University Center, effective immediately.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Domenico Grasso". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Domenico Grasso
Chancellor
University of Michigan-Dearborn

July 2022