REGENTS COMMUNICATION

REQUEST FOR ACTION

SUBJECT: Naming of a residence hall

ACTION: Approval to name a future residence hall the Dr. E. Royster Harper Hall

Dr. E. Royster Harper, vice president emerita for student life, served the University of Michigan for more than four decades, including 18 year as vice president for student life, before her retirement in December 2019. She is described by her peers as “a transformative institutional leader during a period of great change in higher education and in the student population.”

She continually strived to improve the student experience through her advocacy and decision making making sure that students received the right balance between challenge and support. She led two phases of Residential Life Initiatives resulting in the construction of North Quad Residential and Academic Complex and the creation of the new William Monroe Trotter Multicultural Center on Central Campus.

Dr. Harper was passionate about helping all those around her reach their individual potential. She championed the whole student, and the ever changing needs of students including: mental health services; culturally inclusive dining options; gender-inclusive bathrooms and residential spaces; renovations of the Michigan Union, the Michigan League and Recreational Sports facilities; and the Blavin Scholars program for students growing up in foster care. She led efforts to prevent sexual misconduct and made the University of Michigan a better place for everyone through her commitment, compassion and her example. She set the standard for student life leaders going forward.

In honor of her exemplary leadership to the University of Michigan, we are delighted to recommend that a future residence hall be named the Dr. E. Royster Harper Hall in her honor.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Sue Coleman
President

Sally Churchill
Vice President and Secretary

Martino Harmon
Vice President for Student Life

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