The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

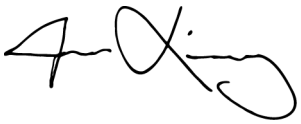
Larissa Larsen, Ph.D., professor of urban and regional planning in the A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2026.

Professor Larsen earned her BASc. from the University of Guelph (Canada) in 1989, an ML.Arch from the University of Guelph (Canada) in 1992, and a Ph.D. in urban and regional planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1997. She started her academic career as an assistant professor at Arizona State University in 2000. She joined the School of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan as an assistant professor of landscape architecture in 2002. In 2005, she joined A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning as an assistant professor of urban and regional planning and was promoted to associate professor and professor in 2010 and 2023, respectively. She served as the urban and regional planning program chair from 2021 to 2023. She served as the director of doctoral studies in urban and regional planning from 2019 to 2021. From 2010 through 2023, she held an additional courtesy appointment as an associate professor of landscape architecture at the School of Natural Resources and Environment.

Professor Larsen's expertise spans planning fundamentals, urban sustainability, and environmental planning. Her research examines the intersection of physical and human systems, focused on human health and sustainable approaches to enhancing cities' livability. Her significant contribution is in the mitigation of the urban heat island effect, a health threat that is growing alarmingly with climate change. Professor Larsen's work has been widely disseminated in respected publications, including the *Journal of the American Planning Association*, *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, *Landscape and Urban Planning*, *Landscape Ecology*, and *Environmental and Health Perspectives*. In 2013, she was named a Distinguished Faculty Fellow of Sustainability at the Graham Environmental Sustainability Institute at the University of Michigan. Students recognized her commitment and passion for teaching by awarding her the best teacher award in urban planning nine times.

The Regents now salute this distinguished professor by naming **Larissa Larsen, professor emerita of urban and regional planning.**

Respectfully submitted:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

November 2026