

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Robert L. Simpson, Ph.D., professor of biology and environmental science, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, professor of science education, School of Education, and former provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, University of Michigan-Dearborn, retired from active faculty status on August 31, 2010.

Professor Simpson received his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Fresno State College in 1965 and 1967, respectively, and his Ph.D. degree from Cornell University in 1971. He was a faculty member at Rider College from 1970-85, and was dean of the School of Science and Mathematics at William Paterson College from 1985-91. Professor Simpson joined the University of Michigan-Dearborn faculty in 1991 as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs and professor of biology. In 2006, he completed his appointment as provost and returned to the faculty, receiving an additional appointment as professor of science education in the School of Education.

Professor Simpson's research focused on freshwater wetlands, with special emphasis on the ecology of tidal freshwater wetlands of the upper Delaware River estuary. His work addressed a range of topics, including life history strategies and production processes of aquatic macrophytes, decomposition processes, nutrient and heavy metal cycling, and marsh paleoecology, and produced a significant record of research and publications. As provost from 1991-2006, Professor Simpson led campus efforts to expand applications of instructional technology, advances which enabled the campus to launch several distributed learning initiatives. He also focused on improving the campus infrastructure. Among other initiatives, he headed capital outlay projects in the College of Engineering and Computer Science and the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters. Professor Simpson played a major role in developing a sense of campus life at the Dearborn campus, including instituting regular forums to highlight faculty research and scholarship, supporting presentations of undergraduate research projects, and sustaining efforts to enhance ethnic, gender and cultural awareness.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Robert L. Simpson provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs emeritus, professor emeritus of biology and environmental science and professor emeritus of science education.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

November 2010