

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Death
Action Requested: Adoption of Memorial Statement

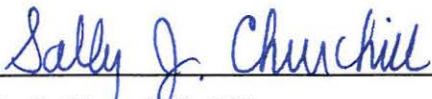
The Regents of the University of Michigan acknowledge with profound sadness the death of **Ruth Kay Walker Castaldo, M.M.**, clinical associate professor of music (opera) in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance. Professor Castaldo died on August 1, 2016.

Professor Castaldo received her B.M. degree from Westminster Choir College in 1971, her M.M. degree from the University of Michigan in 1974, and an artist's diploma: certificate in opera direction from the University of the Arts in 1976. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as a clinical associate professor in 2012.

A visionary, imaginative, and influential opera director, Professor Castaldo established a successful career with an extensive record of notable national and international performances. She directed performances with the Indianapolis Opera, the Miami Opera, the Opera Carolina, the Opera Cleveland, the Opera Company of Philadelphia, the Pittsburgh Opera, and the Seattle Opera. Professor Castaldo was actively involved in a number of programs focused on the development of young, emerging artists. She generously shared her time and expertise with students at the Academy of Vocal Arts, the Curtis Institute of Music, Indiana University, and Yale University. Professor Castaldo directed a number of captivating performances at the University of Michigan, including Giacomo Puccini's *La bohème*, Kirke Mechem's *Tartuffe*, Richard Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos*, and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*. She also directed a compelling operatic adaptation of death-penalty abolition advocate Helen Prejean's book *Dead Man Walking* (1993). As a choreographer, Professor Castaldo has staged over fifty productions and choreographed the Emmy Award-winning televised productions of *Un Ballo in Maschera*, *Pique Dame*, and the *Damnation of Faust*. She will be fondly remembered for her depth of knowledge, discerning standards of operative production, superlative communication style, and generosity of spirit.

As we mourn the loss of our beloved colleague, we extend our heartfelt condolences to her loving family and friends.

Requested by:



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

September 2016