Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Raymond G. De Vries, Ph.D., professor of learning health sciences and professor of obstetrics and gynecology in the Medical School and professor of sociology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2020.

Professor De Vries received his B.A. (1973) degree from Westmont College (Santa Barbara, California) and his M.A. (1978) and Ph.D. (1981) degrees from the University of California, Davis. He joined the Gordon College faculty (Wenham, Massachusetts) as an assistant professor in 1981 and moved to the faculty of Westmont College in 1983, where he was promoted to associate professor and named chair of the Department of Sociology in 1986. In 1988, he moved to St. Olaf College (Northfield, Minnesota) where he was promoted to full professor in 1993 and chaired the Department of Sociology and Anthropology from 1993-96. Professor De Vries joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor in 2006, and was promoted to professor in 2008. He assumed the co-director position of the Center for Bioethics and Social Sciences in Medicine in 2013 and was named associate director in 2016. Professor De Vries was a visiting professor at the CAPHRI School for Public Health and Primary Care at Maastricht University (The Netherlands) from 2010-20 and was granted emeritus status in 2020.

Professor De Vries’ research focused on the comparative study of health care and maternity care systems and the sociology of bioethics, with a particular concentration on research ethics and the integrity of research. He published more than 200 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on topics, including the organization of maternity care systems, ethical and policy issues in genomic research, research ethics review, the use of deliberative methods for developing ethics policies, the organization and performance of IRBs, the problem of therapeutic misconception, and policy issues associated with the globalization of research and research ethics. Professor De Vries was internationally known for research on the social organization of bioethics and his widely cited work examining cultural and organizational variation in maternity care systems has opened up new areas of inquiry in medical sociology.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming Raymond G. De Vries, professor emeritus of learning health sciences.

Requested by:

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