

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:**



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

March 2015