

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

William Fulton, the Oscar Zariski Distinguished University Professor of Mathematics in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retires from active faculty status on June 1, 2020.

After attending Brown University for his B.A. in Mathematics, Professor Fulton received his Ph.D. from Princeton University in 1966. Professor Fulton joined the Department of Mathematics in 1998 as the first Miner and Mary Ann Keeler Professor following a distinguished career at Brown University (1970-1987) and the University of Chicago (1987-1998, the last three years as Charles L. Hutchinson Distinguished Service Professor). He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1997, and to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1998. In 2000 he was named a Foreign Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. In 2009, Professor Fulton was named the Oscar Zariski Distinguished University Professor. He has held visiting appointments at many of the most important institutions in the US and Europe.

Although his interests are very broad, most of Professor Fulton's research has been in the field of algebraic geometry and neighboring areas, and he is considered one of the top leaders in the field at the international level. Professor Fulton has made major contributions to many of the currently most important areas of algebraic geometry, including intersection theory, toric varieties, Schubert calculus, and quantum cohomology. In all of these areas, he has had a strong influence not only through his research but also through exposition and teaching. He has repeatedly shown an uncanny ability to recognize areas that are ripe for development and to create the framework making this development possible. In fact, through his research, writing and teaching, Professor Fulton has set the shape of large parts of the landscape of contemporary algebraic geometry. He has authored or co-authored 10 books and has 59 other publications. His most famous book, *Intersection Theory*, was awarded the 1996 Leroy P. Steele prize for mathematical exposition by the American Mathematical Society. In 2010, he received the Steele Prize for Lifetime Achievement from the American Mathematical Society.

Professor Fulton's presence at Michigan has helped to develop the Mathematics Department into a leading center of algebraic geometry. He has been instrumental in attracting many top young scholars to faculty and postdoctoral positions, as well as a large number of graduate students. In his long and distinguished career, he mentored 24 graduate students, many of whom have become leaders in the field themselves.

The Regents salute this distinguished scholar by naming **William Fulton the Oscar Zariski Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Mathematics**.

Requested by:

Vice President and Secretary of the University