

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Approved by the Regents

January 18, 2007

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 **Gary R. Saxonhouse**, professor of economics in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, who died on November 30, 2006, at age 63, while undergoing treatment for leukemia.

Professor Saxonhouse received his B.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Yale University in 1964 and 1971, respectively, and joined the University of Michigan faculty in 1970. A remarkably broad scholar, he published lasting work on the Japanese economy, international trade, economic history, law and economics, and economic development. His early work focused on technical diffusion in the Japanese cotton spinning industry. By focusing on the causes and consequences of Japan's adoption and innovation of western technology, he was able to understand the causes for Japan's rapid rise, develop important lessons for other developing countries, and deepen our understanding of the rise of unique labor market practices such as permanent employment.

He received many honors for his work, including fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, the Institute for Advanced Study, and a coveted residency at the Bellagio Center of the Rockefeller Foundation. He was a recipient of the Faculty Fellowship Enhancement Award from the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies and the Excellence in Undergraduate Education Award from the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

In addition to his scholarship, Professor Saxonhouse played an active role in public affairs. He served as a senior staff economist at the President's Council of Economic Advisors and as a consultant to a number of U.S. government agencies. He testified on numerous occasions before Congressional committees and served on several Congressional advisory panels. In Japan, he was a member of the American advisory board of the Japan Foundation and the academic advisory committee of the Policy Research Institute in the Ministry of Finance. He also schooled many elite members of Japan's civil service, who would spend a year at the University of Michigan, away from their high-profile careers, to learn from him.

Professor Saxonhouse will be greatly missed by his colleagues and friends and will be remembered as an inspiration and visionary by all those whose lives he touched. As we mourn the loss of our beloved colleague, we also extend our condolences to his wife, University of Michigan Professor Arlene Saxonhouse, his children, Lilly, Noam, and Elena, two grandchildren, and his brother, Jack.

Requested by:


Sally J. Churchill

Vice President and Secretary of the University

January 2007