

ITEM 139-2007-R0508

Title of Professor Emeritus of Chemical and Biological Engineering: Max Deibert; MSU-Bozeman

THAT:

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Max Deibert from the faculty of Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

EXPLANATION:

Dr. Deibert has completed a distinguished career spanning 22 years at Montana State University. Dr. Max Deibert completed his undergraduate work at Cornell, then earned his doctorate at MIT. He came to Montana State University after a mixed career involving industrial research, academics (Assistant Professor at MIT), and environmental consulting. That breadth of experience has been an asset in his courses over the years.

Over time Dr. Deibert found his professional interests shifting towards more and more teaching. He wound down his research program and taught extensively for over twenty years, bearing one of the heaviest teaching loads in the department. His focus was on preparing graduates who were founded in fundamentals and able to think their way through new applications.

One of the great achievements in his academic career was winning the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2002. This award rightly recognized his exceptional teaching. Never one to rest on his laurels, towards the very end of his academic career, Dr. Deibert rekindled an active research program. For the past five years, he has directed a research team investigating surface coatings on stainless steel solid oxide fuel cell (SOFC) interconnect plates with the objective of understanding their fundamental oxidation mechanisms and of developing coatings that are electrically conductive, protective and stable in the SOFC operating environment. Max has again become a productive researcher with seven publications since 2004.

Max Deibert has been a major contributor to the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering for over twenty years. His teaching excellence has helped hundreds of students succeed, and his advising abilities have positively impacted nearly all of our graduates. He has been a strong voice in curriculum development over the years, always stressing education over training, and a strong focus on fundamentals.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Max Deibert the rank of Professor Emeritus of Chemical and Biological Engineering at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years in the future.