THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

SUBJECT: UM Faculty Undergraduate Fellowship

Faculty recognize that rising tuition costs present ever-increasing barriers to a University of Michigan education for students from low-income families. In light of the University's matching fund program for donations toward undergraduate fellowships, in November 2006 with the leadership of Professor Semyon Meerkov, SACUA unanimously endorsed a resolution to create a faculty-supported, need-based fellowship for undergraduate students. SACUA consulted with both University Development and the Office of Financial Aid in this process, and brought the fellowship proposal to the Senate Assembly. At its December 18, 2006 meeting, the Senate Assembly unanimously endorsed the following resolution:

"Whereas the faculty governance recognizes need based fellowships as an important tool for attracting students from low income families to the University of Michigan;
Whereas the University announced a matching fund program for all donations towards undergraduate fellowships;

Therefore, the Senate Assembly resolves to actively support this program by encouraging faculty to contribute to a special account in support of these fellowships. The resulting fellowships will be allocated with the participation of the elected faculty governance and will be referred to as the UM Faculty Undergraduate Fellowships."

To be eligible for this award, a student must fully meet admissions requirements of the University of Michigan and be a full-time undergraduate student with financial need. Award recipients will be selected by the Senate Assembly's Scholarship committee. The selection process will include both a written application and personal interview of students who have been identified by the UM office of Financial Aid as having unmet financial need.

At the February 19, 2007 Senate Assembly meeting, the Assembly agreed to create a UM Faculty Undergraduate Fellowship Selection and Oversight Committee to select recipients and oversee the solicitation of funds to support the fellowship. The Committee will consist of no fewer than three members recommended by SACUA to Senate Assembly for approval.

The University's establishment of the matching fund program for donations toward undergraduate fellowships and the Senate Assembly creation of the Faculty Undergraduate Fellowship send a strong message of ongoing commitment to undergraduate education and accessibility to a University of Michigan education to all admitted students regardless of income.

DATE: March, 2007