

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Building Naming

Action

Requested: Authorization to Name the Academic Center in honor of Stephen M. Ross

Background:

The University of Michigan Department of Intercollegiate Athletics holds the academic welfare of its student-athletes among its highest priorities.

In recent years the Athletics Department has recognized the significantly increased demands on student-athletes' time both for class attendance and studying and also for athletic training, practice and competition.

To provide student-athletes with access to academic tools and assistance throughout the day, the Athletics Department has constructed a new facility on the Athletics Campus: the Academic Center. Although originally developed as a facility for student-athletes, as the project progressed its purpose expanded to include access for all Michigan students for academic classes held in the facility. It is anticipated that the Center will be a welcome and much used resource by students throughout the University.

Stephen M. Ross, a longtime University supporter and adviser, and a member of the Director's Cabinet in Athletics, has contributed \$5 million to support the center. His lead gift has provided substantial funding toward construction and has helped to generate additional support for the project.

Mr. Ross graduated from the University of Michigan in 1962 with a bachelor's degree in business administration, having majored in accounting. A respected business leader and philanthropist, Mr. Ross is the founder and chief executive of The Related Companies, L.P., whose developments include the Time Warner Center in New York City. He is a co-chair of The Michigan Difference, the University's campaign to raise \$2.5 billion, and has provided great momentum for the campaign by making a transformative gift of \$100 million—the most generous contribution in the University's history—to what is now the Stephen M. Ross School of Business. Mr. Ross has further demonstrated his dedication to the University through his service on the President's Advisory Group. His other previous contributions to the University include support of an endowed professorship at the Business School, an endowed scholarship at the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and the Real Estate Forum in the Ross School of Business.

Mr. Ross is a valued ambassador for the Athletics Department and for the University. In making his gift to support the Academic Center, he has helped Athletics to achieve its number one campaign priority: a new study and learning space where student-athletes along with other Michigan students can work toward enhanced classroom performance.

In recognition of this significant commitment from Mr. Ross in support of the Academic Center, we recommend the Regents formally designate the new building as the Stephen M. Ross Academic Center.

Respectfully submitted,



William C. Martin
Donald R. Shepherd Director of
Intercollegiate Athletics



Timothy P. Slotto
Executive Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

October 2005

APPROVED BY THE REGENTS ON
OCT 21 2005