

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

R. Van Harrison, Ph.D., professor of learning health sciences in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on August 31, 2020.

Professor Harrison received his B.S. (1970) degree from Brigham Young University and his M.S. (1974) and Ph.D. (1976) degrees from the University of Michigan.

Professor Harrison continued at the University of Michigan as an assistant research scientist at the Institute for Social Research (ISR) in 1976 and became an assistant research scientist in the Department of Postgraduate Medicine and Health Professions Education (PGM/HPE) in the Medical School in 1979. He became a faculty associate at ISR in 1984. He was promoted to assistant professor in PGM/HPE in 1987, associate professor in 1996, and professor in 2003.

Professor Harrison's educational, research, and service activities primarily focused on improving care provided to patients through the continuing education of physicians, assessing and improving the care that physicians provide, and developing local and national infrastructures to support these activities. For 20 years, he led the biennial survey of continuing medical units at medical schools in the United States and Canada, continued by the Association of American Colleges as the "Harrison Survey." He helped expand training in improving the quality of care in curricula and was a cofounder of the University of Michigan Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Faculty Alliance. Professor Harrison's contributions were recognized by the Society for Academic Continuing Medical Education with the Award for Outstanding Contributions to Research in Continuing Medical Education (2003) and the Distinguished Service in Continuing Medical Education Award (2008). He was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education and to the Board of Directors of the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. The University of Michigan Medical School recognized his accomplishments with a Lifetime Achievement Award in Medical Education in 2019.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar and teacher by naming **R. Van Harrison, professor emeritus of learning health sciences**.

Requested by:



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

September 2020