

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Robert Savit, Ph.D., professor of physics in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2017.

Professor Savit received his B.A. (1969) degree from the University of Chicago and his M.S. (1970) and Ph.D. (1973) degrees from Stanford University. He was a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) postdoctoral fellow from 1974-75 and a Sloan Foundation research fellow from 1981-85. He joined the University of Michigan, with special funding from the National Science Foundation, as an assistant research scientist in 1978. He was appointed associate professor in 1983, and professor in 1990. He held additional faculty associate positions in the Biophysics Research Division, the Center for Computational Medicine and Biology, and the Institute for Social Research.

Professor Savit was trained as a high energy theorist at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, but his work has ranged widely over a number of areas. He has done seminal work not only in high energy physics but also in statistical mechanics, nonlinear dynamics and complex systems, and has applied these ideas to important problems in the biological and social sciences, including work on the theory of evolution and game theory. He has also served as a consultant to several financial institutions, contract research organizations, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, and the government of Argentina. Professor Savit has been active in service to the department and University. He was the founding director of the Program for the Study of Complex Systems and served as the associate chair for the undergraduate program in the Department of Physics. Professor Savit organized a number of successful conferences and summer schools. He received the Excellence in Education Award from the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts in 1991.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Robert Savit, professor emeritus of physics.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

December 2017