

SECTION: 7  
DATE:  
February 8, 2024

**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

**RECOMMENDATION**

**EMERITUS FACULTY STATUS**

**ACTION REQUESTED**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents grant Emeritus Status to two (2) former faculty.

Faculty:

Elisabeth Daumer, Professor, Department of English Language and Literature from 1992 to 2023 who retired after 31 years; and D. Robert Okopny, Professor, Department of Accounting, Finance, and Information Systems from 1988 to 2022 who retired after 34 years.

**STAFF SUMMARY**

The Collective Bargaining Agreement between Eastern Michigan University and the Eastern Michigan University Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) provides that a faculty member who has served the University for at least fifteen (15) years may be nominated for Emeritus Faculty Status upon retirement.

The nominations for these individuals have received the support of the Department Head or School Director, the Dean of the College, and the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION**

The proposed Board action has been reviewed and is recommended for Board approval.

[Redacted Signature]

University Executive Office  
Rhonda Longworth, Ph.D.

1/22/24  
Date

**EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
EMERITUS FACULTY RECOMMENDATION  
Febraury 8, 2024**

**FACULTY:**

Elisabeth Daumer

Professor, Department of English Language and Literature  
(31 years)

Doctorate                      Indiana University

Masters                        Indiana University

Baccalaureate                Free University West-Berlin

D. Robert Okopny

Professor, Department of Accounting, Finance, and Information Systems  
(34 years)

Doctorate                      Texas A&M University

Masters                        Texas A&M University

Baccalaureate                Southern Illinois University



**EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY**  
Academic and Student Affairs

**EMERITUS FACULTY STATUS RECOMMENDATION**

The Department or School of English Language and Literature recommends the awarding of **Emeritus Faculty Status** for the following retiring/retired faculty member:

Name of Faculty Member: Elisabeth Daumer

Current Status/Rank at EMU: Professor

Date of Hire at EMU: 08/26/1992 Retirement Date: 08/31/2023

Number of Years at EMU: 31 (Minimum of 15 years of service required)

Degree(s)/Institutions      Doctoral: Indiana University

Masters: Indiana University

Baccalaureate Free University West-Berlin

Please Attach a Brief Statement of Support to this 2 page application

Emeritus Faculty status is contingent upon the approval of the Board of Regents. Candidates, once approved, will be awarded Emeritus status after their official retirement date. This information will be kept on file in the Provost's Office.

Joseph Csicsila      12.15.23  
Recommended by      (please print)      Date

[Redacted]      12.15.23  
Department Head      Date

[Redacted]      1/4/2024  
Dean      Date

[Redacted]      1/15/24  
Provost      Date

1-22-2024  
Date Submitted to Board of Regents

Please continue to page 2 of this application.

Please complete the following information on the retiring/retired faculty member for whom you are submitting this recommendation. This information will NOT be shared in the Board of Regents meeting materials but is necessary for the retiree to receive his or her emeritus benefits.

Name: Elisabeth Daumer

EID#: [REDACTED]

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED] E-Mail Address: edaumer@emich.edu

Please forward this completed 2 page form to:

Provost Office  
Academic and Student Affairs  
106 Welch Hall

December 15, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I am honored to nominate Dr. Elisabeth Daumer as Emeritus Faculty. Dr. Daumer has been a member of the English Department for over thirty years. Initially hired to teach modern poetry and literary theory, she was active in curricula innovations, developing introductory theory courses for undergraduate and graduate students and creating opportunities for students to engage with poets and theorists both in the classroom and outside. Among the courses she developed were ENGL 300W: Writing About Literature, LITR 490: The Senior Seminar, several special topics courses at the undergraduate and graduate Level, among them Women and the Long Poem, Feminist literary Theory, Literature and the Anthropocene. In collaboration with colleagues from across the College of Arts and Sciences, she developed the interdisciplinary courses Global Issues of the Environment, International Jewish Women Writers, and ENVI: Current Topics in Environmental Science and Society. Over the course of her tenure at EMU, she directed many MA theses, undergraduate Honors theses, and in other ways dedicated herself to supporting student research and professionalization.

An active scholar, Dr. Daumer's scholarly interests range widely and include the poetry and prose of T. S. Eliot and Muriel Rukeyser, Modern Poetry and Poetics, women's writing, Environmental studies, and collaborative pedagogy. She published two co-edited collections of essays and numerous scholarly essays and reviews. From 2015-20, she served as editor of *JNT: Journal of Narrative Theory*. In 2013, with the support of the EMU English Department and the Honors Program, she created a website for the Jewish-American poet Muriel Rukeyser (The Muriel Rukeyser Living Archive at [murielrukeyser.emuenglish.org](http://murielrukeyser.emuenglish.org)), which (in the words of the poet's son, Bill Rukeyser) made EMU into an important center of Rukeyser studies. She organized a two-day centenary symposium on Rukeyser in March 2013 which drew participants from across the United States and Europe, and has since organized two online seminars devoted to specific Rukeyser poems. Last year, she collaborated with Lee Stille, Professor of Theater, to produce four performances of Rukeyser's play *Houdini*. She is currently working with Alexis Braun Marks on creating a finding aid for a recent Rukeyser donation and a digital archive for Rukeyser housed on the University Archive website. Her scholarly and pedagogical forays have been supported by fellowships and grants from the Provost's and Dean's offices, Women in Philanthropy, the Honors College, and most recently from the Michigan Humanities, which provided generous support for the production of *Houdini*.

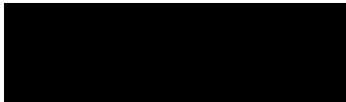
In addition to serving on Departmental and university-wide committees, Dr. Daumer's service to the university, and her home departments of English Language and Literature

and Women's and Gender Studies, included serving as Graduate Coordinator; chairing one and participating on three other job search committees; serving as Team Leader for Program Review of the Language, Literature, And Writing Program; organizing Poetry Jam Sessions and weekly interdisciplinary poetry gatherings for the Faculty Development Center; and co-authoring two NEH workshop grants for Globalizing Humanities Instruction at EMU (a lot of work, but not awarded). Her professional service includes chairing an Eliot Society Scholars Seminar and serving on the board of Directors of the T. S. Eliot Society. She has also reviewed manuscripts for *English Journal*, *Twentieth-Century Literature*, *Modernism/Modernity*, and book proposals for Routledge.

As a retired EMU faculty, Dr. Daumer is continuing her active scholarly work. One of her manuscripts is currently under review at *Modernism/Modernity*; she is pursuing archival research focused on Muriel Rukeyser and her international network of friends, collaborators, and activists. She is also in the process of establishing a Muriel Rukeyser Society and bi-annual Rukeyser newsletter.

Dr. Elisabeth Daumer is enormously deserving of Emeritus status and I recommend her without reservation.

Sincerely,



Dr. Joseph Csicsila  
Head



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
Academic and Student Affairs

EMERITUS FACULTY STATUS RECOMMENDATION

The Department or School of Accounting, Finance, and Info Systems recommends the awarding of **Emeritus Faculty Status** for the following retiring/retired faculty member:

Name of Faculty Member: Dr. D. Robert Okopny

Current Status/Rank at EMU: Professor of Accounting

Date of Hire at EMU: 06-27-1988 Retirement Date: 04-30-2022

Number of Years at EMU: 34 (Minimum of 15 years of service required)

Degree(s)/Institutions      Doctoral: Ph.D. - Texas A&M (1985)

Masters: MS Accounting - Teaxas A&M (1982); MBA - EMU (1973)

Baccalaureate BS Economics - Southern Illinois University (1972)

Please Attach a Brief Statement of Support to this 2 page application

Emeritus Faculty status is contingent upon the approval of the Board of Regents. Candidates, once approved, will be awarded Emeritus status after their official retirement date. This information will be kept on file in the Provost's Office.

Dr. Daniel R. Brickner      11-27-2023  
Recommended by (please print)      Date

[Redacted]      11-29-2023  
Department Head      Date

[Redacted]      1/15/24  
Provost      Date

[Redacted]      11/29/2023  
Dean      Date

1-22-2024  
Date Submitted to Board of Regents

Please continue to page 2 of this application.



Please complete the following information on the retiring/retired faculty member for whom you are submitting this recommendation. This information will NOT be shared in the Board of Regents meeting materials but is necessary for the retiree to receive his or her emeritus benefits.

Name: Dr. D. Robert Okopny

EID#: [REDACTED]

Home Address: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED] E-Mail Address: dokopny@emich.edu

Please forward this completed 2 page form to:

Provost Office  
Academic and Student Affairs  
106 Welch Hall



## EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

November 27, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to highly recommend Dr. D. Robert Okopny for the distinction of Emeritus Professor of Accounting at Eastern Michigan University. Dr. Okopny served as an exceptionally influential faculty member in our college and department for 34 years.

Dr. Okopny proved to be an excellent teacher who connected the classroom to the real world through his professional connections with the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA), the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA), the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), the Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA), and the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA), among others. Dr. Okopny was very active with each of these organizations through his membership and numerous service positions. He regularly attended their professional meetings and encouraged his students to do the same. He oftentimes had guest speakers from these organizations visit his classes and/or speak to EMU accounting student organizations for which he was an advisor.

His involvement in these organizations benefitted Dr. Okopny's students in numerous and immeasurable ways. For example, he was able to keep abreast of current trends in the accounting profession through his participation in their regular meetings. This enabled him to share current and cutting-edge information with his students in the classroom. Further, he was able to build a vast professional network with accounting professionals at these organizations, which oftentimes led to countless job opportunities for his students.

Dr. Okopny's commitment to his students and effective teaching ability was also evidenced by the prestigious teaching awards that he received during his academic career. Specifically, he is a past recipient of the university's Distinguished Faculty Teaching Award I, the most prestigious award presented to EMU faculty. In addition, Dr. Okopny was also recognized with the EMU Alumni Association's Teaching Excellence Award.

The classroom teaching of Dr. Okopny was also enhanced and complemented by his scholarly work. During his academic career, Dr. Okopny published numerous articles in a variety of journals and made countless presentations at prestigious regional and national academic conferences. He also made well over 100 presentations on professionally-related topics, many of which were at professional meetings of the IIA, IMA, ISACA, and the MICPA, among others. These presentations helped establish Dr. Okopny's prominent reputation in the accounting professional community, while also raising the prestige of EMU in that same community. Importantly, Dr. Okopny was able to enhance his classroom teaching with his valuable professional insights, which extraordinarily benefitted his students.



## EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Recommendation for Dr. D. Robert Okopny - Page 2

During his academic career, Dr. Okopny also provided significant service on the departmental, college, and university levels as well as to the professional community. The list of his service committees and commitments is extremely impressive, and too extensive to list here. However, some of his key service contributions included several years of service on the department's Personnel Committee, as the Accounting Internship and Coop Coordinator, the university's Faculty Athletics Representative, and Faculty Advisor for EMU's Beta Alpha Psi, Accounting Club, and National Association of Black Accountants, and Faculty Advisor for EMU student chapters of the IIA and ISACA. Dr. Okopny also developed and subsequently served as the coordinator (for over thirty years) of EMU's IIA Internal Audit Educational Partnership (IAEP), a very prestigious recognition and academic partnership between EMU and the IIA.

Dr. Okopny also served as an academic advisor for many of his students, providing insightful academic and career-related advice for countless students. Having occupied the office next to Dr. Okopny's for more than twenty years, I can provide first-hand attestation to the countless number of students that Dr. Okopny met with to provide his valuable insights and advice. He oftentimes was willing to meet with students long after class had ended, oftentimes after night classes had ended after 9 p.m. His unselfishness in sharing his time and insights was a very instrumental service contribution that was extremely beneficial to his students.

Most importantly, Dr. Okopny has been a valued colleague in our department and college. From my very first semester at EMU in Winter, 2000, Dr. Okopny has always been willing to provide insight and guidance to me whenever I sought it. His sage advice and wisdom has been very valuable to my career, and it is reflective of his collegial, nurturing, and team-oriented nature. His friendly disposition and sense of humor has enabled him to effectively relate to his colleagues and students.

In summary, Dr. D. Robert Okopny receives my highest recommendation for this honor without reservation, as he is very worthy of this distinction.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Daniel R. Brickner.

Daniel R. Brickner, Ph.D., CPA  
Professor of Accounting