

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

ACTION REQUEST

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Allan F. Gibbard, Ph.D.**, Richard B. Brandt Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy and professor of philosophy in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2015.

Professor Gibbard received his B.A. degree from Swarthmore College in 1963 and his Ph.D. degree from Harvard University in 1971. He served on the faculties of the University of Chicago (1969-74) and the University of Pittsburgh (1974-77). Professor Gibbard joined the University of Michigan faculty as a professor in 1977. He was named the Richard B. Brandt Professor of Philosophy in 1992 and the Richard B. Brandt Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy in 1994.

Professor Gibbard is one of the most influential moral philosophers in the world. His main works in moral theory, *Wise Choices, Apt Feelings: A Theory of Normative Judgement* (1990), *Thinking How to Live* (2003), and *Reconciling Our Aims: In Search of Bases for Ethics* (2008) offer leading naturalistic accounts of normative judgments, and defend utilitarian ethics. Professor Gibbard also made important contributions in the philosophy of language, culminating in *Meaning and Normativity* (2012). In voting theory, he proved the famous Gibbard-Satterthwaite theorem, which demonstrates the susceptibility of most voting rules to strategic voting. Professor Gibbard's work on counterfactuals and expected utility founded the dominant decision-theoretic approach in epistemology. His work on conditionals and contingent identity has made fundamental contributions to metaphysics and philosophy of language. Professor Gibbard directed dozens of dissertations of philosophers who have since become prominent in the profession. He was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a member of the American Philosophical Society, a membre titulaire of the Institut International de Philosophie, a fellow of the Econometric Society, and president of the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association. He is one of only two philosophers to be elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar and teacher by naming **Allan F. Gibbard, Richard B. Brandt Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and professor emeritus of philosophy.**

**Requested by:**



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

**December 2015**