

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENT'S COMMUNICATION

**EXAMPLE**

Action Request: Faculty Appointment to a Distinguished University Professor

Name: L. Ross Chambers

Present Title: Professor of French and Comparative Literature

Recommended Title: The Marvin Felheim Distinguished University Professor of French and Comparative Literature

Term: Period of Active Service

Effective Date: October 1, 1985

Professor Ross Chambers enjoys an international reputation for his work in the fields of French, literary criticism, and comparative literature. He is an authority on Nerval and on many other 19th and 20th Century French writers, as well as on a variety of approaches to literature, including studies on myth, aesthetic, and ideological dimensions of poetic discourse, and the subtleties of narrative structures and tactics. His writings have attracted praise for their clarity, thoroughness, and erudition, whether in English or French. A superb teacher, Professor Chambers' commitment to teaching is extremely strong, and it is nearly as widely recognized in the profession at large as his scholarly prowess.

Professor Chambers was born in Australia. He was educated at the University of Sydney (B.A. with First Class Honours, 1953, and Dip. Ed with Jones Medal and Peter Board Prize, and M.A. with First Class Honours, 1955); and at the University of Grenoble (Doctorate de l'Universite de Grenoble, avec mention tres honorable et les felicitations du jury. Prix de these des Amis de l'Universite de Grenoble, 1967). After a time as lecturer in French at the University of Queensland and the University of Sydney, Professor Chambers was appointed senior lecturer, then associate professor of French. He has also been visiting professor of French at the University of Chicago, interim director of Michigan's Program in Comparative Literature, and visiting fellow at the Humanities Research Center, Australian National University.

Professor Chambers has been honored by being named a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, and Officier del'Order des Palmes Academiques, and a

member of the Editorial Boards of the Australian Journal of French Studies, French Forum, and Studies in Twentieth Century Literature. His published scholarship has had a major impact on nineteenth century French studies and on literary theory, especially that branch of studies called narratology. He has illuminated the ways in which stories produce meaning, as well as shedding light on the large range of individual texts.

As he assumes a Distinguished University Professorship, Professor Chambers wishes to be named the Marvin Felheim Distinguished University Professor of French and Comparative Literature.

Marvin Felheim received the B.A. degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1936, and the Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1948. He joined Michigan's English Department faculty in 1948, and served as director of the Program in American Culture from 1970 to 1978. Under his leadership, the program became more diverse by reaching out to new areas of study in the fields of comparative literature, women, film, the ethnic experience in American life, popular culture, and the arts. His scholarship was also rich and various, and he wrote books and articles on drama, American and modern literature, film language and teaching, art and collecting, and Shakespeare. Professor Felheim received numerous honors and awards. They included: the Class of 1923 Award; the Williams Award; and the Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award. He was also a Fulbright lecturer at the University of Athens (Greece) and the University of Pau (France). He was an honorary fellow at the Shakespeare Institute (Stratford-upon-Avon) and the University of Birmingham (England). He served as an adviser to the National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships in Journalism at The University of Michigan from 1972 until his death in 1979.

Professor Felheim had enormous impact on the intellectual life of the University. He was an outstanding teacher and devoted to students, and was a generous and spirited colleague with broad intellectual interests. He was widely loved and respected.

It is with pride and pleasure that I recommend the appointment of Professor Ross Chambers as the Marvin Felheim Distinguished University Professor of French and Comparative Literature.

Recommended by:

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Harold T. Shapiro, President

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Billy E. Frye, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost