

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Adopted by the Regents
April 17, 2008

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

William A. Gosling, M.L.S., curator, Children's Literature Collection, University Library, and former University librarian, retired from active service on March 31, 2008.

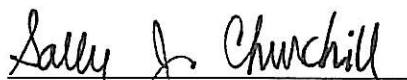
Mr. Gosling received his B.A. degree from Bates College in 1965, and his M.L.S. degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1966. He served in the U.S. Army from 1967-68, and was employed by the Library of Congress from 1969-76 and the Duke University Library from 1976-86. Mr. Gosling joined the University of Michigan faculty as assistant director for technical services and library systems and librarian in 1986. He was appointed interim director of the University Library in 1997 and was named director in 1998. In 2003, his title was changed to University librarian. He stepped down from that position in 2005, at which time he assumed the position as curator of the Children's Literature Collection.

Mr. Gosling led the library forward during a period of rapid change and dynamic technological innovation. As assistant director for technical services and library systems, he oversaw implementation of the library's first online catalogue, which included the conversion of 1.2 million bibliographic records into electronic format and installation of the first computers for public use in the libraries. As director and as university librarian, he led the library's migration to a new, integrated catalog and acquisitions system which currently holds more than 20 million records. Under his leadership, the University Library became nationally known for its digital library program and became one of the five original Google Library partners, the only one to commit to digitizing its entire collection. These efforts have secured the University Library's position as one of the leading institutions of its kind in the world.

Within the library, Mr. Gosling oversaw a major review and restructuring of library staff positions, and led development efforts that resulted in \$10 million in gifts in six years. Since stepping down as university librarian in 2005, his work as curator of the Children's Literature Collection has more than doubled the size of the collection in the Special Collections Library.

The Regents now salute this distinguished librarian for his dedicated service by naming **William A. Gosling University librarian emeritus and curator emeritus.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill

Vice President and Secretary of the University

April 2008