THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: **Report of Faculty Retirement**

Action Requested: **Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

Dennis G. Severance, Ph.D., Accenture Professor of Computer and Information Systems and professor of computer and information systems in the Stephen M. Ross School of Business, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2012.
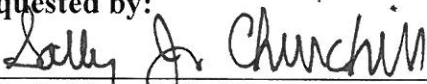
Professor Severance received his B.S. degree from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn in 1965, and his M.A., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan in 1966, 1970, and 1972, respectively. From 1972-78, he was a faculty member first at Cornell University and then at the University of Minnesota. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor in 1978, was promoted to professor in 1981, and was appointed Arthur Andersen (now Accenture) Professor of Computer and Information Systems in 1985.

Early in his career, Professor Severance gained industrial experience as a technician at Bell Telephone Laboratories, an information systems project officer with the Army Chief of Staff at the Pentagon, and as a senior engineer with the General Motors Corporation. He has served on the technology advisory councils of Chrysler, Whirlpool, and GM-SPO, served on the board of directors of Tenneco Automotive, and has been an information systems consultant to a number of large corporations.

Professor Severance's work in the area of how information systems impact the work of high-level executives made important contributions to the field of information technology and particularly to technology systems. He and a small number of faculty colleagues were at the forefront of research on information systems, considering issues such as the potential of information technology in global organizations, senior management attitudes toward strategic change, database design, and information storage. This work laid the foundation for the explosive growth of corporate information technology. As a teacher in the Stephen M. Ross School of Business degree programs and executive education programs, Professor Severance has a well-deserved reputation as a stimulating instructor who earned consistently high ratings from his students.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Dennis G. Severance professor emeritus of computer and information systems.**

Requested by:

Sally J. Churchill

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

May 2012