

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Death
Action Requested: Posthumous Adoption of Emeritus Title

Ahmad A. Rahman, Ph.D., associate professor of history in the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, UM-Dearborn, passed away on September 21, 2015.

Professor Rahman received his B.G.S. degree from Wayne State University in 1977, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan in 1999 and 2006, respectively. He joined the University of Michigan-Dearborn faculty as an instructor in 2004, and was promoted to assistant professor in 2006, and associate professor in 2009.

A distinguished scholar, inspiring teacher, and devoted mentor, Professor Rahman was a leading authority on African and African American history, the Black Power and civil rights movements, Pan-Africanism, and slavery in Africa and the United States. His research and teaching endeavors were shaped by his activism and lifelong commitment to social justice. During the late 1960s and early 1970s, Professor Rahman was a member of the Chicago and Detroit branches of the Black Panther Party where he was actively involved in community organizing, the Free Breakfast for Children Program, reducing gang violence, expanding police oversight, and improving educational, housing, and business opportunities. He fell victim to the FBI's Counter Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) in 1971, was sentenced to life in prison for a murder he did not commit, and served nearly 22 years in prison before having his sentence commuted in 1992. Professor Rahman was the first inmate in the Michigan penal system to earn a university degree while incarcerated in 1977. His pioneering book *The Regime Change of Kwame Nkrumah: Epic Heroism in Africa and the Diaspora* (2007) critically examined Ghana's quest for independence after World War II. Professor Rahman generously shared his expertise and time with the Detroit community, worked closely with the Detroit Public Schools to enhance the integration of African American history into the curriculum, and developed an innovative mentoring program for connecting volunteers with at-risk Detroit youth. He was named College Professor of the Year by the Michigan Council for the Social Studies in 2013.

The Regents now salute this dedicated, accomplished teacher for his service by posthumously naming **Ahmad A. Rahman, Associate Professor Emeritus of History**.

Requested by:



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

November 2015