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October 2, 2013

TO: Scott Scarborough, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

FROM: Patricia Komuniecki, Ph.D.
Vice Provost for Graduate Affairs & Dean
College of Graduate Studies
Co-Chair, Academic Honors Committee

Dorothea Sawicki, Ph.D.
Associate Dean & Vice Chancellor for
Graduate Health Science Studies
Co-Chair, Academic Honors Committee

RE: **Nomination for Mr. Michael Morris for Honorary Degree**

The Academic Honors Committee has voted to recommend the nomination of Mr. Michael Morris to the Board of Trustees for consideration for an honorary degree, to be conferred at the Fall Semester Commencement on December 15:

Mr. Michael G. Morris retired as president and chief executive officer from American Electric Power (AEP) in November 2011, and since that time has served as Chairman of the Board. Mr. Morris joined AEP as chairman, president and chief executive officer on January 1, 2004. During Morris' tenure as President and CEO, AEP was one of the nation's largest electric companies with 5.3 million customers in 11 states, and his contributions to the energy sector have left an indelible mark.

Prior to joining AEP, Mr. Morris was chairman, president and CEO of Northeast Utilities System from 1997 to 2003. In addition he was president and CEO of Consumers Energy, president of CMS Marketing, Services and Trading, president of Colorado Interstate Gas Company, and executive vice president of marketing, transportation and gas supply for ANR Pipeline Company. He was the founder and president of ANR Gathering Company, one of the first gas marketing companies in the U.S.

Mr. Morris is past chairman of the Edison Electric Institute and the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations. He also serves on the U.S. Department of Energy Electricity Advisory Board and the Business Roundtable. He is chairman of the Columbus Downtown Development Corporation & Capitol South. He serves as a director of the boards of Alcoa, Battelle, and the Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. He is past chairman of the board of the Connecticut Business & Industry Association and the Ohio Business Roundtable. He currently serves on the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents and is a trustee of the MSU College of Law.

In 2011 Mr. Morris was named the recipient of the EEI Distinguished Leadership Award by the Edison Electric Institute, the United States Energy Award from the United States Energy Association, and the Humanitarian of the Year Award by the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus.

Born in Fremont, Ohio, Mr. Morris graduated from Eastern Michigan University with both baccalaureate and master's degrees in biology. He received his law degree, cum laude, from the Detroit College of Law and is a member of the Michigan Bar Association.

The Academic Honors Committee recommends that The University of Toledo confer on Mr. Michael Morris the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Business Administration, *honoris causa*.

Attachment – additional bio information for Mr. Morris

Michael G. Morris

Chairman, American Electric Power

Michael G. Morris, chairman of American Electric Power, is leading AEP's efforts to develop:

- An advanced interstate high-voltage transmission system that efficiently delivers wholesale power regionally within a competitive market while enhancing regional reliability;
- Extra high-voltage transmission line projects with a number of joint venture partners in Indiana, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and Virginia;
- Innovative carbon capture and storage systems at one or more AEP coal-powered generating plants; and
- Energy efficiency and load demand reduction initiatives as well as integration of new intelligent distribution grid technologies to provide greater service quality, reliability and control of energy usage to customers.



Morris retired as chief executive officer on Nov. 11, 2011, and by election of the AEP Board of Directors, turned over his position as president on Jan. 1, 2011, to his successor, Nick Akins. Morris joined AEP as chairman, president and chief executive officer on Jan. 1, 2004.

Prior to joining AEP, Morris was chairman, president and CEO of Northeast Utilities System from 1997 to 2003, where he led the company during its \$1.3 billion sale of the Millstone Station nuclear plant in 2001, a \$679 million merger with Yankee Energy System Inc., and the acquisition of Connecticut Valley Electric Co. He was also heavily involved in the formation of ISO-New England, as well as restructuring and retail customer choice in the New England states.

Before joining Northeast Utilities, Morris was president and CEO of Consumers Energy, principal subsidiary of CMS Energy, and president of CMS Marketing, Services and Trading. He was previously president of Colorado Interstate Gas Co. and executive vice president of marketing, transportation and gas supply for ANR Pipeline Co., both subsidiaries of El Paso Energy. Morris was the founder and president of ANR Gathering Co., one of the first gas marketing companies in the United States.

Morris is past chairman of the Edison Electric Institute and the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations. He also serves on the U.S. Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Board and the Business Roundtable (chairing the Business Roundtable's Sustainable Growth Initiative). Morris is chairman of the Columbus Downtown Development Corporation & Capitol South. He serves as a director of the boards of Alcoa, Battelle, and The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. He is past chairman of the board of the Connecticut Business & Industry Association and the Ohio Business Roundtable. He was recently appointed to the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents, where he previously served from 1997-2004, and the MSU College of Law Board of Trustees.

In 2011, he has been named the recipient of the EEI Distinguished Leadership Award by the Edison Electric Institute, the United States Energy Award from the United States Energy Association, and the Humanitarian of the Year Award by the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus. He has also received the distinction of having an AEP River Operations towboat named in his honor, the *M/V Michael G. Morris*.

Born in Fremont, Ohio, Morris graduated from Eastern Michigan University with both bachelors and masters degrees in biology. In 1995 he received the university's Distinguished Alumnus Award. During his graduate years, he was commander of the ROTC Brigade. After he graduated in 1973, he worked in the environmental department of Commonwealth Associates, where he prepared environmental impact statements for electrical utility transmission lines, natural gas and oil pipelines, and power plants.

Morris received a law degree, cum laude, from the Detroit College of Law and is a member of the Michigan Bar Association.

Last updated: 11/15/2011