

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

John Laitner, Ph.D., professor of economics in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and research professor in the Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2023.

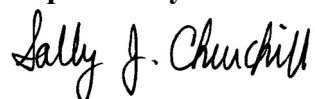
Professor Laitner earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Yale University in 1971 and a Master of Arts degree in 1973 and a doctorate in economics in 1976 from Harvard University. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor of economics in 1975 and rose through the ranks to professor of economics in 1987. In the Department of Economics, he served as associate chair from 1984-1986 and as director of both the undergraduate and the Master of Applied Economics (MAE) programs at various points in his career. In the Survey Research Center (SRC) he was a faculty associate from 1992-2001 and was appointed research professor in 2002. From 2002-2023, he was director and PI of the Michigan Retirement and Disability Research Center, funded by SSA. He is a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Professor Laitner's research has centered on macroeconomic issues relating to long-run growth. Beginning with his doctoral dissertation, he has studied models of intergenerational transfers within family lines, including bequests, gifts, and provision of human capital. His work considers effects on the distribution of wealth and national capital accumulation, and it includes empirical analysis of specialized data that he collected with T. Juster and international comparisons in a project funded through the Bank of Sweden. He has also studied saving for retirement, using the so-called life-cycle model, where he has contributed to the literatures on analysis of the model's dynamic behavior, expectations formation, and household choices of when to retire. He has worked as well on many aspects of technological progress, including its ability to cause structural change, its implications for financial markets, and the role of the patent system.

During his years at Michigan, Professor Laitner taught graduate macroeconomics and undergraduate courses in both macro and microeconomics. Professor Laitner was also an active mentor for the department's doctoral program, supervising many Ph.D. theses.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **John Laitner, professor emeritus of economics and research professor emeritus**.

Requested by:



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

December 2023