

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

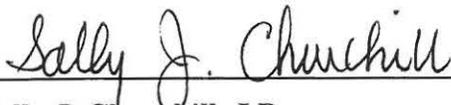
Louis E. Loeb, Ph.D., Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and professor of philosophy in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2015.

Professor Loeb received his B.A. degree from Wesleyan University in 1967, his B. Phil. degree from Oxford University in 1969, and his Ph.D. degree from Princeton University in 1975. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an instructor in 1974, and was promoted to assistant professor in 1975, associate professor in 1980, and professor in 1989. He was named the Arthur F. Thurnau Professor in 2010.

A leading scholar of modern philosophy, Professor Loeb authored the seminal book *From Descartes to Hume: Continental Metaphysics and the Development of Modern Philosophy* (1981) that challenged the distinction between the British empiricists and the continental rationalists, which had structured scholarship in early modern philosophy for generations. He has been particularly influential in reconstructing early modern epistemology. In *Stability and Justification in Hume's Treatise* (2002) and *Reflection and the Stability of Belief: Essays on Descartes, Hume, and Reid* (2010), Professor Loeb highlighted naturalistic themes in epistemology from Descartes to Hume. With a career spanning four decades, Professor Loeb promoted a culture of education within the Department of Philosophy, both as a legendary lecturer and as the department chair. He possessed a remarkable ability to present abstruse and complex philosophical questions in concrete ways with great enthusiasm, humor, and verve. Colleagues credit Professor Loeb's masterful and brilliant instruction in highly subscribed gateway courses for the large number of philosophy concentrators and minors. As department chair, Professor Loeb oversaw a major reorganization of the undergraduate curriculum and an equally sizable overhaul of the graduate program. He won the American Philosophical Association's Patrick Romanell Prize for 2006-7.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar and teacher by naming **Louis E. Loeb, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus and professor emeritus of philosophy.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

December 2015