

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

Adopted by the  
Regents  
March 19, 2015

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject:** Report of Faculty Death

**Action Requested:** Adoption of Memorial Statement

The Regents of the University of Michigan acknowledge with profound sadness the death of **Tobin Siebers, Ph.D.**, Vernon Louis Parrington Collegiate Professor of Literary and Cultural Criticism, professor of English language and literature, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and professor of art and design, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design. Professor Siebers died on January 29, 2015.

Professor Siebers received his B.A. degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1975, his M.A. degree from the State University of New York at Binghamton in 1976, and his Ph.D. degree from The Johns Hopkins University in 1980. He served on the faculty of the University of Michigan (1980-83) and Columbia University (1983-86). Professor Siebers returned to the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor in 1986, was promoted to professor in 1989, and named the Vernon Louis Parrington Collegiate Professor of Literary and Cultural Criticism in 2004.

A distinguished scholar and exceptional teacher, Professor Siebers authored numerous books and essays that have become standards for the study of literary theory, cultural criticism, and ethics. He reached for and found a wider audience with his beautifully crafted creative nonfiction book, *Among Men* (1999), which was nominated for several major national awards. Professor Siebers's last two books focus on the subject of disability: *Disability Theory* (2008) and *Disability Aesthetics* (2010). These highly influential, award-winning books made him an international leader in disability studies. He was a valued graduate advisor, respected leader in his departments, and served many years as chair of the Department of Comparative Literature. Despite his administrative duties, he made time to found and direct the Global Ethnic Literatures Seminar and chair the University's Initiative on Disability Studies. He received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship (1988), the University's James T. Neubacher Award (2009), and the Society for Disability Studies' Senior Scholar Award (2011).

As we mourn the loss of our beloved colleague, we extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife Jill, his daughter Claire, his son Pierce, and his many loving relatives and friends.

**Requested by:**



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Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

March 2015

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

## *Regents Communication*

### ACTION REQUEST

**Subject: Report of Faculty Death**

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The Regents of the University of Michigan acknowledge with profound sadness the death of **Homer A. Neal, Ph.D.**, interim president emeritus, vice president emeritus for research, Samuel A. Goudsmit Distinguished University Professor of Physics, and professor of physics in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. Professor Neal died on May 23, 2018.

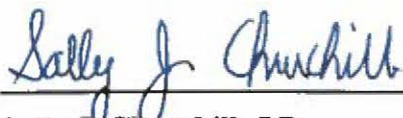
Professor Neal received his B.A. (1961) degree from Indiana University and his M.S. (1963) and Ph.D. (1966) degrees from the University of Michigan. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as a professor and chair of the Department of Physics in 1987. He served as the vice president for research (1993-97), interim president (1996-97), and director of the UM ATLAS Collaboratory Project (1997-2016).

Professor Neal had a long, distinguished career as a world-leading expert in the studies of particle spins and polarizations. He played important roles in the discoveries of the two fundamental particles in the last quarter century: the top quark in 1995 and the Higgs boson in 2012. Joining the DZero experiment when he returned to Michigan as the chair of the physics department, he participated in the discovery of the top quark discovery and observed the  $\Xi_b$  and  $\Omega_b$  baryons. Professor Neal led Michigan faculty to join the ATLAS Experiment at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, making critical contributions to the discovery of the Higgs boson. While serving on the National Science Board, he played a pivotal role in the establishment of the popular and effective Research Experiences for Undergraduates program in the U.S.

Through the work of his long and illustrious career, Professor Neal did more than research: he shaped the very field of physics. His innovations opened the door for other scientists to make crucial discoveries; his teaching and leadership inspired countless students and faculty; and his tremendous leadership shaped the University of Michigan and many other institutions. It would be difficult to overstate the lasting positive influence of Professor Neal on the world.

As we mourn the loss of our beloved colleague, we also extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Jean, and his many loving relatives and friends. The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by posthumously naming **Homer A. Neal, interim president emeritus, vice president emeritus for research, Samuel A. Goudsmit Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Physics, and professor emeritus of physics.**

**Requested by:**



**Sally J. Churchill, J.D.**

**Vice President and Secretary of the University**

**June 2018**



## THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

### *Regents Communication*

### ACTION REQUEST

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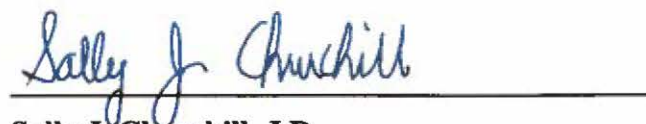
The Regents of the University of Michigan acknowledge with profound sadness the death of **Vanessa Prygoski, M.I.L.S.**, senior associate librarian in the University of Michigan-Flint Frances Willson Thompson Library. Ms. Prygoski died on February 13, 2018.

Ms. Prygoski received her B.S. degree from Central Michigan University in 1987 and her M.I.L.S. degree from the University of Michigan in 1990. She served as a circulation supervisor at Thomas M. Cooley Law School (1990-94), a reference librarian at Baker College of Owosso (1994-96), and a reference librarian at Baker College of Jackson (1996-2000). She joined the University of Michigan-Flint faculty as an assistant librarian in 2000, and was promoted to associate librarian in 2004, and senior associate librarian in 2011.

Ms. Prygoski was a dedicated employee and strived to help all members of the University of Michigan-Flint community. She regularly assisted students with their research and provided information literacy classes for her liaison departments, including Africana studies, social work, music, and women's and gender studies. She also served as a member of the Faculty Council and represented UM-Flint as a member of the Faculty Senate. She was proud to be a part of the efforts that led to the addition of gender identity and gender expression to the university-wide, non-discrimination policy. Ms. Prygoski was not only an exceptional librarian but was also fiercely committed to the causes of equality and rights for marginalized people. Her recent presentation at the Michigan Academic Library Association titled "Queering the Academic Library: Supporting LGBTQ+ Patrons and Allies" (2017) and her work with the UM-Flint's Ellen Bommarito LGBTQ Center, the Women's and Gender Studies Program, and the Women's Commission reflect this commitment. She had a great love of sports, particularly women's sports. Ms. Prygoski played softball in the Metro Detroit LGBT Softball League, and was a blogger for the Flint City Riveters, a women's football team. Ms. Prygoski also wrote a book on the Detroit Shock titled *Worst to First: Or a 'Shock'ing Tale of Women's Basketball in Motown* (2006). She also had a deep love of music, especially for the Grateful Dead and the Indigo Girls. Her love of music led to a number of scholarly accomplishments, including two articles published in the *Journal of Popular Music and Society*.

As we mourn the loss of our beloved colleague, we also extend our heartfelt condolences to her mother, Shirley, her sister, Allyson Hanna, her brother, Scott Prygoski, and her many loving relatives and friends.

**Requested by:**



**Sally J. Churchill, J.D.**

**Vice President and Secretary of the University**

**June 2018**