

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

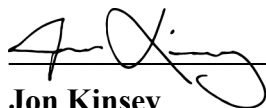
Robin Wilson, professor of dance in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2025.

Professor Wilson received a Bachelor of Arts in dance (1977) from Washington University and a Master of Fine Arts in choreography (1995) from Temple University. She is an original member of the groundbreaking Urban Bush Women dance company (founded 1984), which “seeks to bring the untold and under-told histories and stories of disenfranchised people to light through dance...from a woman-centered perspective and as members of the African Diaspora community in order to create a more equitable balance of power in the dance world and beyond.” Her foundational work with this influential company established her as a significant force in professional dance. In September 1995, Professor Wilson was recruited by the School of Music, Theatre & Dance to join the Department of Dance as an assistant professor on the tenure track, and was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 2003, and professor in 2022.

A choreographer, dancer, presenter, and self-described “community-based artist/activist,” Professor Wilson’s work has focused on the influences of the African diaspora in historical and contemporary dance, and the global impact of African heritage artists. Much of her artistry incorporates improvisatory movement, mixed genres (dance, music, storytelling), and explores social justice, culture, and spirituality. She has received numerous awards, including the 2025 Charles Moody and Lester Monts Lifetime Achievement Award for exceptional commitment to student success; the 2024 John Matlock Cornerstone Award, recognizing her contributions to the academic and social progress of African American students at U-M; and the 2022 North Campus Deans’ MLK Spirit Award for her dedication to social justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion. She has created numerous significant performances and choreographies, many through Ann Arbor Dance Works and collaborations with SMTD colleagues and community partners. Her work has been showcased at national and international venues including the American Dance Guild Performance Festival (NYC), National Theatre of Ghana, and Jacob’s Pillow. Regionally, she has performed at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, the Carr Center, and the Detroit Dance City Festival. She regularly presented at American College Dance Association conferences and at prestigious institutions such as UCLA, Duke, and Brown.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Robin Wilson, professor emerita of dance**.

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

November 2025