Dear Campus Community,

After a break in April, the University of Michigan Board of Regents resumed their monthly meeting, virtually, on Thursday, May 21. In my remarks, I shared that we are in the process of dealing with significant financial challenges due to the consistent decline in enrollment over the past six years now worsened by the impact of the COVID-19 virus. However, in spite of the hardship we are all facing, I spoke of the amazing fortitude and commitment of the campus, and some outstanding accomplishments that have taken place.

**Faculty Tenure and Promotion**
A highlight of every year is the annual faculty tenure and promotion announcement. I am so proud of all faculty who were promoted, and I was pleased to feature two members of our faculty in my remarks. The hallmark of every academic institution is the quality of its faculty as measured by their excellence in teaching and the body of scholarly research. Earning promotion and/or tenure is affirmation of the faculty member’s commitment to continued excellence. My congratulations to our newly promoted faculty for prioritizing their teaching and scholarly endeavors in order to receive these prestigious recognitions from the University of Michigan.

**New Endowed Professorships**
With the approval of the Myron and Margaret Winegarden Estate, the Regents approved the establishment of Myron and Margaret Winegarden Professorships at UM-Flint.

Four professorships will recognize tenured faculty members who have demonstrated and will continue to achieve the highest levels of scholarship, teaching excellence and social impact, and bring national recognition to the university. Each appointment will be for a period of five years and may be renewed. Appointments to the Myron and Margaret Winegarden Professorship will be made following a review within the academic unit and approvals by the provost and chancellor.

**Faculty Appointments**
Marilyn R. McFarland, professor of Nursing was appointed as the David M. French Professor, effective July 1, 2020.

Professor McFarland is a nationally and globally acclaimed scholar. She has published 43 articles, two books, one of which is in its third edition, and providing over 50 presentations nationally and internationally.

The David M. French Professorship was established in June 1977 by the Board of Regents to honor UM-Flint faculty who have attained national or international recognition for scholarly achievement, teaching excellence, and recognized breadth of interests. The appointment carries with it a career-long title.
Administrative Appointments
The Regents also approved four key faculty administrative appointments:

- **Jeannette Stein**, associate professor of **Psychology** was approved as acting associate dean of the **College of Arts and Sciences**, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.
- **Matthew F. Wyneken**, associate professor of **Math Education** was approved as acting associate dean, **School of Education and Human Services**, effective July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.
- **Sapna V. Thwaite**, associate dean, **School of Education and Human Services** (SEHS) and associate professor of **Education** was renewed as the associate dean for SEHS effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025.
- **Annie N. Whitlock**, associate professor of **Education** was approved as chair, Department of **Education**, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023.

ASME Student Engineering Award
The UM-Flint student chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) received national recognition in the **ASME’s IAM3D Challenge** for their work to create a drone. The team took second place. As a mechanical engineer and Chancellor, I am especially proud of these students and their faculty advisors and congratulate them on this achievement.

Gold-Level University for Student Veterans
It is an honor to have military veterans as part of our university community. It is fitting to note that as we approach the Memorial Day holiday, the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency named **UM-Flint a gold-level school for the fifth consecutive year**. Many thanks to the Student Veterans Resource Center staff and students who contributed mightily to this achievement. And to all our veterans, we are deeply grateful for your service to our country.

Shared Governance Task Force
Today, the Regents established the new **Regional Campus Standing Committee** which will meet regularly with me about the work of UM-Flint. As a result of the creation of this new standing committee, one of our many priorities this summer is the development of a set of bylaws that will form the basis of shared governance at UM-Flint. The Shared Governance Task Force has begun its work and I look forward to receiving a governing document that supports the mission and promotes the progress of UM-Flint as a regional comprehensive university, part of the great University of Michigan. In early Fall 2020 I hope to recommend the bylaws to President Schlissel and the U-M Board of Regents for ratification.

Budget Planning for Next Year
The economic reality of the pandemic is hurting higher education. At UM-Flint, the budget situation is grim as the COVID-19 crisis continues with no immediate end in sight. Budget planning for the upcoming fiscal year is underway with cost reduction as the predominant theme. The Regents will vote on the fiscal year 20/21 budget at the June meeting.

We are appreciative of all of the faculty and staff who have stepped up to either take voluntary furlough or salary reductions. Approximately 80 individuals are participating in these programs, and this will result in significant cost savings for the campus. Unfortunately, this might not be enough to weather this storm. We
will be sharing more information on the budget reductions in the coming weeks.

**In Closing**

Friends, there is no way to escape the fact that we are living in very difficult times. The next fiscal year was already shaping up to be challenging as a result of continued enrollment and revenue decline for the last six years. Now, the pandemic has exacerbated the situation to a historic degree. Let me be clear: *our institution is more vulnerable than at any point in our existence* as unprecedented events continue to stack up and compound the financial pressure on the university.

While I have confidence that we will persevere, we will put our institution at risk if we do not accept that significant changes are necessary. We must have a laser-sharp focus on improving enrollment, retention and graduation rates. This will require new programs with student demand, innovations in pedagogy and a strong culture of advising and mentoring. We must work in ways that we have never worked before with efficiency and productivity guiding our every move. This is key to our success, and we can't begin a moment too soon.

We will continue to deal with the harsh truths and somber realities with compassion and determination. And remember--this will not last forever. Together, we will resolve to create a stronger, more resilient 21st century university for the collective good of the campus and community.

I thank each and every one of you for your contributions.

Deba Dutta
Chancellor