

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

## *Regents Communication*

### ACTION REQUEST

Approved by the Regents  
May 19, 2006

**Subject:** Report of Faculty Retirement

**Action Requested:** Adoption of Retirement Memoir

**John M. Swales, M.S.**, professor of linguistics in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2006.

Professor Swales received his B.S. (1960) and M.S. (1965) degrees from Cambridge University and his post-graduate diploma in linguistics and English as a second language from the University of Leeds in 1966. From 1966-85 he served on the faculties of the University of Libya (1966-70), the University of Leeds' Overseas Education Studies Group (1970-73), the University of Khartoum (1973-78), and the University of Aston in Birmingham (1978-85). He joined the University of Michigan faculty in 1985 as visiting professor of linguistics and acting director of the English Language Institute (ELI). He was promoted to professor and director of ELI in 1987, and served as director until 2001.

Professor Swales is known internationally as a preeminent leader in applied linguistics, recognized for his pioneering work on genre analysis, discourse analysis, and the development of teaching materials in English for specific purposes. He is author, co-author, or co-editor of 15 books, including *Analysis* (1990), *Other Floors, Other Voices* (1998), and *Research Genres* (2004), all of which are widely cited throughout the literature in the field. During his long tenure as director of the English Language Institute, the institute changed its focus from an intensive English program to providing high-quality English for academic purposes to international students and visiting scholars. He was known for giving generously of his time and for his willingness to guide the research and teaching efforts of others. Within the Department of Linguistics, Professor Swales was an outstanding teacher and dedicated mentor of undergraduate and graduate students. He was the driving force behind the department's highly successful undergraduate concentration track in applied linguistics, having conceived of the program, contributed to its curriculum, and served as advisor. He also chaired or co-chaired nearly a score of dissertation committees and demonstrated a deep commitment to providing all students with a wide range of training and funding opportunities.

The Regents salute this faculty member for his dedicated service by naming **John M. Swales professor emeritus of linguistics.**

**Requested by:**



**Sally J. Churchill**

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2006