

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Item for Information

Received by the Regents  
September 22, 2006

**Subject:** Michigan Memorial Phoenix Energy Institute Established

I am very pleased to inform you that the University has established the Michigan Memorial Phoenix Energy Institute (MMPEI) to serve as a major focal point and promoter of energy-related research across the campus. Earlier this summer, I briefed the Regents on the proposal developed by the Michigan Energy Research Council, a faculty committee, to create an institute to facilitate Michigan's new Initiative on Energy Science, Technology and Policy.

OVPR has completed the initial steps to establish the MMPEI. Furthermore, Professor Gary Was of the Department of Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences, Department of Materials Science and Engineering, and former Research Associate Dean for the College of Engineering, has accepted the offer of the Office of the Vice President for Research to serve as the first Director of the Institute. Gary's appointment is an important step forward in advancing the University's energy initiative.

Professor Was earned his BS degree in nuclear engineering here at the UM in 1975, then went to graduate school at MIT, where he received both MS and PhD degrees. He has been on the Michigan faculty since 1980. He served as Department Chair of Nuclear Engineering from 1994 to 1999, and was named COE associate dean for research in 2000.

I am very pleased that the University continues to advance this significant initiative and I thank the Regents for their support and encouragement.

Respectfully submitted:



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Stephen R. Forrest  
Vice President for Research

September 2006