

**Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
October 14, 2019**

**APPROVAL OF HONORARY DEGREE FOR ROBERT J. GIBBS
A Recommendation**

1. **Division and Department:** Academic Affairs, Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.
2. **Introduction:** In accordance with Article IX of the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees, honorary degrees may be awarded by the Board of Trustees in recognition of distinguished accomplishment and service within the scope of the arts and letters, sciences, professions, and public service as recognized and supported by the University. The awarding of honorary degrees reaffirms Oakland University's scholarly, creative, and humanitarian values and ties the University to the community at large.

The Honorary Degree Committee would like to recommend Mr. Robert J. Gibbs. As a founder and president of Michigan-based Gibbs Planning Group, Mr. Gibbs has taken a crucial leadership role in planning, designing and transforming an enormous number of historic towns and communities in and outside of the United States. One such example is the Birmingham 2016 Master Plan. The committee has recognized his successful implementation and was very inspired by him having made Birmingham one of the most walkable and beautiful towns in Michigan. The committee is also greatly impressed by his academic contribution, which has been recognized by his book, entitled "Principles of Urban Retail Planning and Development" and by his teaching at the Harvard Graduate School of Design Executive Educational Program. Mr. Gibbs has been making direct impact on people's lives by changing their, sometimes too quiet, environment to be very vibrant and economically prosperous, so both local people and visitors enjoy and cherish the atmosphere and history. We believe all of these accomplishments exceed our criteria, of making a contribution to commercial, social, and civic betterment. We are proud that Mr. Gibbs earned a Bachelor's degree in Social Studies here at Oakland University in 1977 and received the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award in 2015. Some of Mr. Gibbs's key accomplishments noted by the committee include:

- Founder and president of Michigan-based Gibbs Planning Group.
- Honored by the Clinton Presidential Library for his contributions to urban planning.
- Consulted for over 500 cities, institutions, and real estate developers around the world.
- Recognized as a leader in new urbanism.
- Received the Michigan American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Merit Award.
- Recognized by *Planetizen* as one of the 100 most influential urban planners.

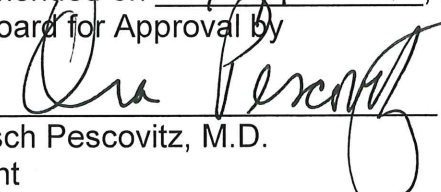
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- Recognized as a pioneer who implemented environmentally sustainable principles of traditional town planning and smart growth.
 - Authored a renowned book "Principles of Urban Retail Planning and Development" (2012).
 - Appointed by the National Endowment for the Arts to serve as an expert advisor to the Mayors' Institute on City Design.
3. **Previous Board Action:** The Board of Trustees periodically awards honorary degrees at its Formal Sessions.
4. **Budget Implications:** None.
5. **Educational Implications:** The awarding of honorary degrees is an established tradition in academe, by which the University reaffirms its scholarly, creative, and humanitarian values and its ties to the wider community.
6. **Personnel Implications:** None.
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** The Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost has recommended approval of the recipient to receive an Honorary Degree.
8. **Recommendation** RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees awards the honorary degree of Doctor of Arts *Honoris Causa* to Robert J. Gibbs.
9. **Attachments:** None.

Submitted to the President
on 10/08, 2019 by


James P. Lentini, D.M.A.
Senior Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost

Recommended on 10/10, 2019
to the Board for Approval by


Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.
President