

July 11, 2007

ITEM 136-1502-R0707

Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Liberal Studies Upon Robert L. Holdsworth; Montana Tech of The University of Montana

THAT:

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Robert L. Holdsworth from the faculty of Montana Tech of The University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his years of dedicated and valued service to the College, the Department of Liberal Studies, and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION:

In 1962, Robert Holdsworth earned a B.S. and an M.S. in History from Montana State University. He proceeded to further his post-graduate education in Russian History at the University of Kansas for the next three years. He joined the faculty of Montana College of Mineral Science & Technology in 1965.

Over the course of his tenure, Robert Holdsworth has had a profound impact on the character of Montana Tech. Robert served as Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences from 1965 to 1997. From 1997 to 2007, Robert was a Professor in the new Liberal Studies Department. As a consequence of Robert's wide-ranging interests, broad academic preparation, and willingness to continually adjust to changing demands in higher education, he has taught some twenty-five different courses in his forty-two year career at Montana Tech.

During the 1970s, Professor Holdsworth played a leading role in the creation of the college's first Faculty Senate. He proceeded to serve twelve years as an elected member of the Faculty Senate, eight of those as its Chairman, a record of self-abuse unmatched at Tech.

When Montana Tech greatly expanded its academic offerings to include four-year programs in the Liberal Arts, Robert was instrumental in the creation of the History and English degrees within the Humanities-Social Sciences Department in the early 1970s. And he also participated in their demise.

When Montana Tech adjusted its Liberal Arts programs to better fit the mission of this college in the late 1970s, Robert again was instrumental in the studies and planning that led to the creation of the Society and Technology degree programs within the Humanities and Social Sciences Department. And he also participated in their demise.

When Montana Tech went through another creative period of academic improvements during the late 1990s, Robert again played a key role in the creation of the present Liberal Studies Department and in the creation of its Liberal Studies degree. However, he has chosen to retire before this degree's demise.

For twenty-five years, Robert directed and organized Montana Tech's annual commencement activities. In the early 1970s, Robert married a former Montana Tech student, bringing joy to an otherwise joyless life.

Professor Holdsworth takes pride in never attending a single athletic event at Montana Tech in his 42-year career.

For college students seeking history and social science courses that were challenging, intellectually stimulating, and taught with a unique rhetorical style and wide-ranging wit, the discovery of Robert's lecture classes was a joy and revelation.

With this recommendation from his long-time colleagues within the Liberal Studies Department go sincere thanks for forty-two years of valued counsel, witty and sparkling conversation, invaluable service, congratulations, and best wishes for the future.