

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Naming of the Media Union

Action

Requested: Authorization to Name the Media Union in Honor of James J. and Anne Duderstadt

In September 1988, James J. Duderstadt became the eleventh president of the University of Michigan, following a distinguished career of dedicated service. Dr. Duderstadt joined the University faculty in 1969, eventually rising to the position of professor of nuclear engineering. He served as dean of the College of Engineering from 1981-1986, provost and vice president for academic affairs from 1986-1988, and president from 1988-1996. Upon stepping down as president, he was named University professor of science and engineering and president emeritus. Since his return to the faculty in 1996, Dr. Duderstadt has continued to be a distinguished national leader, scholar, scientist, and teacher.

On the occasion of his stepping down from the presidency in 1996, the Regents celebrated his leadership: "In a period marked by change at every level of our society, Jim Duderstadt has been a visionary leader. Far from resisting change or shrinking from its difficulties, he has been its willing collaborator, welcoming the opportunity to chart new directions and embracing the challenge of new demands. His initiatives for diversity and equality in higher education – the Michigan Mandate and the Agenda for Women – have gone hand in hand with his nurturing of undergraduate education, information technology, and research. Under his leadership, the University increased its endowment five-fold, to more than \$1.6 billion; earned an Aa1 credit rating from Moody's Investors Services, the first public university to do so; and attracted over \$400 million in public and private support for research, making Michigan the nation's leading research university. In addition, during his presidency, the campus underwent a \$1.5 billion program for rebuilding, renovating, and updating the campus. He has, in short, guided the University with great care and distinction in every area of its mission."

The Regents also noted the invaluable and dedicated service of Anne Duderstadt: "Jim Duderstadt's commitment to this great University has been shared and extended by his wife, Anne, who has worked tirelessly to promote an awareness of the University's history and to preserve its historic and artistic treasures. Together they have given us a model of loyalty and dedication to this institution and to the values it represents."

The Media Union is a particular manifestation of Dr. Duderstadt's vision for the University. Dedicated to creative collaboration among faculty, students and staff across a broad range of disciplines and beyond the constraints of space and time, it is a building shaped by his efforts as dean, provost, and president.

In recognition of their distinguished service and continued devotion to the University, we recommend the Regents authorize naming the Media Union the James and Anne Duderstadt Center.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Timothy P. Slottow  
Executive Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer

APPROVED BY THE REGENTS ON  
NOV 20 2003