

January 7, 2014

ITEM 162-2702-R0114

Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of English on Dr. Gary Acton; Montana State University Billings

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Gary Acton from the faculty of Montana State University Billings, the faculty extends its appreciation for his 47 years of dedicated and valued service to the Department of English, Philosophy, and Modern Languages, to the University and to the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred on him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Since joining the English faculty in 1966, Dr. Acton has made major contributions to his department, University and community in teaching, service, and scholarship. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1988 and to full Professor in 1992. In 1981, he was appointed department chair, and for the next 32 years, he led his faculty, staff, and students through numerous changes in policy, personnel, and politics, never failing in his support of the program and the people who sustained it. Throughout his tenure, he shouldered many responsibilities, such as advising and committee work, so that his faculty were free to pursue their teaching, research, and service goals. His generosity and dedication to the department fostered the development of an outstanding group of academics known for their professional expertise.

In teaching, Dr. Acton developed and taught the original Science Fiction course offered at Eastern Montana College, and over the years, he took on primary responsibility for teaching numerous sections of the Research Writing course, maintaining high standards of academic rigor for both himself as a teacher and for the students in his courses and in the English program as a whole. In scholarly contributions, Dr. Acton presented regularly at conferences in his areas of specialization, mystery fiction and Vietnam War literature (for which he had first-hand knowledge as a veteran), and was a member of several professional organizations. In campus service, Dr. Acton contributed to the University throughout his tenure through membership on numerous committees at all levels, from departmental to campus-wide.

Because of his many contributions to his department, college, university, and nation over many years of dedicated service, especially for his unparalleled three decades as chair of a large and multidisciplinary department, it is the consensus of his colleagues in the Department of English, Philosophy, and Modern Languages that Dr. Gary Acton greatly merits the recognition accorded by the designation of Professor Emeritus of English at Montana State University Billings.

ATTACHMENTS

No attachments